



THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

October 2021



NOTE:

Pocahontas Chapter VNPS programs will be shared via Zoom until further notice. We will not be meeting at Lewis Ginter. Our next meeting will be on Thursday October 7, 2021 starting at 6:45 PM. Information on how to connect to Zoom is on the bottom of this page

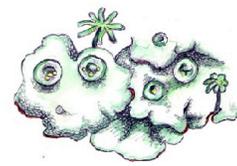
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Our October speakers will present "The Great Goochland Bryophyte Quest of 2020-2021" by Mikayla Quinn and John Hayden, PhD

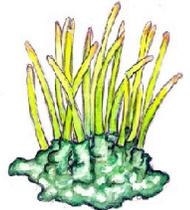
University of Richmond student Mikayla Quinn and her research advisor, Dr. John Hayden, have undertaken an effort to document Bryophyte diversity in Goochland County, Virginia. Bryophytes include plants commonly known as mosses, liverworts, and hornworts. These are small and easily overlooked plants that until recently have received relatively little attention by Virginia botanists. Join Mikayla and John for an illustrated presentation on these fascinating ancient plants. John will provide a brief overview of their basic biology and Mikayla will relate how her checklist of Goochland Bryophytes was developed. A number of common and unusual bryophyte species will be highlighted throughout the presentation.



Moss



Liverwort



Hornwort

Dr. W. John Hayden is Professor of Biology at the University of Richmond and Mikayla V. Quinn is a Biochemistry and Molecular Biology major, at the University of Richmond.

This free Zoom meeting is open to the public. The meet and greet starts at 6:45 pm followed by the presentation at 7 p.m. A short business meeting will follow the presentation.

From: <https://tentativeplantscientist.wordpress.com/2013/04/02/plant-divisions-mosses-liverworts-and-hornworts/>

The October meeting will be via Zoom on October 7 at 6:45 PM.

To join the meeting go to zoom.com and join the meeting by clicking on "JOIN A MEETING" then entering the Meeting ID then following the directions.

The October Meeting Zoom ID is 899 1397 2032 and the Passcode: 236366.

If you need to download the zoom app, go to zoom.com and click on "RESOURCES", then "Download Zoom Client". If you have problems or questions concerning the Zoom connection, please contact Ashley Moulton or Richard Moss at the e-mail or phone numbers given on page 2.

Notice: We are requesting Candidates for the position of Secretary for the Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS Members of the VNPS Pocahontas Chapter, We regret to inform you that Ashley Moulton, Pocahontas Chapter Secretary, is stepping down in November 2021. Ashley needs to focus on her myriad other duties, including her positions on the state VNPS board and the VA Flora board. The chapter board is accepting candidates for this position. Secretary duties include:

- Keeping minutes (notes) of all chapter meetings, including meetings of the chapter board, which typically follow the regular monthly meetings.
- Keeping a chronological record of policies adopted by the board.
- Submit draft minutes to the board for review.
- Maintaining records of the final minutes in the chapter board shared web cloud.

If interested, please contact Pocahontas Chapter President Matt Brooks at mattebrooks@protonmail.com.

Presidents Message

Hello there. It's October. The annual plants are completing their life cycles and dying, the perennials are becoming dormant, and the nights are getting longer. It's a time when the living mix with the dead—it's Halloween season. Despite the gradual disappearance of green foliage, flowers, and fruits, this is actually one of my favorite times. Come October 1st, I begin the month-long repeat shuffle of my 6-hour spooky music playlist, which contains everything from the Monster Mash and Sonic Youth's Halloween to the sax player song from The Lost Boys movie.

Yes, we can finally stop pretending we like colors like purple and blue and embrace those faded fall colors like orange, yellow, and brown. We try to convince ourselves that spring and summer aren't all that. Maybe we prefer half-dead leaves clinging to twigs, right? This mindset normally last me through November, before I attempt to hibernate until April.

Luckily, we have the VNPS to get us through the dormant season. I'm excited about October's meeting. Dr. John Hayden and Mikayla Quinn will speak on local bryophytes. The mosses defy winter. They stay green and dare to reproduce when it's cold and dry. I love it. During my undergrad, I took a class called "lower plants." After failing the first test on algae, I embraced the life cycles of mosses, liverworts, and hornworts. Although some may disagree, bryophytes are plants too.

But let's not yet forget September. Our chapter had a display and representatives at the state fair the first weekend of the fair. Thanks to Ms. Lisa Hamilton, Mr. Jason Aldrich, and Ms. Lucy Alfonso (and me) for working the fair. Richard Moss lead a field trip at R. Garland Dodd Park along the Appomattox River. We had our first fall 2021 meeting with native herbalist Laura Baum. And to bury the lead, the Pocahontas board decided at the September board meeting to continue virtual monthly meetings through December. Lastly, our chapter needs a new secretary. Our current secretary, Ashley Moulton, is great but is moving on to other duties. If interested, reach out to any board member or the VNPS contact email on the website.

Matt Brooks

Field Trip to R. Garland Dodd Park on September on September 18, 2021

Photos 1-5 were along the boardwalk over the wetlands.

The Pocahontas Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

serves the counties of Amelia, Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, King William, New Kent, Powhatan, Prince George and the cities of Ashland, Hopewell, Colonial Heights, Petersburg, and Richmond. It meets the first Thursday of September through April at 7:00 PM in the Education and Library Complex of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, unless otherwise stated.

Chapter Officers

President.....**Matt Brooks**

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Vice President.....**Jason C. Aldrich**

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1. Purple gerardia (*Agalinis purpurea*)

2. Grasshoppers on wild rice (*Zizania aquatica*).

3. Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), upper left, and Tickseed sunflowers (*Bidens aristosa*), lower right.

Interestingly, Jewelweed is one of the few native North American plants that has been shown to compete successfully against garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*). See https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/impatiens_capensis.shtml

wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/impatiens_capensis.shtml

More photos from the boardwalk. 4. Wild rice at top and tickseed sunflowers at bottom. 5. Another view with purple gerardia. 6. View looking down at boardwalk.



After leaving the boardwalk we walked along the trail to a meadow which was mostly filled with 7. yellow crownbeard (*Verbesina occidentalis*)

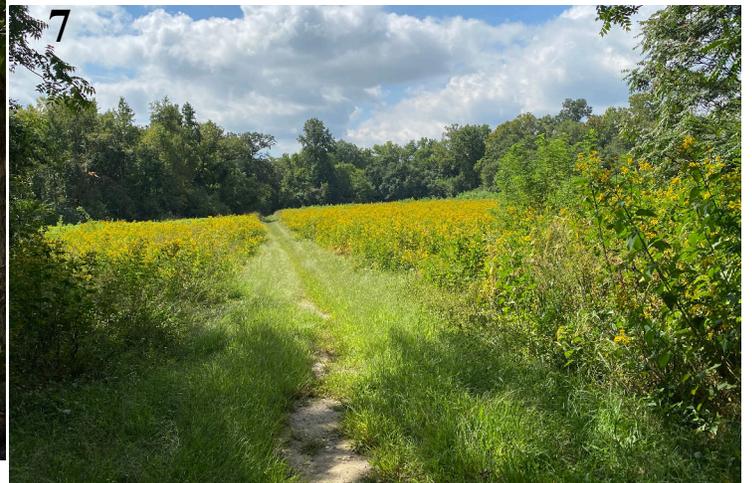


Figure 8. is a closeup of the crownbeard flowers. Along the trail through the meadow we found: 9. Purple passionflowers (*Passiflora incarnata*), and 10. Several patches of the parasitic vine, dodder (*Cuscuta sp.*), in bloom.



11. There was also lots of Carolina elephants foot (*Elephantopus carolinianus*) most of which had finished blooming. Note the few remaining small purple flowers near the center of the photo. Also note the leaves are infected with a yellow mildew. The larger yellow flowers are from a St. Andrew's cross plant (*Hypericum hypericoides*).



Around the Neighborhood

by Richard Moss

On Sept 21 I took a friend for a minor surgical procedure to Johnston Willis Hospital and while waiting, explored their parking lot and along the edge found: 1. A thistle in bloom, 2. Winged sumach with fruit (*Rhus copallinum*) and 3. a purple passionflower with a bee.



Back in my yard: 4. The dog fennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*) which came up near the road was in bloom with small but fragrant flowers. Close up of flowers shown in 4a.



5. This fungus grew around a leaf of evergreen wild ginger (*Hexastylis virginica*). The leaf was unharmed. 6. Pinesap (*Hypopitys monotropa*) growing near a pine tree.

