



THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

March, 2020



**Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM,
Thursday March 5, 2020
at the Kelly Education Center of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
in the Lab**

The room is available at 6:30, come early to socialize

Our speakers will be Meg Turner and Anna Aquino,

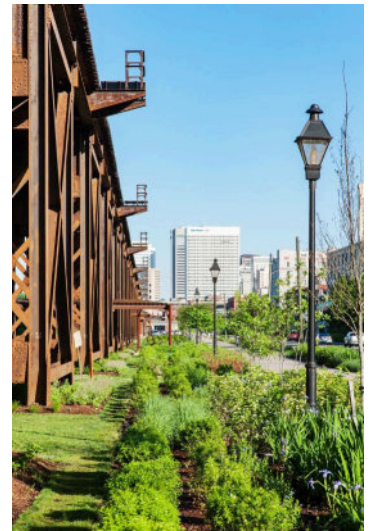
Board Members of the Capital Trees organization.

They will discuss “The Highlights of the Low Line”

The area now known as the Low Line stretches along the James River and Kanawha Canal and Virginia Capital Trail, connecting the recently enhanced Great Shiplock Park with Richmond’s Canal Walk. It runs beneath raised railroad trestles owned by the CSX Corporation. Meg and Anna have lots to tell us about their plans for this project in 2020.

The soon-to-be completed Low Line Green is at the western terminus of the Low Line Gardens, and is a lively space with transportation corridors overhead, and native plant bioswales that capture and clean their stormwater runoff. Meg Turner, Chair of Capital Trees and one of its founding members, and Anna Aquino, new chief horticulturist, will tell you about the challenges and rewards of creating and managing these remarkable public landscapes.

Capital Trees works together with private citizens and public benefactors to make Richmond a greener, more livable city by creating public landscapes that foster communities, environmental stability, economic investment and healthier lifestyles. Capital Trees transformed a 5 1/2 acre tract of derelict land in Richmond’s East End, bordered by the Kanawha Canal to its south and Virginia’s Capital Trail to its north, and created a four-season native plant garden that welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors every year.



President’s Message

Hello all,

Hope this finds you well. I myself am a bit tired, coming off of a whirlwind weekend. Saturday, I manned a booth at the Virginia Orchid Society’s show, with a display of native orchids. I was very pleased by the number of folks that stopped by. I hope to see some new faces at our March meeting as a result. Sunday my family came over for my birthday and helped me with early spring cleaning of my acre of naturalized landscaping. Gutters were cleaned, bushes trimmed, stalks cut back, all “debris” piled up in the “back corner” for habitat. After all that, I settled in to watch the youtube video of Dr. Doug Tallamy’s talk to a full house, put on by the Prince William chapter. You can watch it here <https://youtu.be/EuNyc4Itni0> How did you spend this past lovely weekend? Did you venture out into the wild, what did you see?

There is still time to sign up at for the Winter Workshop, details are available at vnps.org, as is a host of other information on spring plant sales, various chapters’ walks, and events, as well as interesting articles, including the new brochure on the plant of the year, the wild geranium.

See you soon,

Leslie



Minutes of the February 6, 2020 meeting of the Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS

Upcoming Events:

2/16 – Skunk Cabbage field trip, 2p.m. at Dorey Park

2/21 – Booth at the Orchid Society Annual Meeting –

3/5 - Meeting Meg Turner and Anna Aquino - coordination the planting of the Low Line and plant selection

3/14 – Winter workshop more at VNPS.org

4/2 Joey Thompson Talk – unnamed

Tonight's Talk: "The Science and Beauty of Botanical Art"

Different types of art: Botanical Art, Botanical illustration, Flower painting, Nature journaling

History of botanical art –

Herbal /Pharmacopeias – book or publication 500 b.c. - book of plants with medical or health benefits - organized by the part of the body that it helped. 1708 Culppers the English physician 1708 first medical book in colonial America – some misinfo though

Flora – it is a book of plants in a region – state, county, country – first was 1770 Flora Londiensis William Curtis Florilegium - all the plants in a specific garden

Black and white used to communicate to scientists – in a publication, all on one plate, measure bars shown, key captions

Alice – tangerine – Smithsonian botanical illustration from VCU in 1964.

Botanical art – not all stages and phases, can be one part, one phase. Most likely in color, many more media used.

No leaf damage – historically you were limited not to show the damage.

Floral painters- not accurate nor scientific

Trends in BA

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.

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Website

vnps.org

- Native plants – botanical artists for the environment and education

- Conservation. Ecological Relationships

- Heirloom plants

- Endangered plants

- Historically significant plants

Nature Journaling – An intro – no rules

“Perpetual sketchbook” Lara call

Potential use the flora app class

Walks: Joey – potential walk in 2020

Send Joey suggestion of a place and a date – to coordinate

- Big meadows in July / woodland walk on the other side of the lodge

- Wahrani

- Quarry gardens

- Cumberland marsh

- Richard Thomas natural area – forest in lyndinn trilliums

May?

Richard absent – but we have over \$4000 in the Treasury.

Virginia Whittmer – Print enough Plant Richmond natives to get the cost down. \$5

Decal – plant natives for pollinators. I plant rva natives.

Plant southern

Southwest

Upper ridge valley

Ryan Ginsburg – RVA environmental salon

Ashley Moulton, Secretary

Walk to Dorey Park to see skunk cabbage in bloom.



Sunday the 16th of February was a lovely day for a walk, not quite cold, not quite warm, but Dorey Park was mostly empty, the athletic fields quiet, the horse rink desolate, the playground offered the occasional muffled cry. We were a small group, 9 folks venturing out to see what they could see. We passed the clumps of crane fly orchid's, hiding their purple "underleaves", and the winter heads of *Clethra Alnifolia* aka Summersweet holding on to their seeds. I managed to miss the deer path from the upper gravel trail down to the mountain bike trail, so we had to bush whack a bit. My sweet 7 year grandson was glad to lead the way. As we got to the "swampy" area we started to look diligently for the maroon blotched skunk cabbage spathes, against the blackish/brown muck. And low and behold, there they were, the first flower of the season, hidden in the spathe's, waiting an insect of some sort to pollinate it. After we left the swamp, we stopped to admire a multi trunked holly, that was rather large. Some left at that point, but most continued around the edge of the field, to look at the winter stalks, of hibiscus, NY Ironweed, golden rod, dog bane and deciduous holly to name a few. We completed our loop by going back in the woods to see 10-15 impressive clump of crane fly orchid and a large circle of running pine. We will be going back in April to see the lady's slippers, hope you all will join us.



Looking for plants in bloom in my Yard.

by Richard Moss

Left: On February 17th this common blue violet or Confederate Violet (*Viola sororia*) appeared. It was the first I saw in bloom. A few days later a purple one appeared.

Right: On February 28th this *Hexastylis* (probably *Hexastylis virginica*) was in bloom.

