



# THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

September, 2020



**NOTE: The September Meeting will be held on Wednesday September 9 remotely by Zoom due to the coronavirus epidemic.**

**We will NOT meet at Lewis Ginter.**

Instruction for connecting to Zoom are on page 2

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**The topic of the September Meeting will be  
“Piedmont Powerlines: a Lens into Ancient Habitats”  
by Joey Thompson, Environmental Scientist**

Joey will discuss how powerlines and other open disturbed habitats in the Virginia Piedmont can harbor species that were historically more common. Joey will focus on indicators of these remnant habitats, common species that occur, and the ecology of these systems compared to the modern landscape. Some of the best quality habitats relevant to this topic can be readily observed on roadsides throughout Virginia, if the observer knows what to look for. This talk aims to give an introduction to some of those indicators so that the audience can find and appreciate similar native refugia close to their homes.

Joey is a Richmond native who has had a passion for Virginia botany since he was young. An environmental scientist at a local engineering firm (VHB), he conducts natural resource surveys all over the eastern United States, with an emphasis on rare plant surveys. In his spare time Joey loves swimming in the James River and finding new areas to botanize around Richmond.

## **Chapter Meetings**

Pocahontas Chapter VNPS programs will be shared via Zoom at least for the rest of 2020. We will not be meeting at Lewis Ginter.

**Thursday, October 1**, Dr. John Hayden will present an account of his most recent research.

**Thursday, November 5**, Penny Firth, Master Naturalist, will present “What’s That Mushroom?!”

If you have requests or suggestions for program topics or speakers, please contact Catharine Tucker, 804-938-6941 or via email [cath.tucker@gmail.com](mailto:cath.tucker@gmail.com).

## **President’s Message**

Hello everyone,

I hope this finds you well and looking forward to fall. We will be having our meetings this fall on ZOOM, 9/9, 10/1 and 11/5. Please note September is a Wednesday. We will assess the 2021 meetings at a later date. We are looking for new volunteers to step up and fill the roles of president, vice president and treasurer. Those of us in those roles have wanted to step down for the last year or so, but have not, so as not to leave the chapter adrift. the roles are not hard and not actually that time consuming, but we need new ideas and fresh faces. So, if you have any interest, please let me know.

Thanks and take care,  
Leslie Allanson  
[leleorr4@gmail.com](mailto:leleorr4@gmail.com).

## What is Zoom and how do I use it?

Zoom is a video communications app that allows you to set up virtual video and audio conferencing, webinars, live chats, screen-sharing, and other collaborative capabilities.

It is free to attend a Zoom meeting, and the platform is compatible with Mac, Windows, Linux, iOS, and Android, meaning nearly anyone can access it.

**To attend the September Pocahontas Chapter meeting, use this link from your computer or smartphone anytime between 6:30 and 7:00 pm on September 9th.**

**<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78356885005?pwd=dTYzNkh6ZWd3NWRuRVZDZEK5cWRldz09>**

and use the following

Meeting ID: 783 5688 5005

Passcode: 183590

**NOTE: It may be easier just to go to [zoom.com](https://zoom.us) and join the meeting by clicking on "JOIN A MEETING" then entering the Meeting ID then following the directions. If you need to download the zoom app click on "RESOURCES", then "Download Zoom Client". This worked for me for my tablet, iphone & Desktop computer. Richard Moss.**

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,78356885005#,,,,,0#,,183590# US (New York)

+13017158592,,78356885005#,,,,,0#,,183590# US (Germantown)

To join by phone only for audio, use the number and passcodes below

Dial by your nearest location

1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 783 5688 5005

Passcode: 183590

If you have problems please contact Catharine Tucker or Leslie Allinson or Richard Moss at the numbers given to the left.

## Chapter Plant Walks

by Richard Moss

We had no field trips this summer so to get photos for this

newsletter, I explored my yard and along the road near my house. There are several sections along the road which remain in woods and a small creek crosses under the road twice all of which provides a varied habitat. Along the road was this Virginia creeper vine (right) (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) with bright blue berries. In the fall the leaves can turn bright red.



### 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

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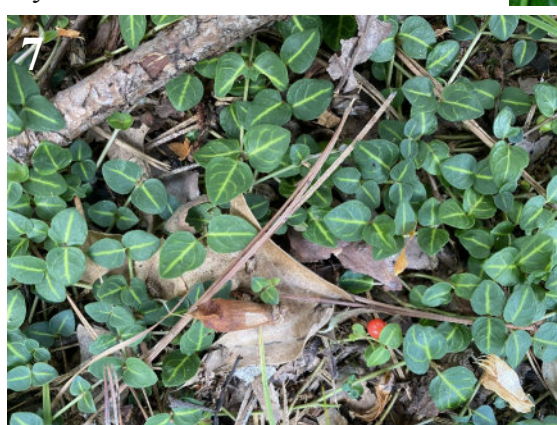
In the yard was a nice crop of mushrooms. Photo 1. is of a funnel shaped mushroom, 2. is a nice brown mushroom. Note how it grew around an oak seedling on the top right side. No. 3 shows a little puffball coming up in a clump of moss, and 4. shows 2 clumps of a finger like fungus.



6. Cut-Leaf Grape Fern (*Botrychium dissectum*) with spore stalk. In winter the stalk dies and the leaf turns a bronze color and persists until spring as shown in 6a.



5. Trumpet vine (*Campsis radicans*). This one decided to grow on a crepe myrtle bush.



7. Partridge Berry (*Mitchella repens*) with red fruit.

8. Pilewort (*Erechtites hieraciifolius*) with red ants. The ants are herding aphids and collecting a sugary excretion from them. If



you zoom in on the photo, there are some aphids visible near the upside down ant near the top of the photo. Two days earlier this plant had slightly smaller black ants which were replaced by the larger red ants. See photo 13 for pilewort seed heads.



Walking along the road I found, 9. Wild Sweet potato (*Ipomoea pandurata*)

more on next page



Continuing on the road, in the ditch was  
**10.** Elephant's foot or devils grandmother  
(*Elephantopus tomentosus*).

**11.** A stand of Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*) was growing along a little creek near the road. Jewelweed is also called touch-me-not because when the seed capsule is ripe it explodes when touched. Besides the showy orange flowers jewelweed has smaller inconspicuous flowers that never open and self fertilize (cleistogamous flowers). One of these can be seen at the base of the leaf at about the middle of the photo.



Farther along the road was  
**12.** Devils Walking stick  
(*Aralia spinosa*) with fruit.  
The berries turn purple  
when ripe.

**13.** Pilewort (*Erechtites hieraciifolius*) with seeds.  
The flowers, also shown  
here, are enclosed by  
tubular bracts.

**14.** Maryland Meadow  
Beauty, (*Rhexia mariana*).  
Note the urn shaped fruit  
in the left of the photo.



**15.** Sensitive partridge pea (*Chamaecrista nictitans*)

**16.** Blue mistflower, Wild ageratum, (*Conoclinium coelestinum*)

**17.** Spotted joe-pye weed (*Eutrochium maculatum*), with a blackberry - the leaves belong to the blackberry