



THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

November 2020



NOTE: The November Meeting will be held at 7 PM on Thursday November 5 remotely by Zoom starting at 6:30 for Meet and Greet. We will NOT meet at Lewis Ginter.

Instructions for connecting to Zoom are given below

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**The topic of the November Meeting will be
"What's That Mushroom?"**

by Dr. Penny Firth

Join us for a lighthearted overview of fungi for the lay audience. This talk will include highlights of mushrooms' roles in nature, and tips on what to look for when you hope to identify one. You will learn about selected local mushrooms, including a few unmistakable edibles, and some poisonous species to avoid at all costs. We will finish up with suggestions for those who want to learn more.

Dr. Firth is a Certified Virginia Master Naturalist, and an amateur mycologist. She retired from a career at the National Science Foundation, where she was Director of the Division of Environmental Biology. Penny has been a wildflower aficionado for much of her life, and a mushroom enthusiast for about a decade. Her best days are spent walking in the woods with her dog, Ida, who inexplicably prefers chasing squirrels to locating choice edible mushrooms.

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.

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.

If you need to download the zoom app click on "RESOURCES", then "Download Zoom Client".

For the November Meeting the Zoom ID is 891 7209 3356 and the Passcode is 964067

If you have problems or questions please contact Catharine Tucker, Leslie Allanson or Richard Moss at the e-mail or phone numbers given on page 2.

We have no meeting scheduled for December but will meet again on January 7, 2021.

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.

President's Message

Hello All,

I hope this finds you and yours well as 2020 winds down. I have decided to formally step down as president of our chapter. I have been considering it for some time and am pulling the trigger on it. I am starting a wedding floral venture with a friend and am going to focus there in 2021. I am really hoping someone will step up and fill the position. We can discuss on Thursday the meetings for 2021, but looking like they will be virtual, which would be a good way to ease into the role. If you are interested, and have questions, please call me 804 335 5866.

Be Blessed,

Leslie Allanson

leleorr4@gmail.com.

It is with much sadness that I announce the passing of Cathy Mayes. She served as our treasurer for a number of years and as an at-large board member. She was an active member of the Piedmont Chapter, a Master Naturalist, and a former president of the Virginia Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation. I'll share additional information as I receive it.

Our sympathies go out to her husband Randy. He can be reached at PO Box 153, Hume, VA 22639

Sincerely,
Nancy Vehrs, VNPS President

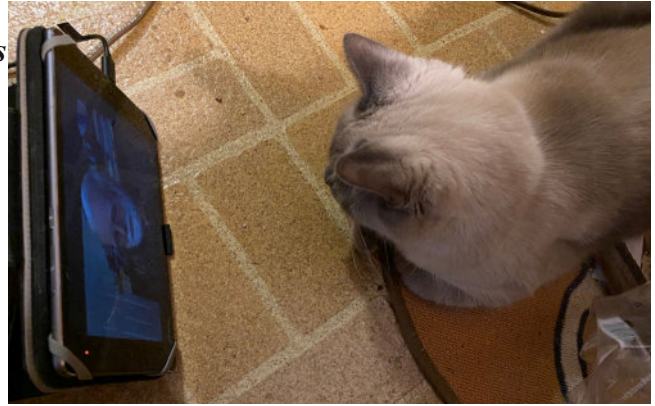
Curious Cat and Another Virtual Field Trip

by Richard Moss

We all enjoyed John Hayden's presentation on "Close Encounters of the Cryptogamic Kin" on Zoom last month, but for some reason my cat was particularly entranced. He watched for at least 10 minutes, until I had to move the computer, so I could see better.

On October 7th, I explored Appomattox Riverside Park/ Ferndale Park just outside of Petersburg, VA in Dinwiddie County. This park has a trail along the Appomattox River, and a separate trail higher up along a canal which originally ran from Petersburg to Farmville. Some plants were past their peak, but there was still lots to see.

1. Along the river were several stands of these Virginia dayflowers (*Commelina virginica*), and 2. numerous blue lobelias (*lobelia siphilitica*).



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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Vice President.....Catharine Tucker
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Secretary.....Ashley Moulton
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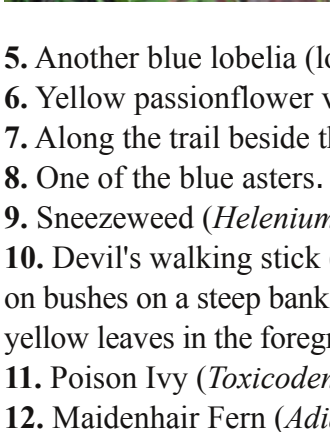
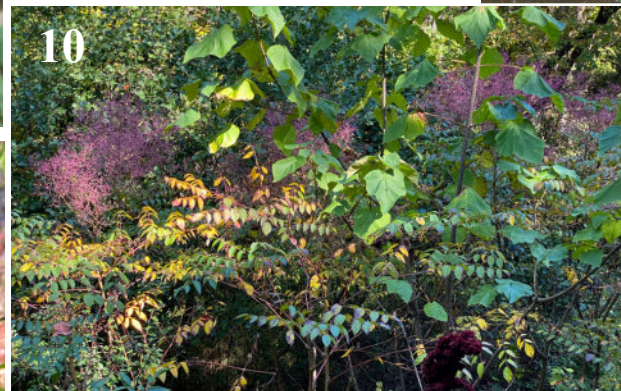
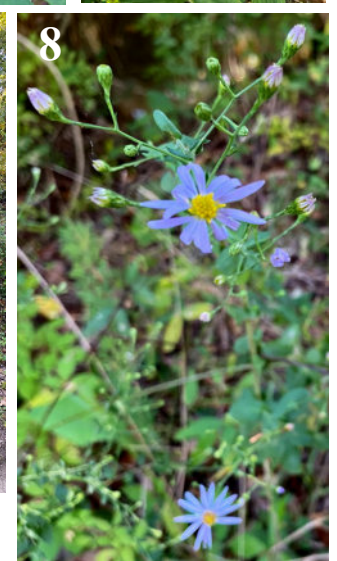
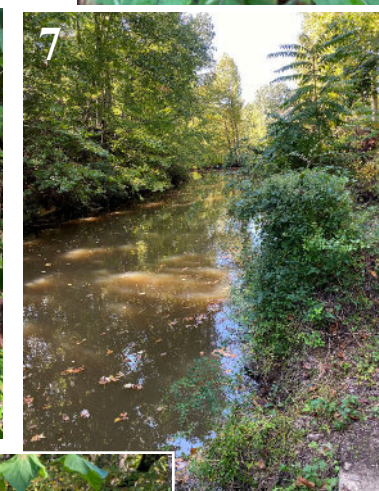
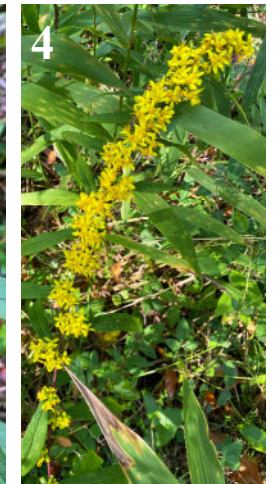
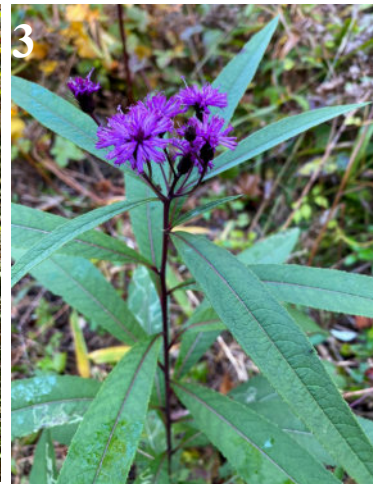
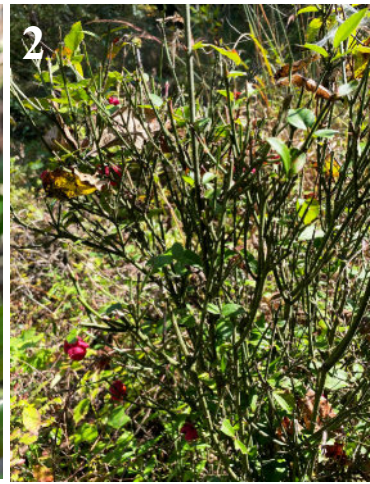
3. Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*)
4. A small grotto of unknown function. Several lizard's tail (*Saururus cernuus*) plants were growing there along with ferns.

More photos from the park.

1. and 2. Some yellow composites. Notice the spider on 2.
3. Coralberry or Indian Currant (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*).



4. Horsemint or spotted beebalm (*Monarda punctata*).
5. A nice yellow composite.
6. One of the goldenrods (*Solidago* sp.).
7. Seeds of Blue beech or American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*).
8. View looking up the Appomattox River.
9. Partridge pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*).
10. Sweet everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium*).



1. Virginia meadowbeauty (*Rhexia virginica*).
 2. Strawberry bush (*Euonymus americanus*).
 This one has ben heavily grazed by deer.
 3. New York ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*).
 4. Another Goldenrod (*Solidago Sp.*)
 5. Another blue lobelia (lobelia siphiltica).
 6. Yellow passionflower vine (*Passiflora lutea*).
 7. Along the trail beside the canal.
 8. One of the blue asters.
 9. Sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnnale*).
 10. Devil's walking stick (*Aralia spinosa*) with fruit. The redish fruit was on bushes on a steep bank about 10 feet below where I was standing. The yellow leaves in the foreground belong to some other Devil's walkingsticks.
 11. Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) showing fall colors.
 12. Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum pedatum*).

