

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

September, 2022



**Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM, Thursday September 1, 2022
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
This meeting will also be available via zoom.**

We hope everyone of you have been enjoying this wet, hot summer and look forward to getting back into the swing of things at our next chapter meeting on Thursday September 1 at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. This will be our first, formal in-person chapter meeting since the beginning of the pandemic. We are pleased to offer a presentation by Mr. Robert Gabay. The format will be hybrid - meaning that there will be an in-person as well as a Zoom option.

Robert Gabay is a native plant and casual wild food enthusiast who started the Chimborazo Native Food Project in 2020. The project's goals are to provide food sourced from native plants free of charge to the community at large, educate members of the public about the importance of native plant communities in urban areas, and establish an educational meadow habitat in Chimborazo Park. The project's community orchard, which was started early this year, includes twenty-eight shrubs and trees, featuring Chickasaw plums, American hazelnut, and downy serviceberries. In the coming months, ecological restoration and orchard establishment efforts will continue with planting of fruit trees, forbs, and plugs along with grass seed casting.

This hybrid meeting is free and open to the public. The meet and greet starts at 6:30 pm followed by the presentation at 7 pm. A short business meeting will follow the presentation.

If you choose to attend via zoom

Topic: Chimborazo Native Food Project

Time: Sep 1, 2022 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84609392190?pwd=V0IBWmRUR0NpRDh6WTFiRmlxSVpaQT09>



Pocahontas Chapter President's Message

Hello Pocahontas Chapter Members,

Welcome to the fall 2022 season. I hope folks have had a great summer and seen some most excellent plants. The chapter has been busy. Let me summarize our activities since the last newsletter.

In May, we had our display booth at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden Plant Festival, The Book Store Event, and held our Dorey Park pot luck picnic and walk. Thanks to all who attended the picnic, and sorry about the chiggers. In June, we had a field trip at Cumberland Marsh Natural Area. In July, we had a field trip at Zoar State Forest and saw cool wetland and riparian plants. We also launched our chapter groups.io email list serve to facilitate discussion among members about native plants. In August, we had our display booth at the West End Manor Civic Association National Night Out event, and we had a field trip at R. Garland Dodd Park at Point



Attendees at Cumberland Marsh

of Rocks. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped work our display booth and lead field trips. And thanks to all who have attended the field trips and events. Our next display event is the state fair September 23 through October 2. We have also partnered with the Prevent a Litter in Carytown project. This is headed by chapter member Tammie Valverde. See the attached flier from Tammie about the project. They're converting an open space to native plants.

You may have heard we are back at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens (LGBG). That's right, our vice president Jason has found a speaker daring enough to try our first ever hybrid monthly meeting. The meeting will be in person with a Zoom option. Now, the board developed a plan for hybrid meetings, and two weeks ago we had a test run, with me playing the part of the speaker, treasurer Alli playing me, and membership chair Becky playing herself on Zoom.

We worked out some bugs and adjusted our plan, but please understand there will be inevitable technical difficulties. I'm not being pessimistic but realistic. Things we're trying to avoid but may happen include the following:

- You can't hear the Zoom speaker or other speakers for a minute.
- Feedback squeals.
- Echo loops resembling an early, scary Pink Floyd album.
- Some one on Zoom unmuted and breathing into their computer mic, which then plays through the LGBG PA system.
- Jason and I stressing out.

We hope to avoid all this and have a smooth meeting, but please be patient and understanding as we figure things out.

Lastly, chapter member Amy Ritchie Johnson contacted me about the Go Fund Me campaign for the Richmond Wildlife Center. They need a new facility. See the website here: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/richmondwildlifecenter>.

Cheers, Matt Brooks

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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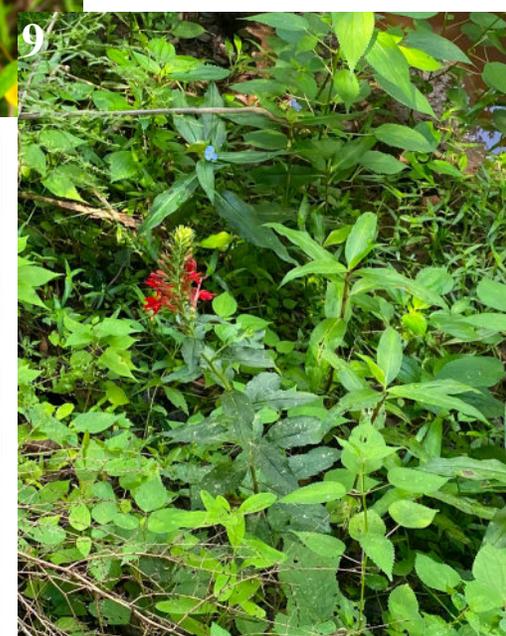
Website
vnps.org

Summer Field Trip photos -- Richard Moss

I was unable to attend the Cumberland Marsh trip which I understand was interesting, but did participate in several others. On July 30th we had a chapter field trip to Zoar state forest in King William County, VA. Our chapter has never had a field trip to this park which is about 45 minutes north-east of Richmond and probably would be worth another trip in the spring. Some of the plants we saw are on the next page.

On May 23 I went a field trip with John Hayden, his research student Makayla Quinn, and Gary Fleming to private property in north western Goochland County to look for lichens and mosses and see what else could be found in this relatively unexplored region of Goochland County. Makayla reported for the May 23rd trip that she collected 26 specimens and 22 different species, 15 of which were mosses while the other 7 were liverworts, several of which had not been collected before. Gary Fleming also collected several species not before reported in Goochland County. The flora there was interesting enough that we decided to return in late summer which we did on August 15th. The weather for both trips was unseasonably cool with temperatures in the 60's, cloudy and threatening rain. For the May trip the rain held off until we got back to our cars, then within several minutes the torrential downpour started. We were not so lucky with the August trip. When we were the farthest from shelter the rain started and didn't stop until we got back to where the cars were parked. The trip, however, was worth getting a little wet. Photos from these trips are on page 4.

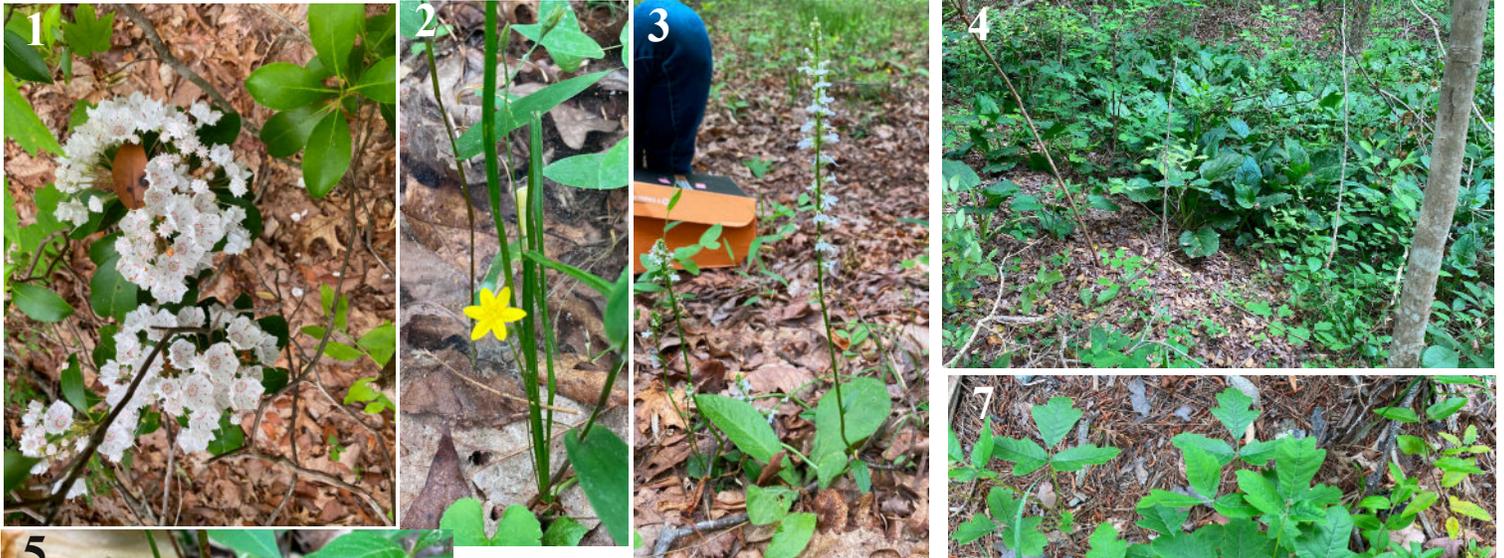
Zoar State Forest in King Willian County on July 30



1. Our group. 2. Turks cap lily (*Lilium superbum*). 3. Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*) with fruit. 4. a composite photograph of a downy rattlesnake plantain orchid in bloom (*Goodyera pubescens*). 5. Seedbox (*Ludwigia alternifolia*). 6. An interesting lichen which had fallen off a branch. 7. Joe pye weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*) 8. The native dayflower (*Commelina virginica*). 9. Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) with dayflower at top. 10. Yellow passionflower (*Passiflora lutea*). 11. Sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*) in bloom. 12. Wild petunia (*Ruellia caroliniensis*).



Field Trips to North-western Goochland County



7. Atlantic poison oak (*Toxicodendron pubescens*)
8. Golden club (*Orontium aquaticum*) with seeds.



1. Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*). 2. Yellow star grass (*Hypoxis hirsuta*). 3. One of the several orchids we saw. 4. Skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*), center, big leaves. 5. Lily leaved twoblade orchid (*Liparis liliifolia*). 6. *Aneura pinguis*, one of several liverworts we saw.



Trip 2 to Goochland county on August 15th



9. False Turkeytail fungus (*Stereum hirsutum*).
10. Crane fly orchid in flower (*tipularia discolor*), with more turkey tails on left.
11. Chanterelle Sp. mushrooms growing in a creek bank.
12. Lady slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*) with seeds.