

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

February, 2017

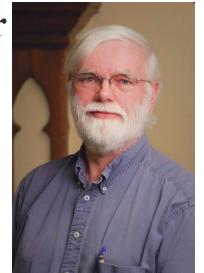


**Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM,
Thursday February 2, 2017**

**at the Education and Library Complex of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
in the Lab**

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

**Our speaker John Hayden, PhD will present "Skunk Cabbage and Other
Adventures, August 2016"**



Find out about University of Richmond Professor John Hayden's summer activities

A short business meeting will follow the presentation.

Dr. Hayden describes his laboratory work as investigating botanical biodiversity with two general aims, to improve our understanding of plant relationships (systematics) and to document plant diversity that exists within particular geographic locations (floristics). His research concerns plants of the family *Euphorbiaceae*, Virginia flora, and Yucatan ethnobotany and floristics. He also curates the University Herbarium and is primary care provider for the plants in the Department of Biology greenhouses. In addition, he serves as chair of the botany committee for the Virginia Native Plant Society and is an avid home gardener.

Chapter Meetings:

March 2, 2017 Berniece Thieblot, one of the founders of Quarry Gardens in Nelson County. The Quarry Gardens at Schuyler, Virginia exist to: Preserve and exhibit relics of the soapstone quarrying industry; Assist the natural process of plant and habitat restoration; Showcase native plant communities for public education and enjoyment and Maintain records of plants and animals as a resource for study. The Gardens were designated a Virginia Treasure in 2016 by Gov. Terry McAuliffe. Bernice will explain how improvements were made to the Schuyler property on weekends for 23 years and how they commissioned a master plan, a survey of plants, animals, and habitat, and a garden design. She will discuss how they are implementing the garden plans for the designated 14 eco-zones and 7 conservation areas.

April 6, 2017 Our speaker, Robert Wright, will provide a grand presentation, featuring some sleuthings, botanical finds, and a preview of our planned Foray at Camp Hanover in May.

May 6, 2017 Picnic and walk at Camp Hanover. Details later.

President's Message:

Hi, hope this finds everyone well. Are you all wondering like I am, where did January go? It seems like I blinked and it was gone. Did you all go home from the last meeting and mark our work days at Lewis Ginter on your

calendar? March 26th 2-5 and April 8th 10-1. I made sure to put a bug in the ears of my 3 sons that live in the area, the more hands we have, the quicker it will go and the funnier it will be. I am excited to say that Robert Wright has secured the location for our annual picnic on May 6th at Camp Hanover. We will be doing a “flora blitz” in the morning and fellowship for lunch. Stay tuned for more details and sign up. I hope to see lots of you Thursday, and remember, bring a friend. In this political landscape, we need all the help we can get....

We would like to update the Geographic area of our chapter. We thought it was decided by the State, but now understand it is up to us. We are going to include all counties that touch either Henrico and Chesterfield and any cities in those counties. King William does not actually fit that criteria, but is already on our list and we are going to leave it. This will add the counties of Amelia, Dinwiddie and Prince George, and the city of Colonial Heights. Blessings,
Leslie

Minutes of the January 12 meeting of the Pocahontas Chapter of the VNPS

Our speaker, John Townsend who is a staff botanist at Natural Heritage discussed Mosses and Liverworts. He explained how he got involved in the world of Bryophyte identification at the Highland Biological Station in North Carolina. and showed us his tools of the trade – including a collecting bag, little labeled paper envelopes and explained how forceps aid in this field for collection. ID essentials include diligent note taking from what you see under the scope – to minimize frustration later on. He presented a video explaining how he preps slides for the scope for a liverwort a *Frullania*, to allow for its ID on the cellular level, then showed photos of interesting species of bryophytes in sites around Virginia, including: *Campylpus carolinae* at blackwater and *Forsstroemia producta* at Natural Bridge. 5 pop in N. America. Bald Knob – *Orthotrichum keeverae*. Mt. Rodgers – higher elevation, cool shaded – *Bazzania nudicalis*. *Syrrhopodon texanus* on bald cypress at First Landing. Key Features: “Oil bodies”, a feature that under a scope looks like a cluster of grapes, are a time sensitive ID keying feature for Liverworts. “Gemmae” are the reproductive structures on the end of the leaf.

Shared Guides and Resources:

Flora of North America

Mosses of North America

Business Meeting:

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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Chapter Website

pocahontaschapter-vnps.org

The state VNPS has purchased a new member registration program called Neon which should improve membership tracking.

Upcoming events: We are hosting the Winter Workshop at U of R on March 4th, we need to set up a continental breakfast and break it down To help get in touch with Leslie or Catherine.

Lewis Ginter work days have been scheduled for Sunday 3-26 from 2 to 5pm and Sat 4-8 from 10 to 1pm.

March 18 – Goshen Pass Field Trip – registration opens 1/16

March 11

Lake Chesdin Park Field Trip - Richard Moss Coordinator.

April 15 - field trip to Camp Hanover - but needs verification – Robert Wright is the contact person.

May 20th Trip to Cory Gardens at Skyler in Nelson County

Sat, August 12th - field trip to Echo lake

Sat, Sept 9 - Field trip to R. Garland Dodd Park

Annual Meeting Sept 30th

REMEMBER TO LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE, yo!

Ashley Moulton, Secretary

“In Search Of”: Botanical Adventures of a Plant Detective by Robert Wright.

This month’s target: *Phemeranthus teretifolius* (Pursh) Raf., Roundleaf Fameflower

“Where there is unusual habitat, there you are sure to observe

unusual flora”. This quote would be expected from a seasoned botanist. Perhaps one group of truly unusual and almost disappeared habitat types in the RVA region is that of granitic rock outcrops.

Many of the historically-present local granite outcrops were quarried and the slopes surrounding the pits and rockwalls were heavily damaged. The effect caused near-permanent displacement of specialty flora, which, for the Richmond area, is very, very local.

One plant that was historically present at aptly-named “Granite Station” in my old stomping grounds is the roundleaf fameflower. I would have wagered big bucks that this plant was extirpated at this location in South Richmond, just NE of the Southern RR crossing at Forest Hill Avenue. There are five old quarries present within a stone’s throw of this locale. Many an old school botanist frequented the outcrops along Powhite Creek back in the late 1920s, and made specimen collections, many of which are in out-of-state institutions (see “In Search of *Bryodesma Rupestre*”).

The past ‘extinction events’ resulting from quarrying in this locale had me thinking searching for remnants would be fruitless. And so it was for three seasons, until I happened upon a small stand of wild pink (*Silene caroliniana*) and another spot with prickly pear (*Opuntia humifusa*), and with hopes to find the rock spike-moss (*Bryodesma rupestre*). Fameflower never was seen.

That is until the Richmond Metropolitan Authority decided in 1999 to upgrade the Powhite Parkway tollbooth at Forest Hill ramp. There, on a sunny

afternoon in May, I unexpectedly found fameflower in the crumbling rock and cracks of a fresh cut exposed to make way for the extra toll basket.

The conditions had become ideal for the seed bank to sprout forth a long-dormant batch of pink flowers. What a great experience.

It is hoped you too can locate the fameflower and other specialties, and I would be interested in other reports of it in RVA.

Happy Hunting.

1. Wild Pink (*Silene caroliniana*) at Granite Station, South Richmond, VA in 1995.

2. Typical Habitat, Roundleaf Fameflower (*Phemeranthus teretifolius*).

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National Invasive Species Awareness Week in Richmond

National Invasive Species Awareness Week is February 27 - March 3, 2017.

Events are planned across the nation to raise awareness of and identify solutions to invasive species issues at local, state, tribal, regional, national and international scales.

Sunday afternoon, February 26, the James River Park Invasives Removal Task Force will hold an educational event to kick off this observance. On Belle Isle and at Pony Pasture, there will be activity and information stations to explain the work in progress at both of these locations, and the future plans for these and other parts of James River Park. The work is being done by volunteers from groups including Master Naturalists, Richmond Tree Stewards and our chapter. We are members of this Task Force.

If you would like this opportunity to join some of these volunteers to help educate the public about the identification and removal of invasives in James River Park, let us know. Contact Leslie (leleorr4@gmail.com) or Catharine (cath.tucker@gmail.com).



English Ivy (*Hedera helix*) on a tree

VNPS Winter Workshop at the University of Richmond

Saturday, March 4, 2017 - Volunteers Needed!

The theme is “Under Stories: Small Communities and Secret Agents,” highlighting mosses and liverworts, fungi and their contributions to Virginia’s plant communities.

Registration is open NOW!

Our chapter contributes the effort to set up continental breakfast before the seminars begin and refreshments at the morning break. Since expenses are reimbursed by the state organization, our chapter donates the volunteer time. We have 5 volunteers currently, and would like more people to help with this. Note, registration for the workshop is separate from, and not included in, this volunteer project.

Contact Catharine at (804) 938-6941 or email cath.tucker@gmail.com



A moss - Dicranum sp

Catharine Tucker made a quick trip to Three Lakes Park on January 27th and observed some terminal leaves on an *Eleagnus pungens* chomped off (Photo 1). Deer are likely suspects! Photo 2 shows the underside of the leaves which have silvery scales. Crane-fly orchids are widely found in our area. Catharine took photo 3 showing the green leaf and the purple underside on December 26, 2016.



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