



# THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

**February, 2018**

**Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM,  
Thursday January 11, 2018**

**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 will be John Hayden, PhD who will discuss the plants and geology of Avalonia**

Why is a botanist interested in a region that was formed about 500 million years ago when several volcanic island arcs collided with North America? That region was given the name Avalonia, an area that includes Dr. John Hayden's home town and many places that he botanizes. This University of Richmond Professor of Biology will share information about the underlying geology as an introduction to the region's plant life.

## **President's Message:**

Hi all,  
I hope this finds you all well. I have a request for each of you, not a well formulated thought out request, but a "I can't believe that happened" knee jerk request. On January 18th, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors voted 5 to 4 to allow the construction of a data center on a site of a Piedmont Mafic Barren, one of only 10 documented occurrences in WORLD, ranked G1/S1 critically imperiled globally. I mean, can you imagine there only being 10 wolves left in the world and they voted to shoot 1? Here is a link to a young conservationist's thoughts on the matter pre-vote.

<https://birdsandbuds.com/2018/01/11/loudoun-county-piedmont-diabase-barren-a-rare-ecosystem-faces-threats-from-development/>

So, my knee jerk reaction is for all of us to learn more about what exactly is going on with our own counties' Board of Supervisors. For us all to use the information from DCR website to know what special treasures we have locally <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/rare-species-com> For us all to understand that everyone thinks someone is going to "do it" but that often results in no one doing it.

**Note:** the 2018 Winter Workshop will be on Saturday, March 10, 2018. Talks will be centered on the theme of TREES; and the following have been scheduled:

John Seiler, Virginia Tech: Tree Biology

Desiree Narango, University of Delaware: Research related to relationship of trees/insects/birds – Her research is related to Doug Tallamy's work

Lytton Musselman, Old Dominion University: Longleaf Pine Restoration

Ryan Klopff, Natural Heritage: Old Growth Forests

The location will be the University of Richmond. Registration is required and will open towards the end of January. See the VNPS website at [vnps.org](http://vnps.org).

Hope to see you all at the chapter meeting on Thursday, be blessed.

Leslie

# Winter Observations

by Richard Moss

January and February are not the best months to look for native plants, but last week on a relatively warm day I wondered around in the yard and the woods back of my house to see what I could find.

1. The little black mushroom that shows up every year from late December to January appeared in the front yard about January 10, This year it came up in a clump of moss and seems to have survived sub-zero temperatures unscathed. The picture was taken January 28th.



2. There was this Hickory tree (*Carya sp*) which I thought had interesting bark.



3. Cross vine (*Bignonia capreolata*) growing up an oak tree.



Left: Photo of Sam the cat who helped me put the newsletter together. (Actually I needed something to fill up this space)

4. An old trumpet vine (*Campsis radicans*)



growing up a tree. The outer and center part of the vine has partially decayed so that the vine had split into two parts in the upper part of the photo.

5. Raccoon (*Procyon Lotor*) tracks on a sand bar on a small stream.



## 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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Farther in the woods I found:

1. A patch of cranefly orchids (*Tipularia discolor*) I hadn't seen before.

2. A patch of Christmas ferns (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) growing on a bank.



3. Something, perhaps a deer, had stripped the bark off his small magnolia tree (*Magnolia grandiflora*). These come up in the woods from seeds from the planted magnolias in people's yards, but don't seem to persist.

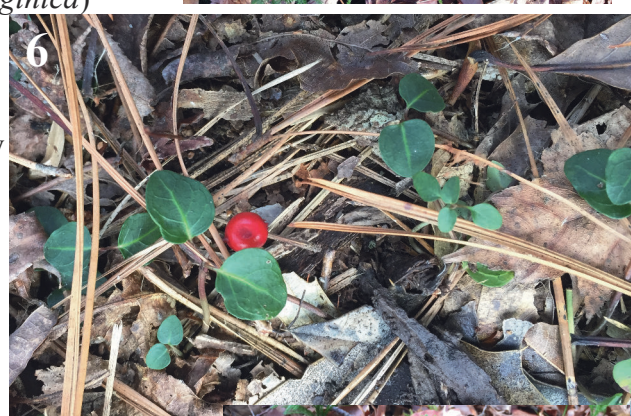
4. A small patch of running cedar (*Diphasiastrum digitatum*) was growing on the edge of a swampy area.



5a and 5b. There was a lot of Evergreen wild ginger (*Hexastylis virginica*) growing in wet areas. 5b has some partridge berry in the middle of the picture.

6. Partridge berry (*Mitchella repens*) was fairly common, this one had one red berry remaining.

7. Another lycopodium, Prince's pine, (*Lycopodium obscurum*) was growing along another hillside near a swampy area.





Then, I found this invasive vine, winter creeper (*Euonymus fortunei*), crawling around. It has escaped from a neighbor's yard and like english ivy, crawls around on the ground (**A**) until it finds a tree then goes up (**B**) and eventually produces seeds.

Don't confuse it with these evergreen native plants:

1. Young strawberry bush (*Euonymus americanus*) which apparently can retain leaves in winter (photo taken Jan 27th) and can sometimes look sort of vine like.
2. Cross vine (*Bignonia capreolata*).
3. Striped wintergreen (*Chimaphila maculata*) which is not a vine, but the leaves look similar.

All of these pictures were taken on January 27th.



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