

# THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

April, 2018



**Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM,  
Thursday April 5, 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 Dr. James Carter whose topic will be "What Are Ice Flowers and How Do They Form".**

Dr. James Carter, has studied these and other products of Ice Segregation for 15 years, including "growing" them in his freezer and yard. Dr. Carter is Professor Emeritus of the Geography-Geology Department, Illinois State University. He recently moved to Virginia and is a member of the Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS, and looks forward to sharing his knowledge and searches for Ice Flowers in this area with local native plant enthusiasts.

*Right: One of Dr. Carters photographs of an ice flower*



## **Upcoming Chapter Meetings:**

**Chapter Picnic and Plant Walk:** R. Garland Park in Chesterfield county on Saturday May 19, 9:00 AM - 2:00PM. Bring food to share. More Details in the May Newsletter. We will **not** meet at Lewis Ginter in May. Our next meeting at Lewis Ginter will be in September.

## **President's Message:**

Hi all, hope this finds you all well, enjoying some warm weather FINALLY, March really came in like a lion, whew. I just came in from doing a bit of gardening, my bluebells and saxifrage are blooming. What do you have going on in your yard? Feel free to post them on our facebook page, Dabney created a special section for us to share photos. Please jot down these dates and plan on joining us.

4/21 8:45, Work Day at Lewis Ginter. Meet to left of fountain behind visitor center

4/22 2:45, Lady Slipper walk at Dorey Park Henrico. Meet at Parking lot on left of "Home of Jets" sign.

5/19 Annual Picnic R. Garland Dodd Park Chester, 9:00 am Walk, 11:30 Meal & Plant Swap.

5/20 3:00 PM, College Wood Park walk in Williamsburg.

7/14 Big Meadow SNP walk, more details to come.

*Photos from the Winter Workshop.*

Thank you Catharine Tucker for organizing breakfast for the Winter Workshop. As usual, it was a well oiled machine. Thanks to all that helped, and forgive me if I missed you: Pat Brodie, Diane Butzin, Jim Carter, Sally Chamberlain, Emily Gianfortoni, John Hayden, Tish Iorio, Suzanne Jenkins, Peg Mohar, Don Mohar, Catharine Tucker and Dick Wills.

It is getting close to that time of year again, for us to make our donation to the



library at Lewis Ginter for Janet to go book shopping. Below are the books she bought last year...have you stopped in to check them out? Do you have any suggestions for Janet? If so, email Leslie Allanson at leleorr4@gmail.com and I will pass them along.

*Monarch and Milkweed* by Helen Frost,  
*Cattail Moonshine and Milkweed Medicine* by Tammi Hartung,  
*First Lessons in Nature Study* by Edith Patch,  
*Mosses, Liverworts and Hornworts* by Ralph Pope,  
*Wildflowers of the Western Chesapeake* by Richard Wiegand,

Hope to see you soon,  
Blessings,  
Leslie

## Minutes of the Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS on March 1, 2018

### Talk by Bland Crowder:

The Flora of Virginia App was released September 30, 2017. Whereas 1762 was when first edition of the original of Flora of Virginia, *Flora Virginica*, was published by Johannaes Claytonus. This flora of VA was written in pure Latin. 250 years later, *Claytonia virginiana* still has a prominent place on the Flora on the front cover.

10 Cool Features in the VA Flora App.

1. Search by Characteristics– Divided by 11 artificial and taxonomic groups – including ferns to needle leaf woodies.
2. Volunteers were asked to illuminate 16 key characteristics that would help widdle down the plant descriptions – like leaf arrangement, leaf shape, inflorescence type, symmetry, etc. This was later knocked down from 16 to 7 key defining characteristics.
3. Added some new data – location information based by users location, moisture regime, light regime, rare/threatened, invasiveness. Utilized the digital atlas of Virginia Flora online for the photos. Included all the narrative chapters that were found in the Flora book.
4. Colors that are used with the species phot- this is randomly generated from the photos.
5. Each species entry can hold up to 5 photos and up to 2 illustrations.

### 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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pocahontaschapter-vnps.org

6. There is ways to use a ruler in app!
7. Information not included in the flora on if the species is rare and endangered, or invasive in the state.
8. It can use your location to find plants that are native to your area, and search by flower color or many other features.
9. There is also a master key that includes couplets that are in the print version flora of Virginia.
10. Check out the cool reference guides!

### VNPS Meeting Notes:

- 11 members joined in February. Total members: 158 members
  - Request for speakers -> Please let Catherine know any topics you would like to hear – let us know. Johnny Townsend was recommended.
  - Announcement about the National America Butterfly Association club chapter for the greater Richmond region!
  - Motion made to donate \$505 for summer camp class – which got passed.
- 3/10 – Winter Workshop – Full!  
4/14 – Lewis Ginter Workday  
4/28 – Appamattox Riverfest – small booth – request for volunteers  
5/19 – Annual Picnic at Point of Rocks -

6/1 - College Woods at W&M – meet at 10 a.m. or at park and ride at 9am to bottoms bridge on rt 60

6/24 – Journal/Sketch Walk

July – Big Meadows – TBA Sometime between June 30 and July 14

State VNPS Field Trips Events: Check website <http://vnps.org/>  
Balsam Mountains & Cedar Preserve in Lee county.

## Treasurers Report:

In March we approved a \$505 donation for summer camp class as we did last year.

We had income of \$30 for the sale of books. I haven't received last month's Chapter's portion of the dues from the state yet.

This results in a loss of \$475 for March.

This leaves us with \$3655 in the treasury.

Richard Moss, Treasurer

## Some Spring Wildflower Pictures:

Richard Moss

Well the weather went from **Photo 1** taken March 21 to **Photo 2** taken 3/29 in a disturbingly short time, but after a few false starts, perhaps Spring has finally arrived.

**Photo 2** of Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) was taken by Dick Wills at the Pony Pasture in the James River Park. **Photo 3**, of Spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*) in bloom was also taken by Dick Wills while he was at the Belmont Golf course and was along the bank of North Run Creek. This photo was taken on Feb 21 (one of those 70 degree days in February).

The last of March and the first of April I wondered around to see what was in bloom. In my front yard I saw:

**Photo 4**, bluets (*Houstonia caerulea*), and **Photo 5**, evergreen wild ginger (*Hexastylis virginica*) in bloom.



**Photo 6**, a nice crop of confederate violets (*Viola sororia*) in bloom, with both the white and blue, shown in **Photo 7**, and the violet variants, **Photo 8**, present.

On April first I explored around the town of Claremont in Surry County, Va and found several things of interest. In the Claremont cemetery there was an impressively large (for me at least) stand of trailing arbutus (*Epigaea repens*), running between the headstones, in bloom. **Photo 1:** It is hard to see in the photograph but almost all the dark green



leaves are trailing arbutus leaves. **Photo 2** is a close-up of the pale pink fragrant flowers.

**Photo 3**, taken in the same area is, I believe of bugle (*Ajuga reptans*), an invasive European native often used as an ornamental.

**Photo 4:** Going along the road from Claremont, there was this stand of skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) along a stream.

**Photo 5:** At the edge of the flood plain of the stream in the preceding photo there were several golden ragwort plants (*Packera aurea*) in bloom. **Photo 6** is a close-up of the flowers.

