



**Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM,
Thursday October 4, 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 guest speaker will be Philip Coulling, Executive Director of Nature Camp

Did you know there is a non-profit summer camp in Virginia that trains interested, knowledgeable youth to conserve and protect the environment, and to become wise stewards of the earth's natural resources? It is an educational effort that the Pocahontas Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society supports with an annual donation. Philip Coulling, will share his camp and camper stories with us at the October 4th meeting.

Coulling says he has found something many of us seek, his dream job. After earning a graduate degree in biology at UNC Chapel Hill, he came back to Virginia as a vegetation ecologist with the Virginia Natural Heritage Program. Despite his chance to travel & explore natural areas all over Virginia, he missed educating young people about natural history. As a former camper, counselor and assistant director at Nature Camp, he kept in touch with camp activities and changes. When the director position came open, he says he "jumped at the chance." This past summer was his 15th as director.

President's Message

Hey Everyone

Hope this finds you well. Did you make it to the September meeting? It was standing room only, we had a great turnout to hear John Magee talk about landscaping with natives and all the wonderful benefits of it. Several folks asked after the meeting where could they get natives...and the answer is from 2 of our very own members. Beth and Bill both have native nurseries in the Richmond area. I have included their information below. They both responsibility harvest seeds and propagate plants from sources in Central VA. I have also been pleased to see natives at Sandy's Plants, Sneed's and Coleville's. I do not know the origin of their plants, so I would ask before you buy. I will say I stopped buying any plants from the big box stores several years ago. Hope the October meeting is well attended, where we will be hearing from Nature Camp director Philip Colulling about their mission and programs. Don't know what Nature Camp is...well, come find out. Also, don't forget, our next workday as Lewis Ginter is 10/6 8:45 to 1:00. Would really love to see a big turn out there as well, and BIG THANK YOU to the 2 members that did join me last time.

Beth Farmer

<http://www.gardengategardener.com>

Bill Shanabruch

<https://reedycreekenvironmental.wordpress.com>

Be Blessed

Leslie

Field Trip to Difficult Creek Natural Area Preserve in Halifax County, VA

Wow, just Wow, that is what came out of my mouth as I stood on the path along the powerlines at Difficult Creek Natural Area Preserve. The fall wildflowers and grasses were just lovely. The pictures do not do it justice. It was a small group that gathered to take advantage of a private tour by Chris Ludwig, Chief Biologist with DCR. But now that I know where it is and what it has

to offer, I hope to go back each year. I urge you to join us next time. AND he said late Spring was lovely as well, so watch for that trip. To learn more about Difficult Creek and other natural area preserves, use this link. <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/natural-area-preserves/difficult>

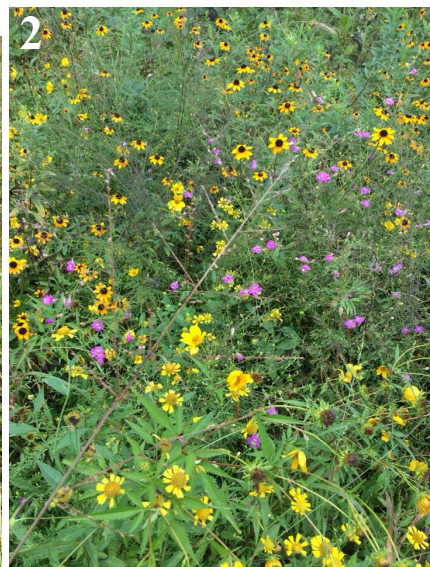


Photo 1. Exploring the preserve. 2. Lobelia and goldenrod. 3. Sneezeweed, bidens and false foxglove. 4. A stand of bluestem.

Photos and text Leslie Allanson

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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Things in My Yard

by Richard Moss

The weather finally improved so I wondered around in my yard and took some pictures. The wet weather was good for mushroom and I found several interesting ones in the front yard.



1. This spectacular orange shelf fungus showed up near an oak tree. Last May another one appeared on the other side of the same oak. 2. This mushroom and its little brother came up, then a few days later disintegrated, as shown in photo 3. I am not sure what the gray fuzzy fungus that appears to be growing out of the mushrooms are but it looks like the little mushroom has grown a beard.



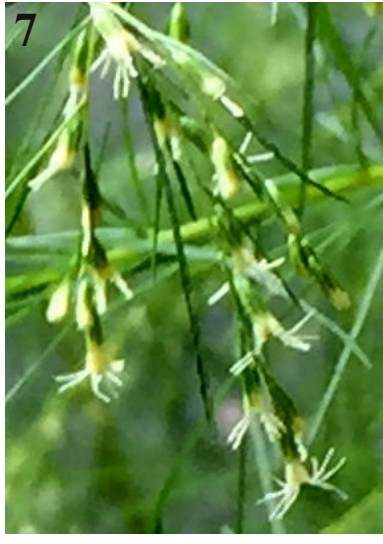
Exploring farther, I found the strawberry bush (*Euonymus americanus*) photo 4. with its spectacular seeds,

5. Heartleaf wild ginger (*Hexastylis virginica*).

6. Fox fennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*) See: <https://vnps.org/johnclayton/2015/10/22/dog-fennel-september-wildflower-of-the-month/> for more info.

Photo 7. is a close up of dog Fennel flowers, they are small but fragrant. 8. Pokeweed flowers (*Phytolacca americana*) This is the second blooming, note the older dried fruit in the background. 9. Pilewort (*Erechtites hieracifolius*) with seeds, 10. Indian pipes in decline. In the September newsletter I had a picture of them just as they were flowering. They were all white then.

11. Another shelf fungus. This one has grown around an ivy leaf.



Walking in the woods back of my house I found:

12. Partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*) with fruit.

13. A patch of lycopodium with spores 14. Striped Wintergreen (*Chimaphila maculata*) growing next to a moss covered log.

15. Sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*). I have lots of similar looking netted chain fern (Woodwardia areolata) in the woods back of the house but only one small patch of sensitive fern.

16. There is a dense patch of jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*) growing along a little creek next to the road.

Photo 17. is a close up of the flowers.

18. Another nice little mushroom.

