



*THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE
VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY*

November 2014

**Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM,
Thursday November 6, 2014
at the Education and Library Complex of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
in the Lab**

The room is available at 6:30, come early and Socialize

Catharine Tucker will present “American Women Naturalists: 18th to 21st Centuries”

The names of men like Audubon, Thoreau, Muir and Leopold come to mind when we think of American naturalists. Many women also contributed to the collection and identification of specimens, the study of and education about natural history in America from the 18th century to the present. Catharine will describe the contributions of some of America’s outstanding women naturalists, emphasizing work in botany and eastern US. Among other stories, she will share a few about those she knew and worked with in the field.

Chapter Meetings and Events:

November 12: Field trip to Pocahontas State Park. Trip Coordinator: Andy Wichorek, email, awichorek1@verizon.net, or phone (804)337-2707. Please note that there is a \$4 per car entrance fee to the park. If you would like to carpool, please meet at 10:00am at the Martin's parking lot at the intersection of Routes 1 and 10 in Chester. Otherwise, meet at the park's Nature Center at 10:30am. Jared Ress, Park Naturalist, will be our interpreter to show & tell us where to look for interesting plants in the morning. Please bring your own bag lunch. Contact Andy Wichorek if you are planning on attending, and whether or not you will be carpooling with the group.

December 13: Holiday Social Gathering. Location to be determined.

Note: the January Chapter Meeting will be January 15, the second Thursday, a week later than usual to avoid GardenFest at Lewis Ginter.

Minutes of the Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS Meeting, October 2, 2014

The meeting was attended by 11 members and 2 visitors. In the absence of President Catharine Tucker, Past President Daune Poklis called the meeting to order at 7 PM. Member Margot Deck took minutes in the absence of Secretary Irene Caperton. Guest speaker Emily Herr, owner of HerrSuite mural-painting business in Richmond, VA, presented slides of indoor and outdoor murals displaying botanical themes that she has created.

Chapter business followed the program.

Treasurer Richard Moss reported the following:

Income: \$130.50 from State VNPS for August & September memberships, Interest: \$0.04.

Expenses: \$500.00 To State VNPS as contribution to the Virginia Natural Heritage goal of \$10,000 to support field studies to re-discover plants not seen recently.

\$250.00 To Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden for rent Sept 2014 - May 2015

Account Balance as of October 2, 2014 \$4,379.26

ANNUAL ELECTION

On-line votes and the votes of members present who had not voted on-line were counted and the following were elected: Catharine W. Tucker as President, Irene Caperton as Secretary, and Richard Moss as treasurer.

The Vice President position is Vacant. Leslie Allanson, a prospective member, volunteered to stand for election to the vacant Vice President position after she pays membership dues.

These Committee chairs agreed to serve:

Field Trips	Andy Wichorek
Membership	Ruby Jane Robertson
Newsletter	Richard Moss
Projects at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden	Beth Farmer & Caroline Meehan
Publicity	Suzanne Jenkins
Chapter Representative to VNPS State Board	Suzanne Jenkins

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

State Board Rep Suzanne Jenkins reported that the State VNPS has its new web site operational. The VNPS Facebook site has interesting information. This chapter still needs to link its site through the statewide site.

The State VNPS Annual Meeting will be in Virginia Beach Friday - Sunday, October 17-19. The theme is 'Water Quality.' There will be full-day field trips all 3 day. A brochure is available from the VNPS web site.

Membership Chair Ruby Jane Robertson reported that 2 people will transfer from the Thomas Jefferson Chapter to the Pocahontas Chapter. Chapter membership is 126 as of October 1.

Newsletter Chair Richard Moss announced that members can opt to receive only an e-mail copy of the newsletter and eliminate receiving a printed copy. Currently 19 members get the newsletter by e-mail only, and 93 members get printed copies. All members with an e-mail address receive an e-mail copy. Each printed copy costs 59 cents (10 cents to print and fold and 49 cents postage).

Field Trip Chair Andy Wichorek reminds members that it is important to sign up in advance with the announced trip leader and include a cell phone number. Then if the member doesn't arrive by 15 minutes after the meeting time, the leader can determine if the group should wait.

There will be a work day in James River Park on October 18, 2014, from 9 AM to 1 PM. Meet at Reedy Creek parking lot near. Contact James River Park System Headquarters in Richmond 248-1578 if you have questions or plants to donate. Donated native plants will be picked up on October 17.

The Grand Opening of the Center for Biodiversity in Woodford, VA, will be on October 11, 2014, from 9 AM to 4 PM. The site was purchased by the Meadowview Biological Research Station, 8390 Fredericksburg Turnpike, Woodford, VA, on August 15, 2014, with grant funds from the Mary Morton Parsons Foundation and a mortgage loan from Union First Market Bank in Ruther Glen, VA. The Center will support restoration and educational initiatives at the adjacent Joseph Pines Preserve in Sussex County. The site will eventually include a rare plant nursery and on-site classes.

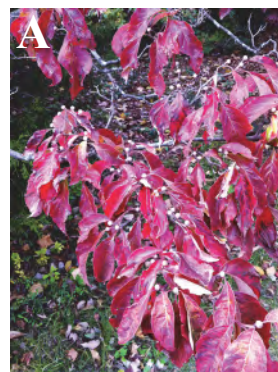
The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 6, 2014. President Catharine Tucker will present "American Women Naturalists: 1607 to present."

Margot Deck

President's Message

Flowers are replaced by fall foliage colors along both the highways, ponds and rivers. Woods and fields sport feathery bouquets of horseweed, burgundy dogwood (A) and sumac leaves (B), fiery maples (C), and golden hickories. Ribbons of ruby or gold Virginia creeper or poison ivy twine around the trunks of tall pines. My woods have a multicolored carpet of leaves and crunchy acorns. Makes me think of winter food for deer and squirrels & jays.

Thinking of spending much of winter indoors, two topics hold my attention. One is books I've been meaning to read. "Seeds of Change" and "Seeds of Wealth," both by Henry Hobhouse, promise fascinating historical accounts of cultural impacts of plants. I enjoyed Amy Stewart's humor in "Wicked



The Pocahontas Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society
serves the counties of: Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, King William, New Kent, Powhatan and the cities of Ashland, Hopewell, 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

President Catharine Tucker
804-938-6941 cath.tucker@gmail.com

Vice President Open

Secretary Irene Caperton
(804) 320-6935 idcaperton@verizon.net

Treasurer Richard Moss
(804) 748-2940 richard@mossrd.org

Membership RubyJane Robertson
(804) 323-7537 rubyjane1@aol.com

Address all other correspondence to
Richard Moss, Editor
12565 Brook Lane
Chester, VA 23831
richard@mossrd.org

Chapter Website
pocahontaschapter-vnps.org

Plants,” so I’m looking forward to the laughs in “The Drunken Botanist.” A new book, perhaps to read a little at a time, is “Pollinators of Native Plants: Attract, Observe and Identify Pollinators and Beneficial Insects with Native Plants” by Heather Holm. It was published in paperback last January. Suzanne Dingwell, who posts blogs on the VNPS web site, gave it a very favorable review. (See vnps.org/wp/book-review-pollinators-of-native-plants-by-heather-holm/). Of course, “The Flora of Virginia” will be close by my comfy chair, and I’ll be checking the new VNPS web site for news and updates



With the VNPS motto in mind, “Conserving wild flowers and wild places,” my other plan is to learn more about the issues and potential legislative actions which affect our natural resources. Information on the VNPS web site is there to help all of us keep up with threats to our wild flowers and wild places. Gas pipelines, power line right of way maintenance, oil transportation, management of state and federal lands and waters all have impacts on habitats.

This time, of year I miss the flowers, but I enjoy all the colors, however briefly they last. This week, my cranefly orchids are up, expanding their green and purple leaves to store food for next summer’s blooms.

I welcome your ideas, suggestions, or requests. Please contact me or one of the committee chairs or officers. Here’s to looking forward to field trips, programs, and work days at the Garden next week, next month, and on into spring.

Proposed Gas Pipelines in Virginia, Do the benefits outweigh the potential habitat damage?

Two proposed gas pipelines would cross Virginia’s western third. Both have the potential to create substantial damage to sensitive habitats, both terrestrial and aquatic. The VNPS web site provides a map and the following details of both.

The location and dimensions of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline are: a 42-inch pipeline stretching 550 miles across three states, 450 miles of it diagonally across Virginia from Highland County to Greenville County, with a 20-inch side branch from Greenville Co. to port facilities at Hampton Roads. The VNPS web site includes this description of what construction would require: “... a temporary 125-foot right-of-way in order to dig a ten-foot-deep trench to lay the pipe, followed by a 75-foot permanent right-of-way. This broad scar in the landscape will cut through the Monongahela and George Washington National Forests and cross the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Appalachian Trail, cut through karst formations in the Shenandoah Valley, cross the historic James River in Nelson County as well as dozens of other smaller rivers, creeks and wetlands throughout the state. It will open up a major pathway for invasive species like *Microstegium vimineum*, (Japanese Stiltgrass) right across the state.” Details of the plant species and plant communities which could be impacted are also in the VNPS web blog dated September 25, 2014.

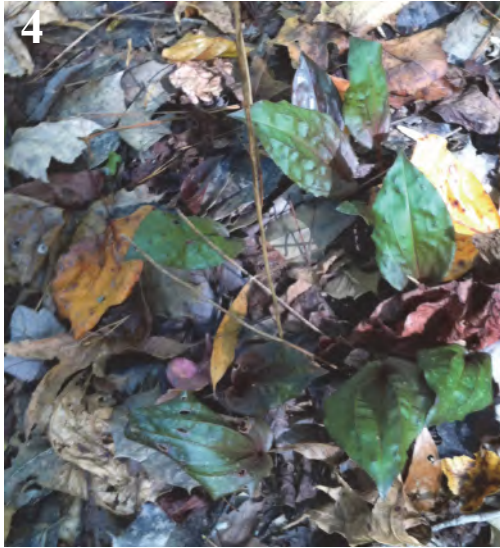
A second pipeline, called the Mountain Valley, is proposed to run through Southwest Virginia into North Carolina to carry the gas produced by fracking. If approved, it would cross one of the DCR Natural Areas, intersect many conservation easement areas including the North Fork Roanoke River Nature Conservancy Preserve, a cave conservancy and, like the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, cross the Blue Ridge Parkway.

On my trip through southwest Virginia in August, I witnessed many signs objecting to fracking. People carrying protest signs filled the sidewalks in front of the courthouse in Abingdon. There appears to be much opposition there, an area which is just now realizing its potential to attract visitors to the natural beauty and history of that part of the Commonwealth.

Governor McAuliffe unveiled his new energy plan at a public briefing earlier this month at the Virginia Academy of Science, an event co-sponsored by the Virginia Chamber of Commerce and the Virginia League of Conservation Voters. The Governor spoke strongly in favor of the proposed gas pipelines and included them in his energy plan. Marcia Mabee, VNPS Conservation Chair, attended the briefing and provided a report to the VNPS Board. She noted that “The issue of how “infrastructure,” that is, pipeline construction, might impact the environment by, for instance, destroying trees which are an important source for carbon mitigation, or by destroying biodiverse habitat, or by providing a ready avenue for introducing invasive species in pristine forest environments, was not discussed by Governor McAuliffe or the panelists.”

The VNPS web article gives suggestions for action, referring to the VNPS Mission (<http://vnps.org/about/mission/>). These actions could be taken either by the organization or by individuals or both. Earlier this week, members of the VNPS Board were asked to vote by email on resolutions to join the Allegheny-Blue-Ridge Alliance and support their efforts to oppose the pipelines. Today, I received the following message from President Nancy Vehrs. “The vote on the resolutions regarding the proposed pipelines has closed. The board has overwhelmingly (25 yes, 1 no, 3 abstentions) agreed to oppose the proposed natural gas pipelines in Virginia and join the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance.”

Catharine White Tucker



More photos: 1. Dogwood (*Cornus florida*), this one red and yellow
2. Yellow, Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) leaves. 3. Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) in the Richfood swamp. 4. Cranefly orchids (*Tipularia discolor*) leaves appear in October. 5. White oak (*Quercus alba*) leaves. Usually white oaks turn brownish-yellow but this branch turned bright red.

**Pocahontas Chapter
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12565 Brook Lane
Chester, VA 23831**

