

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

February 2015



**Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM,
Thursday February 5, 2015**

**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

Our Speaker will be Marcia Mabee who will discuss The Naked Mountain Nature Preserve.

Property owner Marcia Mabee will discuss how the Naked Mountain Natural Area Preserve came to be and the discoveries and obligations inherent within the preserve.

In 2006, the Naked Mountain property was placed under an open space easement held by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and designated by DCR as the 49th Natural Area Preserve in Virginia. There are currently 61 Natural Area Preserves across the state in a system managed by the Natural Heritage Division of DCR. Mabee is currently retired. For twenty-five years she provided Washington, D.C. representation for non-profit public health organizations. She holds an MPH (Masters of Public Health) degree and a PhD in health policy. She currently serves as Conservation Committee Chairperson on the Virginia Native Plant Society Board of Directors. She writes a blog about living in the middle of a natural area preserve and is writing a memoir entitled, *Naked Mountain*.

Chapter Events - Field Trips

Sundays Strolls at Dorey: Exploratory Nature Walks to see how the season progresses at Dorey Park.

Sundays February 22, March 8, April 12, May 17 at 2:00 PM at Dorey Park, 2999

Darbytown Road, Henrico VA 23231

Please join Pochahontas Chapter VNPS at Dorey Park in Eastern Henrico for nature walks this Winter and Spring. Walks will be on paved, gravel and dirt pathways. Dorey is a 400 acre park that was previously a dairy farm. The group will be meeting in the parking lot near the Soccer Field, near the head of the nature trail, marked on map as accomodating 28 cars. Please contact Leslie Allanson at 804 248 1578 for more information.



Other Events:

Carolyn's Garden, in Mechanicsville will have a 50 percent off sale on all plants starting Saturday, March 7th and will be held each Saturday after that until inventory is reduced. Address is: 9379 Sarah Shelton Lane, Mechanicsville, VA 23116. They do have some native plants and a good selection of good pollinator plants.

NEW: February 2nd - 8th: Richmond's Environmental Film Festival – Free event at various Richmond area locations. For more info and schedule: <http://rvaenvironmentalfilmfestival.com/>.

CBF Supper Club – 2nd Thursday, Monthly - 6:00–8:00 p.m. at REI Short Pump Store, in the Community Room, 2020 Old Brick Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060. FREE event sponsored by Chesapeake Bay Foundation open to ALL. This is a potluck dinner, so bring the dish that always wows your family and friends. Prizes will be given for the best dish! RSVP to 804/780-1392 or CBF_Richmond@cbf.org.

Upcoming CBF Supper Club Events (Second Thursday of the Month, through April):

- February 12th – Crabs and other Bay Critters
- March 12th – Native Plants and Bayscaping

February 24th – Session 2 of Virginia Climate Series Workshop – Climate Change in Virginia.

This winter, the NOAA Environmental Science Training Center, in partnership with the National Weather Service, Nauticus, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Virginia Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, will offer a Weather and Climate Workshop Series for Virginia environmental educators.

This two-part workshop series will bring educators and scientists together from throughout the region to explore the science that drives our understanding of weather and climate, talk about ways weather and climate affect the Hampton Roads region, and discuss ways to incorporate that science into education programming for students, teachers, and the general public. (Session 1 registration has closed)

Session 2, Climate Change in Virginia, will help participants understand the differences between weather and climate, and will discuss climate-related changes that are affecting their community.

Current climate science, data, maps, and other resources will be included to help us understand, and best respond to climate-related challenges. This is a one-day workshop at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point, Virginia, February 24. Workshop is free. Watch here for info about session 2 registration. For more information: Bart Merrick, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, bart.merrick@noaa.gov, (410) 295-3142.

The Presidents Message

Keeping busy and warm

It's cold. My woods are still asleep. Except for the birds that now flock to my feeder and bird bath, nothing moves but dry leaves in the wind. The chickadees actually fuss at me if I'm not out with seeds before 10 o'clock! I keep checking for buds opening, but only the forsythia looks hopeful.

Despite the cold, there's lots of chapter activity and planning. Legislation before the General Assembly that can potentially impact native plant habitats across the state urgently requires comment. And don't miss Marcia Mabee's presentation on Naked Mountain this week.

Brochures are probably in your hands now with details for the annual Winter Workshop on Saturday, March 7 at the University of Fichmond. The information is also on the VNPS web site and appeared on my Facebook page also!

Let Rubyjane Robertson know if you can help with either set up or take-down.

I cannot stress enough the increased use of web sites and VNPS Facebook postings to boost our communications within and between chapters. You can always read our newsletter (in color!) online using <http://pocahontaschapter-vnps.org/newsletters/newsletters.html>.

The state web site is <http://vnps.org>. See past Bulletins and "Wildflower of the Year" brochures, and an interesting interactive blog with stories, photographs, and much information. Join in and contribute when and how you can.

Minutes of the Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS Meeting, January 15, 2015

Welcome: Chapter President, Catharine Tucker, called the meeting to order. Twenty-one persons were in attendance.

Program: Chapter Vice President, Leslie Allanson, introduced Bland Crowder, executive director of the Flora Project and a chapter member. Bland's program presented the mobile app for the Flora, which will provide data from six environmental databases.

The Flora of Virginia was 250 years in the making, Bland

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.

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Chapter Website

pocahontaschapter-vnps.org

explained. It provides information relevant not only to Virginia, but also to much of the eastern portion of the country. Development of an app for use with the Flora of Virginia will broaden its appeal and provide for a new audience of tech-literate Virginians. The app will allow access by phones, tablets, and Mac or PC computers. Teachers will be able to use modules based on it. The Virginia Native Plant Society has contributed funds to the development of the app because of its value. The presentation displayed sample splash screens and explanations of how information will be parsed. At this time, the price of the app and its date of release have not been determined. Volunteers, who will be trained, are being enlisted to assist with parsing the descriptive fields. Interested persons should email Bland.

A question/answer session followed the presentation. The audience was clearly interested in the possibilities of the app, and some suggestions accompanied the questions. Even among those in the audience who were challenged by the project's technical aspects, there was a definite excitement about a future with a Flora app.

Following Bland's program, members' wildflower photos were shown with identifications and locations included. The concluding photo collage was of members working at Ginter Botanical Garden during a privet pull, an excellent reminder of an upcoming privet pull on Sunday, January 18th.

Business Meeting: No corrections were made to the minutes of the November 6, 2014 meeting. Richard Moss, treasurer, reported a balance of roughly \$4,500 in the treasury with \$103.25 added during November and December. There have been no expenses.

Old Business: Leslie Allanson reported on the new Varina Library landscaping, which already includes many native plants. During this pre-planning stage, Leslie is fostering a rapport with planners and indicates that Henrico County is interested in working with us. Additional Henrico County leaders who are supportive of native plants were mentioned.

New Business: Any members who wish to communicate a position regarding the gas pipeline across Virginia should respond as an individual, not as a VNPS member. Virginia Native Plant Society has completed a resolution. (See the Winter 2014 VNPS Bulletin for details.)

The annual meeting will be in Staunton, Virginia, at the Frontier Culture Museum, the second weekend of September.

VNPS-sponsored field trips to the Smoky Mountains and to Mountain Lake have been announced in the VNPS Bulletin.

The VNPS winter workshop on forest floor ecology will be held March 7 at the University of Richmond. Once registration is announced, early sign-up is urged since space is limited. Rubyjane Robertson will be organizing refreshments, set-up, and clean-up for the event. Please contact her to assist.

Committee Reports: Rubyjane Roberts announced that the chapter has 104 paid-up members.

The next privet pull at Ginter Botanical Garden will be Sunday, January 18, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Andy Wiechorek announced that Leslie Allanson will be the contact person for local field trips to Dorey Park on Sundays during February, March, and April. Details will be in the newsletter. Out-of-town field trips to hot spots mentioned in the Flora are planned for March, April, and May.

A discussion of a donation to Meadowview ended when a motion, which had not been seconded, was withdrawn.

In respond to paperwork received by Richard Moss, he reported that since the chapter doesn't solicit funds, no follow-up would be required.

Announcements: The next meeting will be February 5, 2015.

Marcia Mabee will speak on the pleasures of owning a natural area.

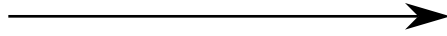
Irene Caperton

Secretary



Gazebo at Dorey Park

Map of Dorey Park



LEGISLATIVE ALERT - WORTHY OF COMMENT

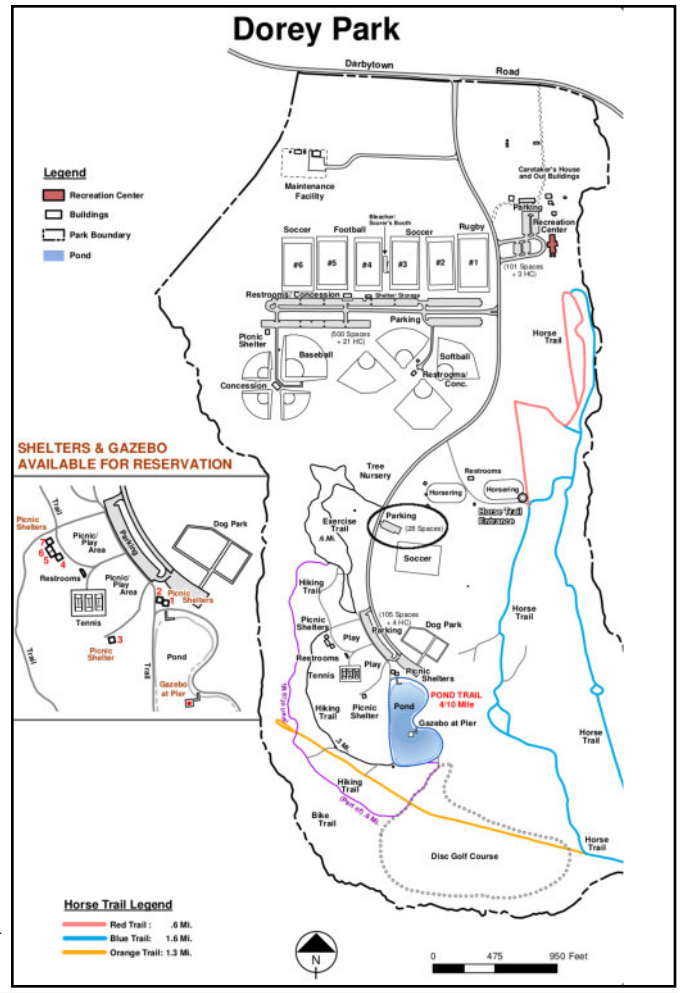
Right now Dominion has a bill in the legislature (SB1349 - Senator Frank Wagner, patron) to prohibit review of Dominion overcharges by the State Corporation Commission and to allow the company to keep those overcharges that in the past have been refunded to customers. Dominion is using the EPA's climate action, the Clean Power Plan, as their excuse for this power grab. Dominion is telling legislators that the costs of the EPA's climate plan will be very high, but that Dominion is willing to absorb those costs if the legislators will just freeze their rates and block the State Corporation Commission from reviewing them. The problem is that Dominion is on track to score \$280 million in excess profits for this past year alone. Contact your legislators ASAP and let them know that you disapprove of this Dominion power grab and urge them to vote **NO** on SB1349.

Another critical alert that requires action.

The Mountain Valley Fracked Gas Pipeline proposes to run a 42" pipeline through the Jefferson National Forest, as well as through our fellow Virginians family farms.

Act today to tell the US Forest Service that you oppose a pipeline through the Jefferson National. Send a message to the US Forest Service at:

http://action.sierraclub.org/site/R?i=DaYHGQRCEUE40oxBE_Zvdw



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