



*THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE
VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY*

April 2015

**Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM,
Thursday April 2, 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

This month's topic will be

Feral Swine: Virginia, We Have a Problem

What do pigs have to do with native plants? Come to the Pocahontas Chapter Native Plant Society meeting and find out. Aaron Proctor, District Wildlife Biologist with the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries, will discuss how the increase of feral hogs is endangering Virginia native plant and animal species. He will also address the state and regional response, which includes participation in a feral hog committee comprised of wildlife biologists and conservation police officers from partner state and federal natural resource agencies.

Chapter Events - Field Trips

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

Sundays April 12, May 17 at 2:00 PM at Dorey Park, 2999 Darbytown Road, Henrico VA 23231

Please join Pocahontas 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 accommodating 28 cars. Please contact Leslie Allanson at 804-248-1578 for more information.

Douthat State Park, Sunday April 26: Explore with us the shale barrens along Beards Gap Trail for an exciting look at some of the unique flora found there. This site is one of twenty botanical "hot spots" of our rich mountain flora, as identified by Christopher Ludwig, Chief Biologist at the VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation. Cabins and camping facilities are available at Douthat State Park for those who wish to stay overnight, but space is limited, so don't delay! Visit http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/douthat.shtml#cabins_camping for reservation information. If you would like to participate, please contact trip coordinator Andy Wichorek, email awichorek1@verizon.net, or phone (804)337-2707.

Annual Picnic: Sat., May 2, 12:30-4:30, at The Clearing in Amelia County Join us for our annual potluck picnic at the beautiful Clearing in Amelia County. Bring your favorite dish to share, and explore with us the flora of this secluded 75 acre piedmont woodland site. If you need a ride or would like to find a carpool, please contact Andy Wichorek at awichorek1@verizon.net, or 804-337-2707. More information about The Clearing can be found at: <http://www.richmondfriendsmeeting.org/the-clearing/>

Privet Removal work days at Lewis Ginter: Tuesday April 7th 9:30am to 12:30pm

Sunday April 19th 12:00pm to 3:00pm. Come help remove invasive plants along the creek at Lewis Ginter. There has been great progress made along the creek and we need to continue to be persistent in conquering this area. We are planning two dates in March. One during the week and one on a Sunday. We are hoping for some warm spring weather and good participation. Meet in the lobby at Lewis Ginter

Any questions please contact Beth Farmer beth16085@hotmail.com or Caroline Meehan at cjrtmeehan@juno.com

Announcements:

Mount Rogers Naturalist Rally, May 8-9

Every year the Naturalist Rally Committee assembles a wide variety of excellent field trips with leaders who are experts in their field. Their goal is to make the Mount Rogers area ecology understandable and interesting for everyone, from inquisitive amateurs to accomplished naturalists.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Friday, May 8

5:00 PM - Registration begins, Konnarock Community Center. Fee is \$8 for each person 18 or older. Registration online is greatly appreciated!

5:30-6:30 PM: Chicken supper prepared and served by the Konnarock Community Association at the Konnarock Community Center. Prepaid reservations for supper are required. Tickets for the dinner will be limited to 150 so make sure you reserve early. The cost is \$13.50 per plate.

6:45 PM: Welcome, introductions of field trip leaders, last-minute announcements.

7:30 PM: Featured speaker: Jennifer Frick-Ruppert

Saturday, May 9

7:00 AM: Continuing registration. Anyone who has not registered should do so.

8:00 AM: Morning field trips. Signs will be on the building for the field trips, so meet at the one you are interested in.

11:30 AM: Lunch break (hot dogs and drinks are for sale at the center or bring your own.)

1:00 PM: Afternoon field trips

For more information and to purchase tickets, see: <http://blueridgediscoverycenter.org/mrn/>

Presidents Message

Well, I thought it was spring! Surprise flurries at dawn this morning sent me back to sweaters & long underwear! But Mom's Japanese cherry trees have burst into bloom, the Virginia Heartleaf (*Hexastylis virginica*) flowers are open under the duff, and soft green leaves of

Green-and-gold (*Chrysogonum virginianum*) are poking up through the dry oak leaves.

Good progress continues pulling out English ivy, honeysuckle and

privet in The Vale at Lewis Ginter. Two more work days are planned in April. The new project to assist Henrico County Planning staff in using native plants is progressing well. More committee members are welcome. Chapter members have contributed to the development of the new mobile app for the Flora. The chapter has been invited to participate in two more projects, one involving removal of invasive plants in James River Park and the other to help Tomahawk Middle School with their proposed garden. We'll hear more about these at the meeting April 2, but if you're interested in helping with any of these projects, let me know.

Check the list of chapter field trips. There are also trips planned by other VNPS chapters and by local groups whose trips are open to the public, as ours are. Come and bring a friend.

We are adding new members each month, and our meeting programs are already arranged through January 2016. Topics vary from special plant communities to plans for marketing native plants to keeping bees happy.

These signs of new life add to my optimism about chapter planning.



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

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Chapter Website

pocahontaschapter-vnps.org

We now have active chairs for projects, field trips and programs. Next, we will expand participation in the leadership of the chapter with the goal of recruiting a slate of nominees to present at the September meeting.

I expect to carry the momentum generated this year well into next year. We need to use electronic media more effectively to spread news of our activities and issues of concern. If you have ideas, computer skills, suggestions, or a little time to contribute to Pocahontas Chapter, please contact me or one of the other officers or committee chairs. I look forward to seeing a big turnout at the chapter picnic in May.

Catharine White Tucker

Field Trip to Dorey Park on March 8

A warm sunny day! Not much was out, but we saw lots of sweet pepper bush (*Clethra alnifolia*) identified by the remnants of last year's flowers and some crane-fly orchis (*Tipularia bicolor*), and tree groundpine (*Lycopodium dendroideum*) shown in Photo 1. A rather interesting fungus was also seen growing on a log, shown in photo 2. Once plants start to come up this should be an interesting walk.



Field Trip to Piney Grove Preserve March 25th:

Piney Grove is a pine savanna and besides having lots of interesting plants harbors Virginia's last breeding population of red-cockaded woodpeckers and the northernmost population in the U.S. Listed as endangered in 1970, this charismatic black-and-white woodpecker gets its name from a barely visible speck of red on each side of the male's cap. Nesting exclusively in live pine trees, the bird requires mature trees with soft heartwood for excavating nest cavities. Red-cockaded woodpeckers once numbered in the hundreds of thousands throughout the Southeast and up into New Jersey, but the loss of old-growth pine habitat led to a dramatic decline.

The Conservancy acquired the first tract for the preserve in 1998 from the Hancock Timber Resource Group, and several additional purchases brought Piney Grove to its current size of 3200 acres. (from:

<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/virginia/placesweprotect/piney-grove-preserve.xml>



1. View as we walked into the preserve.



2. A clubmoss.



3. Sphagnum Moss (*Sphagnum* spp.)



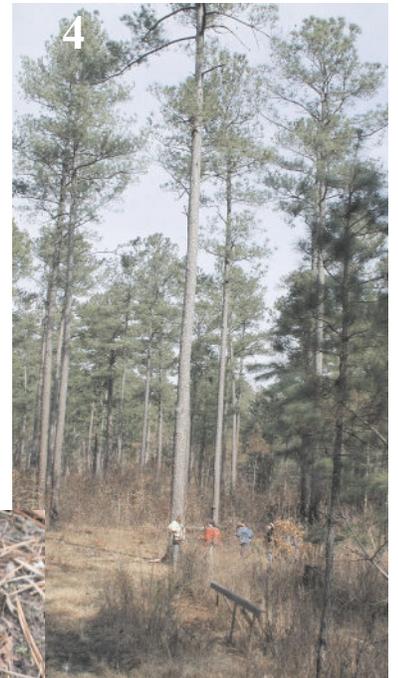
5. Cross vine (*Bignonia capreolata*)



6. Switch cane (*Arundinaria tecta*)



7. Ebony spleenwort (*Asplenium platyneuron*)



4. Our group walking on the edge of a wetland. Photos 2 and 3 were taken in the wetland to the right.



1. Area of *Andropogon glomeratus*, Bushy bluestem.

2. Inkberry holly (*Ilex glabra*) with berries.

3. Red-Cockaded woodpecker, photo from the web, we didn't see one, but several nests were visible as shown in 4. The nest hole is visible about half way up the pine tree.

5. A patch of pussytoes (*Antennaria Ssp.*)

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