

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

November, 2015



**Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM,
Thursday November 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

This month's topic will be

**Dispatch from the Front Lines: Invasive Plants and Noxious Weeds in Virginia
by Ruth Douglas**

Who determines if plants are invasive? Is there government regulation of them? In her talk, Ruth Douglas will discuss both the Virginia invasive plant list, including recent changes, and the latest activity regarding the Noxious Weed Law.

Note: There is another event at the Garden so parking may be limited. You may need to park on the more distant overflow parking area.

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## **Chapter Meetings:**

**December 6** Holiday Party 1:00-3:00 PM at 5900 Upham Drive, Henrico, VA 23227

We are invited to share the home of Mauro Correa and his family on Sunday afternoon from 1:00 to 3:00 PM for our holiday celebration. Come and bring a dish to share. We can feast in the gazebo and enjoy the view, or walk around his 13 acres and see the native plant beds he's created since last spring. Please let Catharine know (804-938-6941 or cath.tucker@gmail.com) if you're coming so we can give the Correas a head count!

**January 14, 2016** Kristi Orcutt will tell us "How to Keep Bees Happy." That's with native plants, of course! NOTE: Because of the Holiday lighting festivities at the Garden, our first meeting in 2016 will be on the second Thursday, January 14.

## **Chapter Events:**

### **Privet Removal work days at Lewis Ginter:**

Please come and help untangle the wild Vale at Lewis Ginter; note the starting time change. Your assistance is sorely needed to honor the volunteer requirement for labor hours, a condition for our use of the meeting room in the Garden.

Nov 8 Sun 9:45AM to 12N, leader Caroline Meehan

Nov 16 Mon 9:45AM to 12N, leader Beth Farmer

Dec 5 Sat 9:45AM to 12N, leader Caroline Meehan

Dec 15 Tues 9:45AM to 12N, leader Beth Farmer

Meet at Admission Hall, dress for the weather and bring your favorite small tools, hat, gloves etc. Please notify host in advance that you will come to help. Many thanks in advance for your assistance, see you in the Garden!

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

### **February 19, 2016 (Friday) "Ecology in Motion" at the Science Museum:**

Doug Tallamy will be the featured speaker during a free community event 5:00-9:00 PM at the Science Museum of Virginia. Sponsored by the Richmond Ballet, the theme is "Ecology in Motion." Junior members of the ballet will perform a work on theme ecology and native plants. **We will have a booth to promote Virginia's native plants.**

We need your participation - 4 or 5 people - to set up, staff and dismantle the display. Contact Catharine (804-938-6941 or cath.tucker@gmail.com) to help. Or just come to hear Dr. Tallamy. It's free!

**March 12, 2016 - VNPS Winter Workshop**

The VNPS Winter Workshop will be at the University of Richmond on Saturday, March 12, 2016. Our chapter is again asked to provide morning refreshments before the seminars begin and at the morning break. All we contribute is the effort to provide the coffee, tea, fruit, and sweet rolls. There is a list of what to do and where to obtain the food. Expenses are reimbursed by the state treasurer. We need 5 or 6 people to hep with this. Contact Catharine [(804) 938-6941 or cath.tcker@gmail.com ]if you would like to help deliver goodies or set up at 8:30 AM or help pack up at 3:00 PM.

Information on the theme and speakers for the workshop will be available in December with registration opening sometime in January as usual. Registration for the workshop is separate from this volunteer project.

**Upcoming Chapter Newsletter articles:**

Robert Wright has proposed to kick off a little blurb in the Chapter Newsletter called "In Search of". This piece will feature an oddity, uncommon, novelty, rare, or disappeared plant that is (or was) found in the greater Richmond area. The segment will feature the status of the species being searched for, have some public domain (or personal) photos/drawings, history, distribution, life history etc. All in summary fashion. The idea is to educate our membership and others about important elements of our local flora, and to (especially) encourage everyone to "be on the lookout" for these target plants. The idea is to generate interest in field excursion, and for folks to report their findings via email or phone for compilation and announcement in the next coming chapter newsletters. At the very least, this will spotlight efforts to catalog these species and acquire membership input in inventory.

The kick off will be published in the December newsletter featuring the ferns and fern allies.

**Presidents Message:**

SAVE THESE DATES! There’s a lot going on in our chapter. Join in.

- Stroll in Dorey Park on November 8, 2-4 PM. These Sunday afternoon walks have drawn visitors and resulted in some new members. Thanks to Leslie Allanson for her leadership of these walks which she will continue in 2016.
- Come hear Ruth Douglas’ adventures with “noxious weeds” at the November 5 meeting.
- Come to the Christmas Party December 6 for some celebrating and swapping adventures. We are invited to share the home of Mauro Correa and his family that Sunday afternoon. Details on page 1.

**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  
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**Chapter Website**

pocahontaschapter-vnps.org

I encourage everyone to volunteer to help with one or more of these projects.

November and December work days at the Garden. The dates are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Remember to call the contact person for that day to let them know to expect you. The October work days were cancelled because no one volunteered. Remember, this is a big part of our contribution to the Garden in return for our meeting room.

February 19 - Display at the Science Museum. The announcement is below.

March 12 - Winter Workshop refreshments  
Read on to see photos of recent field trips. Did you miss them? As I said, there’s a lot going on. Come join in. See you Thursday!

Have you heard Dr. Doug Tallamy yet? See Chapter Events on page 1.

Catharine White Tucker

**Minutes of the Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS Meeting, October 1, 2015**

**Welcome:** The weather outdoors may have been stormy, but the atmosphere inside was pleasant as Chapter President, Catharine Tucker, called the meeting to order with 16 in attendance.

**Program:** Emily Gianfortoni introduced the evening's speaker. Carol Heiser, Habitat Education Coordinator for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, began by presenting the DGIF's mission: 1. to manage Virginia's wildlife and habitats; 2. to maintain optimum populations of wildlife; and 3. to provide educational programs. There is a decline of wildlife species in our commonwealth. Plant and insect inter-relationships are crucial for wildlife. A diversity of year-round native plants is essential in order to establish a food web with layers of habitat.

The Virginia Native Plants Partnership is a team of 27 organizations, among which are the Virginia Native Plant Society and the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. The VNPP focuses on the areas of habitat at home, schoolyard habitat, and corporate or community habitat. Carol presented four projects, one of which is in Richmond, designed to familiarize the public with the beauty and importance of native plants. The project at the nearby Science Museum of Virginia is a partnership with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. The three priorities of the VNPP are to increase the availability of native plants, to develop additional native plant campaigns throughout the state with associated marketing, and to support the development of a Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional Certification Program.

Carol suggested action items including working to change local weed ordinances, contacting and educating homeowner's associations, talking to box store nursery managers about providing native plants, and supporting existing native plant nurseries.

During her presentation, Carol introduced Virginia Witmer, Outreach Coordinator of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program, who also shared information. Carol can be reached at [www.dgif.virginia.gov/habitat](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/habitat). It is encouraging to learn of these efforts to promote native flora and fauna.

**Business Meeting:** Catherine reinforced the goals presented by Carol by beginning the meeting with recognition of Leslie Allanson's meeting with Henrico County to advance the planting of native plants as well as chapter members' participation in the James River project for the removal of invasives. Catherine referred to a variety of announcements posted in the meeting room. The Riverine Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists will have an open house October 22, 7 P.M., at the Glen Allen Library, with information about the next class. A field trip to Dorey Park will be October 11, 4 P.M. On October 13, 9 A.M. to noon, will be the next privet removal work day at Lewis Ginter with Dabney Robinson, leader. See the October newsletter for additional dates. Minutes of the September meeting were available in the October 2015 newsletter. Richard Moss, treasurer, reported that the chapter's current balance is about \$4,000.

**Election of Officers:** Daune Poklis conducted the election. Richard announced that seven persons had voted by email. Elected unanimously were: President - Leslie Allanson, Vice President - Catharine Tucker, Secretary - Irene Caperton, Treasurer - Richard Moss.

Our Past President, Catharine Tucker, also serves on the Executive Board

Committee chairs are volunteers and not elected. These include: Membership - RubyJane Robertson, Dabney Robinson, and Richard Moss, Newsletter - Richard Moss, Publicity - Suzanne Jenkins, Chapter Representative - Suzanne Jenkins, Web Site - Open, Field Trips - Robert Wright.

**Field Trip Reports:** . Seven people attended the Dorey Park walk in September. The R. Garland Dodd field trip at Point of Rocks Parks in September included three visitors.

**Project Reports:** The steward of Difficult Creek Natural Area canceled the cleanup trip due to inclement weather in Halifax County.

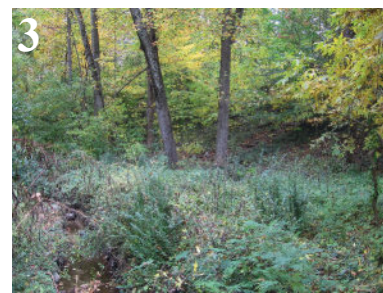
Leslie Allanson continues to work with Henrico County in promoting the use of native plants. In response to the county's request for a list of native plants, Virginia Witmer, Outreach Coordinator of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program, and Joy Antrim volunteered to assist with preparing a list.

**Next Meeting:** Our next meeting will be on November 5, 6:30 P.M., at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. The program presenter will be Ruth Douglas, member of the VNPS Board, speaking on "Dispatch from the Front Lines: Invasive Plants and Noxious Weeds in Virginia."

Respectfully submitted,  
Irene Caperton, Secretary



**Dory Park Stroll: 1.**  
Our Group.  
**2.** Interesting purple  
mushroom along the  
trail.  
**3.** Lewis Ginter Cleanup  
area at the vale.



Went to **Crabtree Falls in Nelson county** Oct. 24 and saw: **4.** A bank  
full of Virginia Polypody Fern (*Polypodium virginianum*) and, **5.** this  
interesting looking (probably) saxifrage. *Richard Moss*



Above: While walking in the woods in Spring Grove, VA, I saw these  
interesting Mushrooms. *Richard Moss*

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