

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

September 2015



**Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM,
Thursday September 3, 2015**

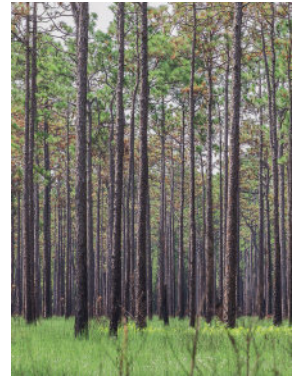
**at the Education and Library Complex of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
in the Lab**

**The room is available at 6:30, come early and Socialize
This month's topic will be
Start the Season with Wild Orchids and More**

Nature photographer and book author, Jim Fowler, brings his knowledge and exceptional pictures to the Pocahontas Chapter meeting on September 3, 2015 when he talks about the Flora of the Green Swamp in North Carolina. In his photography pursuits Fowler concentrates on wildflowers and grand landscapes. See his web site for lots of photos:

<http://www.jfowlerphotography.com>.

Jim will have some of his books for sale at the meeting.



Chapter Events - Field Trips

September 26: Ryan Klopf has requested the chapter to assist with cleanup of trash along roads giving access to Difficult Creek Natural Area. A field trip for this purpose will be September 26: with Leslie as the contact person. Participants will meet at 8 A.M. at the Kroger located at Chippenham and Midlothian.

Upcoming field trips include the following:

September 19: R. Garland Dodd Park at Point of Rocks. Richard Moss, contact person. Meet at 10 A.M., Route 10/Route at the Martin's store parking lot.

Dory Park: **September 20** at 4 P.M., **October 11** at 4 P.M. and **November 8** at 2 P.M.
Leslie Allanson, contact person.

Note: Robert Wright is working on new areas for field trips in the upcoming months.

Privet Removal work days at Lewis Ginter: To be announced at the September meeting.

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

Announcements:



Long time Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS member, Dr. Hal Horwitz died on Monday, July 6 of complications from lung cancer. Hal was a pediatric dentist by profession, an avid photographer and botanist who was especially fond of native orchids and a pillar of the local and national Jewish community. Full obituary at: <http://www.blileyfuneralhomes.com/obituary/S.-Harold-Hal-Horwitz/Richmond-VA/1525905>.

Our Chapter President, Catharine Tucker, wrote a tribute to Hal for the state newsletter.

Election of new Officers: The board has nominated the following officers for 2016. We will vote at the October meeting. President - Leslie Allanson, Vice President - Open (nominations will be accepted at the September meeting), Secretary - Irene Caperton, Treasurer - Richard Moss

Additional leadership includes: Past President - Catharine Tucker, Membership (meet/greet/follow-up) - Rubyjane

Robertson, Newsletter - Richard Moss, Publicity and chapter representative - Suzanne Jenkins, Website - Beth Farmer and Richard Moss, Field Trips - Robert Wright.

Lecture: Our war on the meadow: what the decline of the Monarch and Bobwhite tell us.

at The Jepson Alumni Center - U of R Campus, 49 Crenshaw Way, Richmond, VA

J. Christopher Ludwig, Chief Biologist Va Dept of Conservation and Recreation

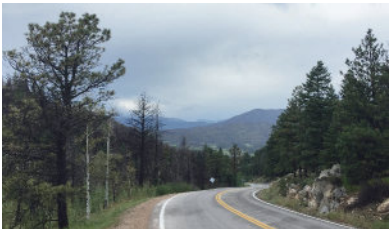
In 1995, there were one billion monarch butterflies in the eastern U.S. – more than all of the people living in the entire western hemisphere. There are now only about 30 million monarchs in the eastern U.S. – fewer than the number of people that live in the state of California! Bobwhite quail have suffered equally precipitous declines. A commonality – these species depend on meadows and open habitats where native grasses and wildflowers provide them habitat and food.

Alas, the herbicide manufacturers, lawn-mower makers, and rights-of-way managers seem determined to clean and eliminate any semblance of a meadow in our region. This presentation will look closely at this issue and talk about what can be done to help our meadow-dependent species including many butterflies, pollinators, and meadow-dependent birds, all species in serious decline.

Milkweed seeds with germinating and growing instructions will be available at no charge at this meeting! Please join us!

Presidents Message:

I’ve never seen the high plains of northern Colorado so green! Thunderstorms and hail in the foothills and then flooding are problems there, but not here! No lightning-caused fires here like those out West. We’ve had some high wind and scattered thunder-showers, but just enough rain that the late summer fields are full of flowers and butterflies and bees! Seeing that, I’m looking forward to our field trips in this cooler weather.



Speakers are already planned for our meetings through January. We’re especially delighted to have nature photographer and book author, Jim Fowler, bring his knowledge and exceptional pictures to the meeting on September 3. He will talk about the Flora of the Green Swamp in North Carolina. More details are in the meeting announcement along with future speakers.

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 will have a slate of new officers to present September 3, also. We will vote by email or at the October 1 meeting. It is a pleasure to have so many people who have volunteered to help lead the chapter.

Two field trips are announced in this newsletter for September. We’ll make our annual pilgrimage to R. Garland Dodd Park to see what’s blooming among the wild rice stands. Leslie Allanson will continue the Sunday Strolls each month to see what’s new at Dorey Park. Robert Wright, our new field trip chair, has lots of ideas for places to explore in succeeding months.

We continue our community outreach activities. We’ve answered a request from Ryan Klopff by scheduling a service day gleaning trash along the boundary road beside Difficult Creek Natural Area. We’re developing ways to encourage and help developers in Henrico Co. to use more native plants. Some of us are helping with removal of invasive plants in James River Park. And new dates are coming for removing stilt grass and other invasives in The Vale at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. These activities offer a variety of

opportunities for members to participate. If you're interested in any or all of these, please let one of the officers know.

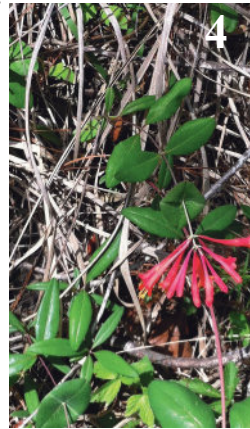
We're all set for the new year! I'm enthused and looking forward to seeing a big group for Jim Fowler's kick-off presentation on September 3. Come!

Catharine White Tucker

Field Trips

Difficult Creek Natural Area Preserve May 19, 2015. Led by Ryan Klopf, Regional Supervisor/Mountain Region Steward, Natural Area Preserves, VA Natural Heritage, DCR

Hottest day of this week! But we had an interesting trip, seeing new plants, watching birds, learning about the goals & successes of management of this Natural Area. Here are photos of some of the notable plants we saw. Photos: **1.** Our group **2.** Carolina Thistle, *Cirsium carolinianum*, **3.** Goat's Rue, *Tephrosia virginiana*, **4.** Coral honeysuckle *Lonicera sempervirens*, **5.** Wild Phlox, *Phlox divaricata*. Few ticks, no snake surprises, & no chiggers later. Good trip!

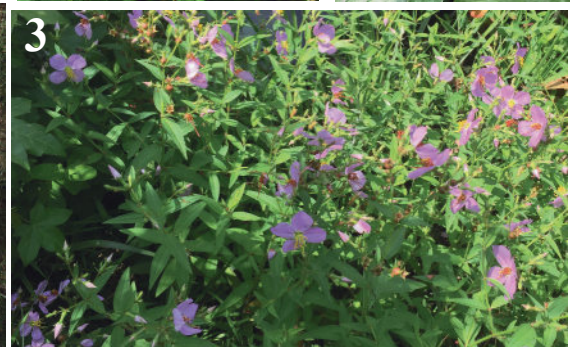
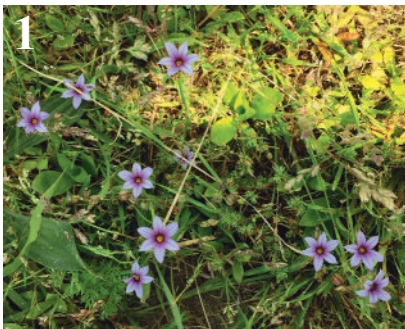


Field Trip to Dory Park on July 19, 2015

At Dorey Park there were a lot of **1.** Sweet Pepperbushes, *Clethra alnifolia*, in bloom (very fragrant), **2.** meadow beauties, *Rhexia virginica*, and other plants such as joe-pye weeds getting ready to bloom. Also, **3.** a rather large wasps nest and **4.** some puffballs were found along the trail.



More Plant photos from miscellaneous places I visited during the summer.



1. Blue eyed grass, *Sisyrinchium angustifolium* at the Surry county firestation. **2.** An interesting fungus growing in a neighbors yard in Chester, VA. **3.** Meadow beauty, *Rhexia virginica* in Surry county.

The following photographs were taken near Claremont, VA.

1. Yellow Bartonia, *Bartonia virginica* in bloom.

2. Marsh St. Johnswort, *Triadenum virginicum*.

3. Common bladderwort, *Utricularia macrorhiza*, (Yellow Flowers, no visible leaves.

4. Trumpet vine, *Campsis radicans*.

5. New York ironweed, *Vernonia noveboracensis*.



Pocahontas Chapter
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