



*THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE
VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY*

January, 2016

**Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM,
Thursday January 14, 2016**

**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

“Keeping Bees Happy”

by Kristi Orcutt

outdoor educator and co-owner of Bright Hope Farm and Apiary

There's a lot more to beekeeping than harvesting honey made by 10,000 yellow and black, fuzzy, stinging bugs in a tall wooden box according to Kristi Orcutt, speaker at the next meeting of the Pocahontas Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society. Discover some of the many things that make honey bees so amazing, as well as what threatens them, and how you can help the bees and other pollinators.

Orcutt describes herself as a former bug-phobic who took up beekeeping 10 years ago and now dedicates much of her time to teaching and mentoring beekeepers in central Virginia. After learning about Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) and discovering that traditional beekeeping practices involved using fungicides and pesticides inside the hives to control hive pests, she made the decision to choose another beekeeping management mode – “cide” free beekeeping. To promote natural beekeeping in central Virginia, she co-founded Rockwood Park Backyard Beekeepers Association in 2009.

In addition to CCD, other factors are negatively impacting honey bee populations. Orcutt will discuss the latest research findings on the causes of bee declines and present 10 specific steps that can be taken by individuals to make a real difference for pollinators in their communities.

Orcutt also keeps bee hives at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden where she serves as a Children's Garden educator and program developer.

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### **Chapter Meetings:**

February 4 - PROGRAM: “Establishing a Framework for Invasive Plant Management Using Ecological Principles and Citizen Science” PRESENTED BY Christopher R. Senfield – VHB, Douglas A. DeBerry – College of William and Mary/VHB, AND Nathan Burrell – James River Park System [VHB is Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., [WWW.VHB.COM](http://WWW.VHB.COM)]

March 3 - PROGRAM: “Urban/Suburban Habitat Systems,” Emily Gianfortoni, member VNPS & Certified Master Naturalist and Habitat Trainer.

April 7 - PROGRAM: “Plants do the Strangest Things: Pollination in an Underground Flower,” Dr. John Hayden, University of Richmond.

### **Chapter Events:**

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

- Jan. 19 Tues 12:45PM to 3:00PM leader Beth Farmer [BETH16085@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:BETH16085@HOTMAIL.COM)
- Feb. 02 Tues 12:45PM to 3:00PM leader Dabney Robinson [db.robinson@comcast.net](mailto:db.robinson@comcast.net)
- Feb. 16 Tues 12:45PM to 3:00PM leader Beth Farmer
- Mar. 01 Tues 12:45PM to 3:00PM leader Dabney Robinson
- Mar. 13 Sun 12:45PM to 3:00PM leader Caroline Meehan

Meet at Admission Hall and bring your favorite small tools, dress for the weather outside, hat, gloves etc. Please notify leader in advance so we can notify you in the event of cancellation for bad weather. Many thanks in advance for your assistance, see you in the Garden! Any questions please contact Beth Farmer [beth16085@hotmail.com](mailto:beth16085@hotmail.com) or Caroline Meehan at [cjrtmeehan@juno.com](mailto:cjrtmeehan@juno.com).

### **February 19, 2016 (Friday) from 5:00 PM 9:00 PM "Ecology in Motion" at the Science Museum:**

Doug Tallamy will be the featured speaker at a free community event held 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 the theme of ecology and native plants. We will have a booth to promote Virginia's native plants. A number of local natural history-related organizations will be there including the Riverine Chapter, Virginia Master Naturalists. We will need 8-10 people to set up, clean up, and answer questions over that 4-hour period so that no one has to stay more than an hour or so at the table. If you have not heard Dr. Tallamy. [Bringing Nature Home], or want to hear him again, this is your chance. Contact Catharine for details about helping at (804) 938-6941 or [cath.tucker@gmail.com](mailto:cath.tucker@gmail.com). A Sign-up Sheet will be available at the January 14 Meeting!

### **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 help with this. Contact Catharine [(804) 938-6941 or [cath.tcker@gmail.com](mailto:cath.tcker@gmail.com) if you would like to help deliver goodies or set up at 8:30 AM or to 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.

## **President's Message**

Happy 2016. A New year and a new President, who knows she has huge shoes to fill. I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and time with family and friends. And the weather, crazy, right? Record highs for December, lots of rain and now cold weather is settling in...the plants must be so confused.

We have lots going on in the first quarter and if you made any new resolutions maybe we can help:

Want to give back to community more, we have 6 volunteer days at Lewis Ginter.

Want to promote our chapter: we are participating in Science after Dark at the Science Museum.

Want to learn more: come to the winter workshop at UofR

Want to move more: Come take a stroll with me at Dorey Park in Eastern Henrico

Last but not least, I have a 2016 Challenge for you, bring a friend bring a neighbor bring a family member to our meetings.

We need to grow our chapter, the more folks we have the more we can do.

Hope to see you on the 14th.

Leslie Allanson

## **"In Search Of": Botanical Adventures of a Plant Detective.**

by Robert Wright

I have personally been "studying" plants and grew a garden in Richmond when I was in 7th grade, but really started investigating the Richmond Flora in 1983. In the intervening years, I have amassed much data and documentation through

### **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](http://pocahontaschapter-vnps.org)

library and archive trolling, herbarium research, preparation of herbarium specimens and personal observations, starting with the James River and branching out into its tributaries. Always being interested in weeds and exotics, I later started to focus on the vast areas of disturbed ground in all of the City, including Henrico and Chesterfield Counties. There is no dearth of these types of habitats. And we have special novelties as well. I have come to appreciate the unusual, strange, exotic, and novel, as well as the uncommon, rare, and otherwise botanically significant plants in the Richmond area. Get out and discover new places and new plants. Take some pictures. Record some notes. Once you do, please share your experiences with me so I can report the information to our editor so that everyone can benefit. We can then have discussions about these finds at our Chapter meetings and by email at [RVApplantdetectives@hotmail.com](mailto:RVApplantdetectives@hotmail.com).

**This month's target: *Asplenium trichomanes* L. maidenhair spleenwort**

In 1944, Dr. Arthur B. ("A.B.") Massey, Professor of Biology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University prepared and published the pocket-sized fern guide, *Virginia Ferns and Fern Allies* under the auspices of the Virginia Wildlife Research Unit (Bulletin of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Vol. 37, No 7., May 1944). This booklet was revised and republished under the same name as Agricultural Extension Service Bulletin 256, in November 1960. To this day, these two reports are the finest comprehensive illustrated manuals for ferns in Virginia. On page 45 (1944 version), and in the later 1960 version as well as Massey's 1961 *Virginia Flora*, the closest location for the maidenhair spleenwort to Richmond at that time was a single station in Amelia County (reported by John B. Lewis in 1940). The fern was later found in Hanover and Powhatan Counties.



I grew up within walking distance of Maymont Park in Richmond and have spent many days in and since childhood exploring within the park. I have found many interesting plants there. Among them is a very localized station for maidenhair spleenwort, which at the fall line in Richmond (Henrico County), represents the easternmost spot for it in the James River basin. In September 1986, I located this curious novelty at the drippy base of limestone rocks in the Japanese Garden grotto. I am pretty certain the spores likely came in with the rocks imported years earlier to construct the grotto (a worker told me they came from Rockbridge County, the heart of its Virginia range). It's not too unusual to have lime-loving ferns spring up on masonry, but it is an uncommon novelty for Richmond! A specimen was secured (#1029) and was placed in the VCU herbarium collection.



If you have seen or know anything about this target plant, please send info via email. Happy Hunting.

## Event of interest

### January 23 Creating and Enhancing Wetlands workshop at Brock Center, Virginia Beach

POW! PLANNING OF WETLANDS Workshop

Information:

Saturday, January 23, 2016, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

\$55 per participant, includes curriculum guide

Location: The Brock Environmental Center

3663 Marlin Bay Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23455

**Photos from the December 6th Holiday party at Mauro Correa's house.**



1. We gathered in the gazebo for food.
2. Catharine Tucker discussing some important native plant information around the fire pit. The weather was abnormally warm, but the fire felt good.
3. We took a short field trip in Mauro's woods.
4. We found several nice grape ferns along the path.
5. Returning back to the gazebo.



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