

*THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE
VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY*

November 2016



**Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM,
Thursday November 3, 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 to socialize
Our speaker will be Ashley Moulton**

Why would a young woman spend time fertilizing native grass on an undeveloped barrier island? Come find out at the November 3rd meeting of the Virginia Native Plant Society Pocahontas Chapter. The young woman, Ashley Moulton, will present the results of her Master's thesis, "Short-term Effects of Nutrients on a Barrier Island Grassland Community," including the important implications of how the functional diversity of plant communities can be altered by global and local disturbances in coastal systems.

A curious plant ecologist with loads of enthusiasm for all things green, Moulton is a graduate student at Virginia Commonwealth University's Coastal Plant Ecology Laboratory. She did her research on one of the 14 undeveloped barrier islands off the Delmarva Peninsula that make up the Virginia Coastal Reserve created by The Nature Conservancy. Her research interests include understanding how feedbacks between abiotic (non-living) and biotic (living) factors influence the distribution of vegetation in coastal landscapes, but it was her current job experiences in urban nutrient management as an Agricultural and Natural Resources Technician/Master Gardener Coordinator for the Virginia Extension Cooperative Office in Chesterfield that led her to question how plant communities that historically have limited plant growth in coastal barrier island systems respond to nutrients.

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### **Chapter Meetings:**

**December:** Holiday Gathering and Potluck Meal on Sunday, December 4th, 2:00 - 4:00 pm at Leslie Allanson's home, 6194 Hines Road, Henrico VA 23231.

**NOTE: We will not meet at Lewis Ginter in December.**

### **Chapter Events:**

Thursday, Nov 10, 1-4 pm Field Trip:

Explore at VCU's Rice Rivers Center. Meet at 12 noon at North Park Library to carpool or follow the leader. Or travel separately & meet us at 1:00 pm at the Main Building parking lot. Bring a snack to eat first thing. Afterwards, we'll walk around the hilltop looking at trees, shrubs, marsh plants, & watch for breaching sturgeon & eagles fishing in the James, and just explore.

For more information, contact trip leader Catharine Tucker at 804-938-6941 or email [cath.tucker@gmail.com](mailto:cath.tucker@gmail.com).

**Signing-up for a field trip should be no later than 8 P.M. the day before the event.**

**Notice: We have three first editions of the Flora of Virginia for sale. If you are interested in purchasing them, they will be available at Thursday's meeting.**

### **President's Message**

Hi all. Hope this finds you well and enjoying the glorious fall weather and the changing leaves. A group of us enjoyed the season change together when we trekked up to the Quarry Gardens at Schuyler this past weekend. We

had a sneak peek at wonderful new native plant garden and learning center that is opening this coming Spring. Watch our upcoming newsletters for a spring field trip, it is worth the drive. Here is their website <http://quarrygardensatschuyler.org/>. See page 3 for some photos.

Our chapter will be hosting the State Winter Board meeting on December 3rd. I am looking for a few folks to help with refreshments that morning, just for an hour or so. Please contact me if interested.

Following tradition, we will not have a December meeting at Lewis Ginter, but rather a Christmas Potluck. I will be hosting this year. Please join us Sunday, December 4th at 2:00 pm for a potluck meal, concluding at 4. I will provide tea and punch, feel free to bring your favorite "holiday spirit" if so inclined. My address is 6194 Hines Road, Henrico VA 23231.

As we get ready to celebrate Thanksgiving, please know I am thankful to be part of this chapter and all the folks that are working hard to make this chapter's programs, field trips, and overall mission the best it can be. We cannot do it alone. Please feel free to reach to me if you would like to assist in our efforts.

Be blessed,

**Note: the Minutes of the September Meeting were inadvertently left out of the October Newsletter. They are in the online version on page 5.**

## Minutes of the Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS Meeting October 6, 2016

**Welcome:** Leslie Allanson called the meeting to order with about 35 persons present.

**Program:** Catharine Tucker introduced the program presenter, Dr. Joan Maloof, Founder and Executive Director of the Old Growth Forest Network and Professor Emeritus at Salisbury University. Dr. Maloof's program title was "Old Growth: Learning from the Forest."

Dr. Maloof began by stressing the importance of trees in cleaning the earth's air and water as well as providing habitat for animals. In the 1700s, Virginia was 80-90% forested. The 1800s saw that decrease to 40-60% forested. By 1930, the forest cover was at its lowest point. Although there was improvement between 1930 and 1980, the current trend is for a further decline in forest cover. The speaker's first book, *Teaching the Trees: Lessons from the Forest*, explores the ecological relationship between trees and other organisms. An assortment of trees in the forest encourages biodiversity. 80% of terrestrial species on the planet is found in forests. If only one tree species is used to replace an old growth forest, 95% of biodiversity is

lost. Dr. Maloof's second book, *Among the Ancients: Adventures in the Eastern Old-Growth Forests*, deals with old-growth forests in twenty states in the Eastern portion of our country, an area which has only 1% of these forests. The aim is to encourage advocacy in the future by providing opportunities to experience nearby old-growth forests. The author founded the Old-Growth Forest Network to preserve, protect, and promote the few remaining stands of old-growth forest in the United States. Presently, 58 forests in fifteen states are in the network. Four more are on the way. In addition, a Private Forests Network also exists. Dr. Maloof presented our own Vice President, Catharine Tucker, certification as part of the Private Forests Network for her 70 acres protected with an easement. Dr. Maloof's upcoming book, *Nature's Temples: The Complex World of Old-Growth Forests*, examines the science behind whether or not management is required for old-growth forests. She makes a strong case that eliminating management is a better choice since it leads to higher carbon sequestration, more plant and animal diversity, and more beauty. Next year, Dr. Maloof and famed photographer, Robert Llewellyn, will publish *Seeing Forests*. To learn more about Dr. Maloof's subject, visit [www.oldgrowthforest.net](http://www.oldgrowthforest.net).

### 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.....Leslie Allanson**  
(804) 248-1578.....leleorr4@gmail.com  
**Vice President.....Catharine Tucker**  
(804) 938-6941.....cath.tucker@gmail.com  
**Secretary.....Irene Caperton**  
(804) 320-6935.....idcaperton@verizon.net  
**Treasurer.....Richard Moss**  
(804) 748-2940.....richard@mossrd.org  
**Membership.....Dabney Robinson**  
804-550-1449.....db.robinson@comcast.net

#### Address all other correspondence to:

Richard Moss, Editor  
12565 Brook Lane  
Chester, VA 23831  
[richard@mossrd.org](mailto:richard@mossrd.org)

#### Chapter Website

[pocahontaschapter-vnps.org](http://pocahontaschapter-vnps.org)

#### Business Meeting:

#### Field Trips:

The October 8th trip to Wahrani Nature Trail has been cancelled due to the weather.

John Hummer will lead a tour of his wetlands in Caroline County at

noon, October 15. A pot-luck luncheon will follow. Let John know if you plan to participate.

A field trip to Quarry Gardens will be on Oct. 22. Meet at the Short Pump Wegmans, 8 a.m., to carpool. Sign up with Leslie. An Open House with the Riverine Naturalists will be held on October 13, North Park Library, 6-8 p.m., to discuss the new program beginning in January.

A Pipeline Meeting with Riverine Naturalists will take place on October 20, Gayton Library, 6 p.m.

**Slate of Officers:** President – Leslie Allanson; Vice President, Catharine Tucker; Treasurer, Richard Moss; Secretary, Ashley Moulton. It was moved, seconded, and passed by the members present to accept the slate, which will assume office in January.

**Treasurer's Report:** \$5,039.96 balance. Checks for the speaker and Ginter Botanical Garden, a total of \$500, have been written. A bill to reimburse Ruby Jane Robertson is outstanding.

**Membership Report:** Dabney Robinson reported that the chapter has 123 members.

**New Business:**

The September 2017 annual meeting will include native plant societies from VA, WV, and MD and will take place in WV. Leslie asked for the group's preference for future field trips, whether to a destination with known plants or to explore a new destination to learn what plants are found there. Both types of field trips were of interest to the group.

Tom Bishop and Caroline Meehan will meet with Delegate O'Bannon.

Four persons manned a booth for the chapter at the VA State Fair. One person at tonight's meeting attended because of the booth.

Robert Wright, Beth Farmer, and Ginter's Grace Chapman are featured on an Echo Lake video, which can be found on the Henrico County web page. A link to the video was sent out via a chapter email. It can also be found on our Facebook page.

A meet and greeter is needed by the chapter. Please let Leslie know if you are interested in this position.

Pat Brodie presented a motion, which was seconded, for the chapter to pay for the registration and two nights of lodging for the president to attend the annual meeting, beginning with the 2016 annual meeting. The motion was amended to apply to the president, or if unable to attend, another officer. The motion was passed.

The November meeting will consider an action item to provide funds towards a participant in Nature Camp.

The quarterly state meeting will be hosted in Richmond.

A chapter board meeting will be scheduled for late October or early November.

Catharine announced the following speakers: November, Ashley Moulton; January, Johnny Townsend; February, John Hayden.

**Next Meeting:** Ashley Moulton will present "Fertilizing Nature: Short-term Effects of Nutrients on a Barrier Island Grassland Community" on November 3, 2016, Ginter Botanical Garden.

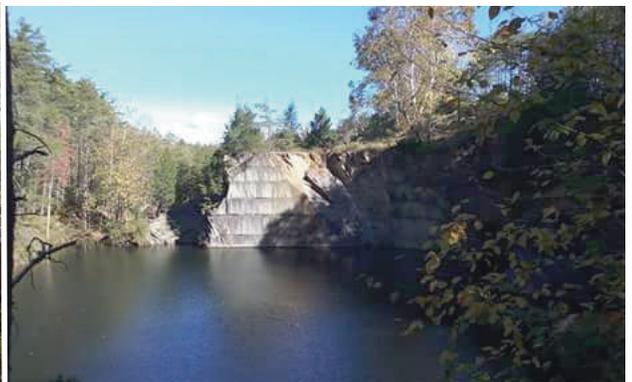
Respectfully submitted,

Irene Caperton, Secretary

**Photographs from the Field Trip to Quarry Gardens at Schuyler.**

**Left:** The group attending the trip.

**Right:** The quarry

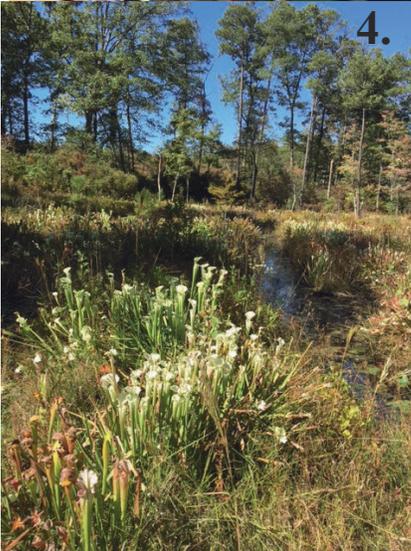


**Field trip to John Hummer's Bog on October 15.**

**Left:** View looking across floating mats. Plenty of water this year after so much rain the previous 2 weeks!

**Right:** Rose-pink Gentian family, *Sabatia angularis*.

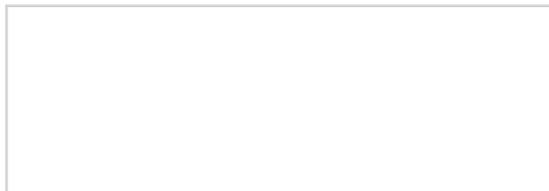




**More  
Photos  
from John  
Hummers  
Bog.**

1. Venus' fly-trap (*Dionea muscipula*) is not native to VA, but seems happy around the edges of Hummer's Bog.
2. Red pitcher plant, *Sarracenia rubra*, with caterpillar.
3. Catesby's gentian, *Gentiana catesbei*.
4. Looking across John's plantings of white pitcher plants.

Pocahontas Chapter  
Virginia Native Plant Society  
12565 Brook Lane  
Chester, VA 23831



***NOTE: Below are the Minutes for the September Meeting which were left out of the October Newsletter.***

**Minutes of the Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS Meeting  
September 8, 2016**

Guided Walk: Prior to the meeting, Grace Chapman, Director of Horticulture at Ginter Botanical Garden, led a guided walk of the new native plant garden at Ginter.

Welcome: Leslie Allanson called the meeting to order with about 50 persons present.

Program: Catharine Tucker introduced the program presenter, Robert Whitescarver, soil scientist and conservationist. His topic was “Native Communities in a Sea of Invasives: The Stories.” Using examples from his farm in the karst topography of Augusta County, Virginia, Bobby emphasized the care needed for land and streams. Widely-planted Kentucky 31 tall fescue is toxic to cattle and birds and has a negative impact on trees. Native plants are a major key to bringing back in abundance brook trout and the northern bobwhite. In order to clean up our streams and rivers, fencing cattle out of the water is essential. A riparian forest buffer can greatly increase the in-stream processing of nutrients and organic matter. A buffer of native trees, appropriate for the soil, provides leaves for the shredder community of macro-invertebrates (mayflies, stoneflies, and caddisflies) in the streams. In turn, the shredder community feeds fish and birds. Aiding in progress towards cleaner streams, the 3rd U. S. Circuit Court upheld the Clean Water Act, which affects the six states surrounding the Chesapeake Bay. To find additional information, visit Bobby’s outstanding blog ([www.gettingmoreontheground.com](http://www.gettingmoreontheground.com)), which received an award in June from the Virginia Outdoor Writers Association. The large and appreciative audience participated in a lively Q and A session following the program.

Business Meeting:

There were no corrections or additions to the April 7, 2016 minutes.

Richard Moss, treasurer, reported \$4,901 in the treasury plus \$140 worth of books sold at the meeting.

The chapter has 125 members.

The office of secretary needs to be filled. Ashley Moulton expressed interest in become the secretary. A slate will be prepared for voting. The chapter also needs persons to provide meet-and-greet at the meetings and a coordinator for volunteer work events at Ginter.

New Business:

The chapter will provide information at the Virginia State Fair, Sunday, September 25, 2-6 p.m. Let Leslie know via email if you’re interested.

Robert Wright led a walk at Echo Lake Park, a portion of which was filmed and will be aired later this month.

Richard Moss will lead a field trip at Point of Rocks Park, September 10.

Marcia Mabee will be at Fountain Book Store on September 14 for a book signing of her book on Naked Mountain.

John Hummer will lead a tour of his wetlands at noon, October 15. A pot-luck luncheon will follow.

A field trip to Quarry Gardens will be on October 22. Meet at Cabela’s, 8 a.m., to carpool. Sign up with Leslie.

Led by Robert Wright, a tentative field trip with the Clayton chapter to Wahrani in New Kent County is set for the third or fourth week of October.

Next Meeting: Catharine announced that Joan Maloof of the University of Maryland in Salisbury will be the speaker at our next meeting, October 6. Joan is the author of “Teaching the Trees: Lessons from the Forest” and will bring copies of her new book, “Among the Ancients: Adventures in the Eastern Old-Growth Forests.”

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Caperton, Secretary