

**THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE
VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

March 2016



**Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM,
Thursday March 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 and Socialize

**This month's topic will be
*Urban/Suburban Habitat Systems***

by

Emily Gianfortoni, member VNPS & Certified Master Naturalist and Habitat Trainer.

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**Chapter Meetings:**

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

**May 1 - Annual Picnic at Three Lakes Park,** Shelter 2, 400 Sausiluta Dr Henrico VA 23227, Bring a dish to share. Gather at 1, Dine at 1:30, Stroll at 2:30, Plant Swap at 4:30.

**Chapter Events:**

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

Our chapter is providing 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. We will set up 8:30 - 9:00 AM and pack up at 3:00 PM. To help with this, you can come in the morning or afternoon. Please contact Catharine Tucker at [(804) 938-6941 or email [cath.tucker@gmail.com](mailto:cath.tucker@gmail.com).

**Privet Removal work day at Lewis Ginter:**

• 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).

**March 13 Nature Walk at Dorey Park 2:00 PM** Call Leslie 804-248-1578

**March 20 Nature Walk at Dorey Park 2:00 PM** Call Leslie 804-248-1578

**Other Events of interest**

**March 12 Walk in the Forest** 11301 Pocahontas Trail, Providence Forge, 8-2, questions email [page.hutchinson@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:page.hutchinson@dof.virginia.gov)

**Facebook?**

Our chapter is considering launching a public Facebook page and/or a private Facebook group and would like to hear your thoughts. Are you a Facebook user? Would you be in favor of a public page? Would you be likely to participate in a closed, private group? Each has its merits. A public page allows us to reach the public with our mission, our activities and field trips, and is an outreach and recruitment tool to educate the public about native plants and encourage them to join our ranks. More and more people find social media a valuable tool. A Facebook group could be established for chapter members only, to facilitate the sharing of reminders, photos, etc. It would be

optional for those who would like to use it and would not replace any of our current channels of communication. This will be a topic of discussion at our March 3rd meeting. If you can't attend, please share your input with Membership Chair, Dabney Robinson, at [db.robinson@comcast.net](mailto:db.robinson@comcast.net).

### Updated Membership Directory

The Pocahontas membership directory has been updated and you should have received it by email. If you do not have access to a computer, please contact Dabney Robinson at 804-550-1449 to receive a printed copy by mail.

## President's Message

Hello Pocahontas Members

I hope this newsletter finds you all well. For a short month, February has gone by fast and has kept me busy, how about you?

Some events in which we participated:

Lyn and I had the pleasure of speaking to the "Green Team" at Short Pump Elementary about the importance of Native Plants and Habitat.

Our Chapter had a display at "Ecology in Motion" at the Science Museum, spearheaded by Catharine. The guest speaker was Doug Tallamy. I had read his book, *Bringing Nature Home*, but had not heard him speak...it was a treat. If you ever get the chance to hear him speak, I urge you to go or listen to one of his other talks here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F8EAAwdODhE>.

The Board meet yesterday, the 25th, and the meeting was very productive. Dabney has done a wonderful job getting our membership records in order and in a digital format to share. Beth has been getting training on maintaining our chapter website on the state page <http://vnps.org/pocahontas/>. This seems to be where "external" folks go to find out about us, so we want to utilize it, like most other chapters. The Board also discussed having a Facebook page/group as most other chapters have one and Facebook has become where folks go for information. Pros and Cons and options of such will be discussed at the March meeting, so if you have an opinion to share, please make sure to come. Last but not least, the Board wants to form an Outreach/Education/Awareness Committee. The Board agrees we need to formalize our outreach approach, to bring in new members, to educate on the importance of native plants, in both their natural setting and our landscapes, to support requests we get from the community. So, if you are interested in help formulate the direction of such, please let me know. This will also be discussed at the meeting. Last but not least, we set the date for our Spring Picnic. More details to come, but here are the highlights.

May 1st Annual Picnic at Three Lakes Park, Shelter 2, 400 Sausiluta Dr Henrico VA 23227  
Gather at 1, Dine at 1:30, Stroll at 2:30, Plant Swap at 4:30  
Hope to see you Thursday.

Leslie Allanson

### 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**  
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#### Address all other correspondence to:

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#### Chapter Website

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

## Minutes of the Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS Meeting, February 4, 2016

Welcome: Leslie Allanson called the meeting to order with 25 persons present.

Announcements:

1. John Clayton Chapter hosting a nature walk, February 6, 10 a.m., Wahrani Trail in New Kent.
2. Privet Pull Workdays, February 19, March 1, and March 13, 12:45-3:00 p.m., Ginter.
3. "Ecology in Motion," February 19, 5:00-9:00 p.m., Science Museum. Volunteers needed for information table. Sign up sheet posted. Doug Tallamy is guest speaker.
4. Field trips, Dorey Park, February 21, March 13, and March 20, 2 p.m.
5. VNPS Winter Workshop, March 12. Register online to attend. Volunteers needed to help with refreshments. Sign up sheet posted.

Program: Catharine Tucker introduced Christopher R. Senfield, a senior scientist with VHB, whose program was “Establishing a Framework for Invasive Plant Management Using Ecological Principles and Citizen Science.” Assisting in the presentation was Laura Greenleaf, a member of the Riverine Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists and volunteer coordinator for citizen scientists participating in the Richmond James River Park System Invasive Task Force. This project is made up of the cooperative efforts of a dozen organizations, including the VNPS. The project focuses on the James River Park, which covers 600 acres of urban park land and spans 8 miles along the James River Fall Line. The four stages of the Invasive Plant Management Plan include: Stage 1 - project initiation; Stage 2 - baseline study; Stage 3 - implementation; and Stage 4 - reporting and mentoring. At this point, the bulk of the work has focused on the baseline study. Citizen scientists, including several members of the Pocahontas Chapter, were trained and utilized for the needed survey. Additional chapter members have contributed their expertise and guidance. Stage 2 will soon be underway. VHB also assisted with the Meadow Creek project in Charlottesville. Photos were shown of the invasive species and challenges of that project.

Business Meeting: There were no corrections to the minutes of the January meeting. Richard Moss, treasurer, reported a balance of \$4,602.51. Dabney Robinson, membership chair, announced that we have 5 new members. She passed a membership roster in order that members could verify or correct person information. A roster will also be sent out by email for approval. The goal is to have a printed directory by this spring.

New Business: Leslie announced community requests which have been received.

1. The Green Team teacher at Short Pump Elementary has requested assistance. Leslie will visit the school on February 16.
2. The Pocahontas Park Ranger has requested a native plant walk. Richard and Leslie will provide this on March 26.
3. MinnieLand Academy’s summer program has requested assistance.
4. Southern States in Midlothian has asked for an information booth to field native plant questions, which will assist with Southern States’ 2016 emphasis on native plants. James Shelton volunteered to assist in August. Beth Farmer offered a power point program from her company that could assist.

Beth also encouraged the use of the chapter’s and state’s websites, which are linked.

Ashley Moulton of Chesterfield Master Gardeners announced a Bumblebee Jubilee, at Maymont, June 18, 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and suggested that the chapter might want to participate in the event.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be March 3, 2016, 6:30 p.m., at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden.

Respectfully submitted,  
Irene Caperton, Secretary

### **Field Trip Updates – Proposed trips - by Robert Wright**

I need some help with finding out membership preferences for March 2016 field foray dates/times.

I would like to offer one of two venues and dates at this time:

1. March 26 at 2:00 PM at Huguenot Park (Chesterfield County), Robious at Woodmont, under the WCVE tower. This field trip is not Strenuous (flat).

The park is a multiuse facility with lots of walking trails through forested wetlands on flats that are remnant part of larger Carolina-bay like habitats which were more widespread until the 1990s in the Robious area (due to urbanization/development impacts).  
2. April 2 at 12:00 PM, at Larus Park, Huguenot at McRae City of Richmond), meeting at Stony Point Shopping Center in front of Martins Grocery.

Lightly to moderately strenuous (offtrail), lightly strenuous ontrail

This city park is virtually unexplored with tons of shaded trails, ravines, streambottoms, ridges and draws. It has old river terrace deposits of the ancient James River, and the site would most likely represent a flora with mostly woodland plants. Some ravines may have ferns and uncommon plants due to variable topography.

One of these sites will represent the March foray. The other site will be completed as one or three offerings in April. Please contact me to select your preference on which site/date is best for you for the March foray.

Send all responses to Robert Wright at robertwright\_1@hotmail.com. A follow up email will let members know of results.

Robert Wright.

### **“In Search Of”: Botanical Adventures of a Plant Detective**

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. Now, I have decided to share these with the Chapter membership in hopes that this new section of the newsletter will inspire some to seek out new and wondrous species

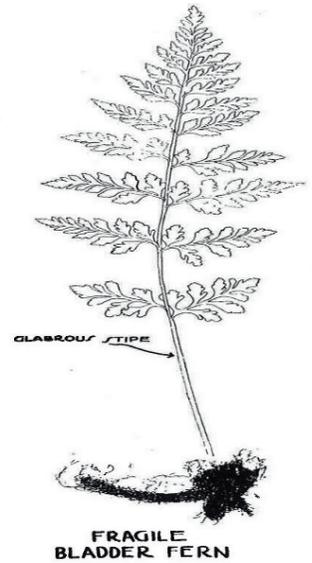
right here in town. I will feature one local plant each month that is worthy of our esteem and attention. Upcoming months will feature the ferns and fern allies.

The theory behind this is simple. 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 plant is *Cystopteris protrusa* (Weatherby) Blasdell, Lowland Bladder Fern/Brittle Fern**

In June 1989 and again in 1990, in the deep shade of pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) and hoptree (*Staphalea triloba*), I found and collected specimens where I expected good habitat: black, rich-loamy, well-drained soil on a north-facing slope of the James River near the iconic ACL (now CSX) railroad trestle. This ravine is steep and had an open understory of shade bushes and saplings, and surface granitic rocks high in feldspar were common. This is the easternmost site in central VA known to me and it lies within the James River Park system. Other local wildflowers were present. At some point in 1997, much of the ravine cover was destroyed by a resident who cleared the woodlands to acquire a better downstream vista for viewing the river. The area is now heavily overgrown with invasive tree of heaven and vine and scrub cover. It is not known if this fern persists. The collections (#1712 and #3217) were deposited in the VCU Herbarium (now housed at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens).

Source: Line drawing on P. 64, In: Massey, A. B. 1944. The Ferns and Fern Allies of Virginia. Bulletin of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Wildlife Research Unit 38(7) 1-110.



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