

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

January, 2018



**Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM,
Thursday January 11, 2018**

**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 Zach Bradford

who will tell us about Longleaf Pine and Associated Fire-loving Plants of Southeastern Virginia

Zach Bradford is the Chesapeake Bay Region Steward for the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Natural Heritage Program. A lifelong native plant enthusiast, he spends most of his free time in pursuit of native orchids and other botanical rarities. He resides in Goochland County, Virginia.



Young longleaf pine with mature trees in background.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings:

Feb 1, 2018 John Hayden

President's Message:

Hello all,

I sit here writing this, on what the weather folks are calling the coldest morning "ever" . Was -2 now a balmy 5. But, to look on the bright side, this cold should help keep the tick population down for our forays and kill off some of the introduced bad borers and such impacting our trees. At the State level, the Society closed out 2017 with a bang, we ventured into land ownership....online from Susan Dingwell..... "Our year was capped off with the remarkable last-minute award by the state of Virginia to our Society for the purchase of a significant piece of property adjacent to the Mount Joy Natural Area. One hundred and forty acres will now be protected and restored in a place that includes threatened species, 8,000 feet of headwaters streams and the rare sinkhole pond habitat" As more details emerge and it is all finalized, I hope there is a trip to see it. Speaking of trips, I will be leading walks on Sundays 1/28* and 2/11* at Dorey Park at 2:00 in an attempt to "catch" the skunk cabbage in bloom. Please Please PLease mark your calendars for our work day at Lewis Ginter Garden on 2/17* at 9:00 am. I have asked all 4 of my sons to pencil me in, will see it if works :) Anyone over 16 is welcomed. There will be small and big tasks, something for all. Last but not least, the State Winter Workshop will be Saturday March 10th. The subject matter will be Trees and Forest. Our chapter will be supplying the continental breakfast. There are several tried and true members that coordinate that, but new folks are always welcomed :) Please contact me if willing and able. I do hope 2018 blesses you and yours with health, happiness and hope and our chapter and Society with new members to fellowship with the "old" , awesome field trips, and more conservation break throughs.

*register with me for above events leleorr4@gmail.com (preferred) or 804-335-5866 [Call: 804-335-5866] Inline image 3. This will allow me to know whom to expect and reach out to in case of cancellations of any kind. You are always free to just show up though :) especially on 2/17.

Hope to see you soon,
Leslie

Chapter Holiday Party on December 10

It has snowed that Friday and I do live about as far east in Henrico you can go without being in Charles City, but I was grateful for the folks that ventured out to my house for the Christmas Party on 12/10. The food was great, the fellowship even better, and I got to keep the leftovers :) It was discussed that this year, we will have it in a more central location, "in town" at a restaurant. Several places were mentioned, but if you know of a place with a "banquet/back" room that we could reserve, that is low-key and won't rush us, please let me know.



Be Blessed, Leslie

Exploring in the Cold and Snow

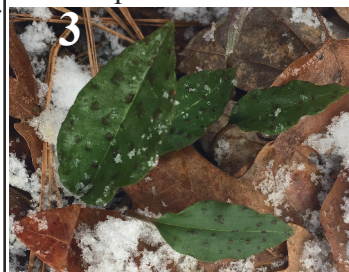
Richard Moss

I decided to walk in the woods back of my house on Monday Jan 8th to see what I could find. It was too cold to do much but the temperature had finally gotten above freezing. Two of my somewhat stir crazy cats decided to follow me to see if there was anything of interest.

There were some river birch near a swampy area (*Betula nigra*). When young they have interesting peeling paper-like bark (1), but when they get older the bark turns darker (2). I



checked on the crane-fly orchids (*Tipularia discolor*) of which there are several patches, but they were hard to find under the snow. I finally managed to find some and removed the snow and took a picture (3). They seemed un-damaged by the low temperatures.



There were some devils walking stick (*Aralia spinosa*) bushes with very nice thorns waiting for me to slip in the snow and grab them by mistake (4). In an open area there was this Dog fennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*) with lots of seeds (5). The cats and I then retreated to the house.



The Pocahontas Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

serves the counties of Amelia, Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, King William, New Kent, Powhatan, Prince George and the cities of Ashland, Hopewell, Colonial Heights, 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.

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Hybrid Hazelnuts

THE BEST OF THE
BEST — TOWARD
PERFECTION

from:

<https://www.arborday.org/programs/hazelnuts/>



For the past 13 years, Arbor Day Foundation members have been planting hazelnut seedlings, recording observations, and locating wild American hazelnuts. This unprecedented effort is now paying off as partners in the Hybrid Hazelnut Consortium — consisting of Rutgers University, Oregon State University, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the Arbor Day Foundation — move closer to the ultimate goal of this project: cultivars that are disease-resistant, cold-hardy, and highly productive.



Dr. Tom Molnar, representing Rutgers University, is particularly excited about the wild hazelnuts that have been collected and submitted by Foundation members and the Northern Nut Growers Association. “We now have the best collection of American hazelnuts ever assembled,” Dr. Molnar says.

There are more than 1,899 different plants in Rutgers’ research field that have come from all across the country, from Minnesota to Maine to Tennessee. More finds of wild hazelnuts are always welcome, and Foundation members can learn more about how to help by visiting arborday.org/.

Disease resistance is especially important. “My job is to try killing the plants with eastern filbert blight,” Dr. Molnar



says, only half joking. Plants in the research plots are treated with disease fungus to isolate plants that are unaffected. By identifying bushes that pass all the screening tests, the population is being reduced to what might be considered the best of the best.

Fortunately, eastern American hazelnuts are cross-compatible with *Corylus avellana*, the commercially important filbert grown in the Northwest.

These perfected hazelnuts will help meet a worldwide demand that currently outstrips the supply. The end result of the member-scientist collaboration that is making this all possible will provide a nutritious food source that can be grown on marginal soils while at the same time providing countless environmental benefits and economic advantages in rural America.



Wanted: Wild Hazelnuts

We continue our partnership in the ongoing research to develop improved hazelnut cultivars, but we need your help. Please let us know of any wild hazelnuts growing in your area. Members partnering in this important project continue to be an essential component of the research.

If you believe you have found wild hazelnuts, please visit arborday.org/ or contact Member Services at 888-447-7337.

Plant Thermometers

Richard Moss

The recent cold weather provided another opportunity to observe the rhododendron thermometer (see: <http://www.courierpostonline.com/story/life/2016/01/08/rhododendrons-living-thermometers/78523864/>). The colder it gets the more rhododendron leaves droop and curl. Photo 1 was taken when the temperature was 24 F, in photo 2 the temperature was 37 F.

I also noticed a similar phenomenon with the cross vine growing on the wall near my deck. Photo 3 taken at 24 F, photo 4 at 37 F. Last year after we had a cold spell about half of the cross vine leaves fell off. We'll



see what happens this year.

I remember a number of years ago, perhaps in the 1980's, we had some below zero temperatures which killed many crepe myrtle trees to the ground. Will this year be similar?



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