



THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

October, 2017



**Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM,
Thursday October 5, 2017**

**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 speakers, chapter members Don and Peg Mohar, will regale us with their adventures "Hunting Mushrooms." Originally from the Midwest, Don & Pam have long been fascinated with wild mushrooms, learning about, collecting, & photographing fungi of all kinds over many years. Soon after moving to Virginia last year, they joined our chapter and are enjoying learning new plants and finding both new and familiar mushrooms. Come enjoy hearing about their enthusiastic accounts of discoveries in the world of fungi.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings:

Nov. 2 Caitie Cyrus, CSV re: MS Thesis on "Flora of College Wood at W & M"
Jan. 11, 2018 Zach Bradford, Chesapeake Bay Region Steward
December Holiday Party - details later
Feb 1, 2018 John Hayden

Chapter Events:

October 8 4:00 PM Stone Brewery 4300 Williamsburg Road Conservation Landscaping Talk and Walk.
October 14 Field Trip at 10:AM John J. Radcliffe Appomattox River Walk, 21501 Chesdin Rd, Petersburg, VA.
Leslie Allanson trip leader.

Explore the John J. Radcliffe Conservation Area in southern Chesterfield County on Sunday, October 15 to see what autumn looks like on 87 acres of woodlands and swampland along the Appomattox River. Sponsored by the Pocahontas Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society, the walk will include 1.5 miles of trail and over 500 feet of elevated boardwalk with a wide variety of native plants to view.

Anyone with an interest in our native landscape is welcome, from novice to expert. The walk is free and starts at 10:00 a.m. Park at the end of Chesdin Road at the canoe launch just below Brasfield Dam and Appomattox River Water Authority. Use 21501 Chesdin Road, South Chesterfield, 23803 for GPS. For more information about the park go to: <http://www.chesterfield.gov/Parks.aspx?id=6442455315>.

To confirm your participation and have questions answered, contact trip leader Leslie Allanson at 804-335-5866 or leleorr4@gmail.com.

President's Message:

Hi everyone I hope this finds you well. I'm writing this from my hotel room in Shepherdstown West Virginia. I had a lovely day driving from Richmond through Charlottesville through Shenandoah National Park to here. I'm up here for the tri-state native plant conference. The asters and goldenrods are outstanding this year.

We've had a good turn out at our walks we've had in September I hope to keep that momentum going into October. We will be at Stone brewery to look at their conservation landscaping on Sunday the eighth and going down to Lake Chesdin Appomattox River on Sunday the 15th. Most importantly though we will be volunteering at Lewis Ginter on the 14th from 9 to 1. Please come out and help.

The pictures below are from our walk In Varina on Henrico County Property. If you missed it Pamplin park will be

hosting a walk there at on October 20. There were enough persimmons (middle photo) for us to all have one to eat. They are quite delicious when they're actually ripe enough. I'll look forward to seeing y'all next week and learning about mushrooms from Don and Peg. Be blessed and get out there and enjoy this lovely fall weather.

Leslie



Assorted Photos Taken in Various Places This September.

Photos 1-4 were taken on our field trip to R. Garland Dodd park on September 9, 2017.

1. Kudzu (*Pueraria montana*) in bloom. The flowers are purple and smell like artificial grape drink.

2. Dodder (*Cuscuta sp.*) Dodder is a parasitic leafless vine that from a distance looks like a pile of yellow string. Here it is in flower.

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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3. Tickseed Sunflower (*Bidens aristosa*) There a lot of these in flower along roadsides now.

4. (On next page) Devils walking stick (*Aralia spinosa*). In last month's newsletter there was a picture of this plant in bloom. Here it is in fruit.



Photos 5,6,and 7 were taken either in my yard or a neighbor's yard in Chester, VA, Sept 11-14.

5. An interesting fungus that has appeared in late summer for the last several years. It lasts a few weeks then disintegrates. 6. Flower of Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*). When the seeds are ripe, the seed pod explodes on contact. The crushed leaves are supposed to be



good for Poison ivy dermatitis.

7. Strawberry bush (*Euonymus americanus*). Spectacular seeds, but best not to eat them. If you do you will be sorry.



Photos 8-15 were taken in Spring Grove, VA on September 18.

8. Lanced leaf goldenrod, (*Solidago lancifolia*)

9. New York ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*).

10. Someone's abandoned house on a sweet pepperbush plant (*Clethra alnifolia*). Note the circular door to the left of the hole. It used to cover the hole.

11. Reproductive structure on a bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*).

12. Great white funnel cap mushroom (*Leucopaxillus giganteus*). More on next page





13. Another mushroom.



14. Indian pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*). There were several batches of these coming up.



15. Meadow beauty (*Rhexia virginica*).

16. A bank of Cardinal flowers (*Lobelia cardinalis*) taken next to a restaurant on Route 1 in Colonial Heights, VA, along Swift Creek. I would guess they were planted. Photo taken on Sept. 27.



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