

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

May, 2018



Chapter Picnic

Saturday May 19, 2018 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

at R. Garland Dodd Park, 201 Enon Church Road, Chester, VA

Picnic Shelter #3

Meet at 9:30, take a nice walk and see what we can see, enjoy lunch and fellowship. If anyone has native plants/seeds/books to share or swap, feel free to bring them. Paper products, water and tea will be provided. Bring a dish to share. Shelter 3 is at the far end of the park, past the ballfields and the playground See page 4 for a map. Contact Richard Moss at 748-2940 or richard@mossrd.org if you need more information.

Upcoming Chapter Events:

May 20 College Woods Walk 3:00pm meet at corner of Brooks Street and Compton Drive, Williamsburg VA. Trip leader Caitie Cyrus she spent many hours surveying for 680 historically documented plant species and mapping locations of all plant collections and rare populations while studding at William and Mary. To confirm your participation and have your questions answered, contact trip leader Caitie Cyrus at 410-693-6829 or cyruscd@gmail.com.

June 6 Work day at Lewis Ginter Gardens, meet 8:45 to left of fountain behind visitor center

July 14 Big Meadows Shenandoah National Park details TBD Joey Thompson is leading walk, email leleorr4@gmail.com to signify your interest in details.

Sept. 18 4:00 pm Fall Walk lead by Bill Shanabruch at member Lynn Wilson's property in Sandston VA.

President's Message:

Hi all,
Hope this finds you well and finally enjoying some spring weather, getting out and about to see Nature in all her glory. This will be our last formal newsletter until September, but be on the lookout for an email here or there about things of interest. Below is a picture from our Work day at Lewis Ginter last month. We had 4 volunteers turn out, which was one more than our October work day. In the hopes of getting more participation, I will be meeting the staff at the gardens to define a specific project for us to focus on. Also, in the memo of understanding for 2018/2019, our workdays have been set to be Saturdays, following our meetings, in an effort to achieve a higher turnout. The market value of our meeting space is \$2100. We will be paying \$300 "in cash" and \$200 "in books" for the upcoming year. The rest is to "be paid" in our work days. The dates will be 9/8, 10/6, 4/6, 5/4. I know folks are busy, and there are lots of ways to spend our Saturdays, in our own gardens, in the woods, at kids/grandkids sporting events/activities, but we have over 130 members, and I really hope to see some new faces at our work days. Our last one for this season, which is a make-up day, is June 9th. Hope we have a good turnout. **NOTE: Our next meeting will be in September.** Hope to see you at the picnic,

Leslie



Minutes of the Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS on March 1, 2018

Our chapter received a gift of botanical drawings from Indiana- Mary Rose Wampler collection of 30 and a large set of 18 large prints - 22 x 28 - Diane from Master Naturalist class. She purchased in the 70's. Right now we will have Lewis Ginter people looking into the price - but also potential to fund raiser for conservation money

Our Speaker, Dr. Jim Carter, presented an interesting talk on Ice Flowers and Growths of Ice Plants on Dead Wood, Soil and Rocks. Ice flowers are formed as water freezes in confined spaces, and the remaining liquid water is forced out through narrow holes, and freezes in ribbon like structures.

Dr. Carter started out by describing the particularly interesting year of 2003 when he went hiking with his son in law and found some unusual ice structures on plant stems in Illinois. The inquiry of what exactly were these formations were lead to an adventure - investigating the suspicious white blobs that sort of looked like plastic bags in mid November on the side of the road. In Virginia he found some in an Amelia county wildlife area - a similar effect - but different shape, needle ice, which caused uplifting of soil by freezing water. Later he observed ice ribbons on the plant stems of salvia and verbesina virginica and cunila originoides - and monitored their growth over a period of 6 hours and repeated 20 times over a fall season in 2007.

As a true scientist, making observations about natural processes and asking questions he suspected natural processes in nature forming these beautiful wispy or candy ribbon like extrusions from a stem reminiscent of white glass tulips. After numerous personal observations - and also setting up a website which drew inquiries and comments online he was able to reproduce what he had seen in the field in his yard

He was able to grow ice through porous pebbles - and also plant stems Plant stems must have the right degree of porosity, so they retain enough water, and adequate strength so they doesn't just burst so the water as it freezes is forced out of narrow cracks where it freezes and forms the ice structures. Porous pebbles that can wick up moisture are also able to do this. These ice structures have been observed on several species of plants including mariglolds, lantana, basil, mum, and turlehead, They have also been seen forming from vertical water filled pipes where water extrudes and freezes from the top.

These observations led to a 10 page publication in American Scientist Magazine

Upcoming Events:

4-21 Workday 8:45 Lewis Ginter

4-22 Lady Slippers - 2:45pm Dorey Park

5:19 Annual Picnic 9:00 am

5:20 College Woods 300 pm

7/14 Big Meadow

9/18 Sandston meadow

Ashley Moulton

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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Treasurers Report:

Walk at Dory Park on April 22

Nine folks, some new faces, some old faces, some novice, some experienced, meet at Dorey Park to look for Lady Slippers. Based on years past, we knew where a large plot was, as well as a few along our normal trail. We opted to look for the large plot, so we headed east along the football field. As we drew near to the site, I became nervous, as I was not seeing them right off and became concerned I had "promised" lady slippers, but maybe due to the late spring, we had come to early? However, we did find the right place and they were there, not all in full bloom as I had hoped, but enough to "save face". We then headed off, to see if the pink azaleas were in bloom, in the "back" of the park. Along the way, we found chokeberry, blueberry, huckleberry in bloom, as well as the tender silvery soft leaves of sassafras, and bluets dotting the grass. We did find the azaleas, in full bloom, and with their divine scent. As we headed back along the mountain bike trail on the west side of the park, we spotted pussytoes, hearts abusting, our native euonymus, and lots and lots of Clethra and white swamp azalea, giving us a reason to return later in the year. We ventured down to the "muck" to view the skunk cabbage, their big leaves covering the area, with a jack-in-pulpits dotted here and there, and ferns and moss galore

showing off too many shades of green to count. As we made our way back to our cars, along our normal trail, we came upon more lady slippers, one was a clump of 5, which we all had to photograph. It is always fun to venture out with like-minded folks, hope some of you can join us next time.



Some Spring Wildflower Pictures by Richard Moss

On a trip to Powhatan Courthouse I saw several bunches of these puffballs on the Courthouse lawn and a rather interesting



growth on several of the eastern red cedar trees (*Juniperus virginiana*) near the Court house. These orange gelatinous growths were galls caused by the fungus *Gymnosporangium juniperivirginianae*. It is basically harmless to the cedar trees, but can cause problems with its other host plants which includes apple trees. See <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens->

[gardens-gardening/your-garden/help-for-the-home-gardener/advice-tips-resources/pests-and-problems/diseases/rusts/cedar-apple-rust.aspx](http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/your-garden/help-for-the-home-gardener/advice-tips-resources/pests-and-problems/diseases/rusts/cedar-apple-rust.aspx).

On a trip to Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond there was a tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) in bloom. Usually the flowers occur high in the tree so are not very visible, but on this tree were at eye level.

In my front yard this deerberry (*Vaccinium stamineum*) came up several years ago. Here it is in full bloom. Although it is a member of the blueberry family, I can't say much for the flavor of the fruit.

Near the deerberry there is a patch of pussytoes (*Antennaria plantaginifolia*) some with flowers

In the back yard, both the fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*) and the paw-paw tree

(*Asimina triloba*) were in bloom. Paw-paws spread. I started with one tree and now have a small paw-paw forest. Also in the back yard, this "other dogwood" probably (*Cornus stricta*) is in bloom. It spreads forming a thicket and has blue berries.





The Cross vine on my deck was spectacular this year. Here it is in full bloom.

Below is a map of R. Garland Dodd Park. We will meet for the picnic at shelter 3 which I have marked with a black rectangle on the map below.

If you have questions, contact me at 748-2940 or richard@mossrd.org

Richard Moss

