



THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

September, 2017



**Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM,
Thursday September 7, 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 speaker, Randolph-Macon College Professor Dr. Nicholas Ruppel will discuss his Virginia Native Plant Society funded research. The project of assessing the diversity of insect pollinators on native plants in Ashland will utilize the R-M College's Brian Wesley Moores Native Plant Garden, and is a collaborative undertaking involving R-MC faculty and students, as well as students from John M. Gandy Elementary School. "I always have fun learning with Gandy students," says Ruppel. "It's a great way to connect to the Ashland community and to get the next generation interested in science and nature."

Dr. Ruppel earned his B.S. in Botany from Miami (Ohio) University in 2001 and his Ph.D. in Plant Sciences from Indiana University in 2008. He then worked as a postdoctoral research associate in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of California – Davis. He is currently in his fourth year as an Assistant Professor of Biology at R-MC. He teaches a variety of courses, including Integrative Biology, Plant Physiology, and Genetics. He also teaches an Honors course, Green Allies: The Plant-Human Relationship.

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## Chapter Meetings:

- Oct. 5 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.
- 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
- Feb 1, 2018 John Hayden

## Chapter Events:

- Sept 9 10:00 AM Annual Field trip to R. Garland Dodd Park. Richard Moss trip leader.
- Sept. 9-12 Northern Neck Annual Native Plant Sale, Wimomico Parish Church, Highway 200, Kilmarnock, VA
- Sept. 19 5:00 PM Stone Brewery 4300 Williamsburg Road Conservation Landscaping Talk and Walk.
- Sept. 24 2:00 PM Explore Fourmile Creek in Varina at 295/Route 5. Leslie Allanson trip leader.
- Sept. 26 5:30 PM Low line and Great Shiplock Park Walk and Talk. Leslie Allanson trip leader.
- Sept. 30 VNPS Annual Meeting
- October 8 4:00 PM Stone Brewery 4300 Williamsburg Road Conservation Landscaping Talk and Walk.
- October 14 10:AM John J Radcliffe Appomattox River Walk, 21501 Chesdin Rd, Petersburg, VA. Leslie Allanson trip leader.

## President's Message:

Hi All,

I hope this finds you well, where did the summer go? Seems like just yesterday I was looking for spring beauties and lady slippers, now the joe-pye and ironweed are in full bloom.

We have lots of exciting programs lined up this year, thank you Catharine, and some new ventures in the works. Make sure to mark your calendars now for our fall meetings, 9/7, 10/5, 11/2 and our Christmas Party 12/2 and various events. Remember to invite your friends, co-workers, random person on the street.

If you are in the Middle James Watershed, use this link to get native plants for practically free. Applications close 9/15, so don't delay: <https://www.allianceforthebay.org/2016/12/apply-now-for-funding-for-a-native-garden/>  
Take Care,

Leslie

## Summer Walks

by Richard Moss

While walking in Surry county, near Spring Grove, the near the end of July, I re-found this interesting little plant, *Eryngium prostratum*, [1] growing along the path. It showed up several years ago, then disappeared then re-appeared about 300 feet farther along the path this year.

Along the same path, next to a pond there was a fine collection of *Rhexia virginiana*, Meadow Beauty, [2] in bloom, and



### 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.

#### Chapter Officers

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**Chapter Website**

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

in the woods there was a group of crane fly orchids, *Tipularia discolor* [3] in flower.

On July 14th I went to Big Meadows in the Shenandoah National Park and saw lots of interesting plants. Below is a view showing one of several more or less circular patches of grass growing in the Meadow [1].





## More Big Meadows Photos



[2] Turks Cap lily (*Lilium superbum*). [3] A milkweed, [4] there were lots of these in bloom. [5] Fly poison (*Amianthium muscivivum*), [6] A thistle. [7] This grass with pink to purple seed heads was impressive.

[8] Several patches of this fern were in the meadow.

[9] This little rose was living in a damp area in the meadow.



On July 30th I visited R. Garland Dodd Park, the site of our September Field trip. Along the boardwalk this Swamp Rose Mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*) was almost in bloom. At that time the dominant plant in bloom along the boardwalk was spotted water hemlock, (*Cicuta maculata*).

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Near the boardwalk there was this American groundnut, (*Apios americana*)[3] and in the meadow there were several Hairy Wild Petunias (*Ruellia humilis*) [4] growing by the trail. Near the parking lot at the edge of the woods this devils walking stick (*Aralia spinosa*)[5] was in full bloom.



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