

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

January 2005

Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



JANUARY MEETING

“Wild West Wildflowers”

by **W. John Hayden**

Thursday, January 6, 2005 at 7:00 PM

**Breakout Room in the Education and Library Complex
of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens**

Tired of winter? Ready to feast your eyes on green meadows and bright wildflowers? If so, saddle up your trusty mustang or bronco (or whatever means of conveyance suits you) and mosey on over to the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden for a brief respite from the winter blahs. John Hayden, Professor of Biology at the University of Richmond and VNPS Botany Chair, will present an illustrated program built around two recent trips to the great American west: Oregon and Mt. Hood (Cascade Range) in July 2003, and Utah, featuring the Uintas Mountain Range, the Snowbird resort area, and the Salt Lake Valley in August 2004. Comments on the plants illustrated will range widely, including notes on structure, relationships, ecology and uses.

CHAPTER NEWS

Pocahontas Chapter Volunteers Needed to Help Host the Virginia Native Plant Society Workshop!!!

This year the Workshop will be at the University of Richmond campus on Saturday, February 26th which is during the Maymont Flower and Garden Show. This year, as in the past, our chapter plans to provide the morning refreshments at the Workshop. We will be responsible for ordering, set up, presentation and taking down (clean up). Because we have done it so often, the process is pretty well established, however, we need 3 or 4 people willing to help with the ordering, picking up the order, coming early to set up the tables, being present during the workshop, and to being sure every thing is cleaned up and put away afterwards. Judy Shelton has volunteered to serve as chairperson so please call her at 266-0856 to volunteer to help. This isn't a big job if several people help, and it serves as a good will gesture to the organization.

Plans for Future Chapter Activities

At the last meeting we enjoyed Holiday refreshments, listened to the Bell Ringers performing in the library next to where we were meeting and discussed ideas for future Chapter activities. Some of the ideas suggested were:

1. Advertise our field trips in Blue Ridge Outdoors publication. Great way to attract new members! We can also advertise in the Blue Ridge Mountain Sports store locations on their indoor kiosks.
2. Our organization needs to update its mailing list, eliminating non-active members. We would also like the E-mail addresses of each member so that information can be shared between newsletters. Perhaps a list serve could be set up.

3. Advertise our meetings/speakers/field trips in local papers such as the Henrico Observer, Community Weekly, and other venues.
4. We discussed the possibility of holding meetings throughout year. Currently, monthly meetings are held from September through May of each year. Perhaps we could continue to meet during the summer on Thursday at varied local locations for evening field trips and informal meetings.
5. Our group ought to give serious thought to adopting a project. Some suggestions offered were:
 - Co-Sponsor a native plant landscaping workshop. Perhaps we could utilize Restore-a-Corps, Friends of Chesterfield's Riverfronts or a local extension service program.
 - Teach a beginning plant ID class.
 - Consider designing our own Pocahontas Chapter tri-fold display.
 - We should consider being "more present" at county and state fairs, outdoor and environmental festivals, etc. We need to "get out there" if we are to attract new members.
6. We may also want to rekindle the co-relationships that Marie Minor started with other like organizations so that we could work together more often. (print each others events in our newsletters, invite/join each others field trips, etc.)

See the December meeting minutes below for more ideas mentioned during the last meeting. We also need to elect new chapter officers since the present officers terms are coming to an end. These and any other ideas members may have will be discussed at the January meeting.

Field Trip

Our next Field trip will be in February at Catharine Tucker's fathers property in Hanover. Date and time will be announced in February's Newsletter.

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	Dean Walton
Vice President	-
Secretary	Peggy Furqueron
Treasurer	Bucci Zeugner
Membership Chair	Pat Brodie

Address all correspondence to
 Richard Moss, Editor
 12565 Brook Lane
 Chester VA 23831
 mossrd@mindspring.com
 VNPS Website - www.vnps.org

Minutes of the December 2, 2004 meeting of the Pocahontas Chapter of the VNPS

Old Business: Dean suggested we all be thinking about potential new officers since the present officer terms are coming to an end. All officers will be contacted and those who wish to remain for another term are welcome to do so. Catharine Tucker and Richard Moss presented a review of the Zuni field trip.

Daune Poklis reviewed the VNPS/Maymont Flower and Garden Show status. We are seeking volunteers locally and from around the state to person the booth. Please call her at 804-741-7838 with suggestions or offers to help.

New Business and Open Discussion: Richard Moss presented ideas for chapter activities Christy Orcutt, he and other members who attended the Zuni trip developed while having lunch after the Zuni trip.

All agreed that the walks were enjoyable and were interested in having more. It was also suggested that we try to coordinate speaker topics with the walks if possible.

All agreed that we want to do more and learn more plant identification. It was suggested that each month a member bring a plant for discussion or identification. The interested members would coordinate with the president to assure only one plant per month. Topics touched on during the discussion

included: holding meetings or field trips during the summer and changes in the meeting format; design and development of projects with definite end points; brochure topics, development and distribution pros and cons; committees versus individual officers for the chapter: that the chapter have a state map available for display at meetings: donation of another book to the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden Library and making a monetary donation to the Flora of VA fund. The meeting closed with an exchange of good wishes for the Holidays.

Submitted by
Daune Poklis, acting secretary

Native Plant of the Month

Winterberry Holly (*Ilex verticillata*)



Winterberry holly is a deciduous holly which is a shrub growing 6-10 feet high and spreading 5 to 10 feet on thin multi-stemmed branches. The plant has small inconspicuous white flowers in the spring which form bright red berries that persist into early winter after the leaves have fallen. It is dioecious so both male and female plants are needed for fruit production.

The plant is hardy in US zones 4-8 and grows best in full sun or partial shade in rich well drained acidic soil. It will tolerate swampy areas thus is useful for areas with poor drainage. Maximum fruit production occurs in full sun.

Flowers are produced on the current year's growth. The plants are very tolerant of pruning and can be cut right back into old wood if required. Unlike most members of the genus, this species spreads by root suckers. The fruit is eaten by birds so winterberry can be used to attract birds.

Propagation: It can take 18 months for seeds to germinate. Stored seed generally requires two winters and a summer before it will germinate and should be sown as soon as possible in a cold frame. Scarification, followed by a warm stratification and then a cold stratification may speed up the germination time. Alternatively, early summer cuttings of branches with a heel are easily rooted.

The natural range of winterberry in the US is from the Atlantic coast, west to Wisconsin, south to Louisiana and the state of Texas.

References:

1. http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/factsheets/trees-new/ilex_verticillata.html
2. <http://www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/i/ilever/ilever1.html>
3. <http://www.longwoodgardens.org/Plants&Horticulture/PlantEvaluation/ShrubTrials/IlexVerticillata/IlexVerticillataIntro.htm>
4. http://www.ibiblio.org/pfaf/cgi-bin/arr_html?Ilex+verticillata&CAN=LATIND

Photos: Top Longwood Gardens, Reference 3

left photo: © by Erv Evans, Reference 1

right photo: http://oncampus.richmond.edu/academics/biology/trees/htmls/ilex_verticillata.htm

**Virginia Native Plant Society Membership Application
Pocahontas Chapter**

**Make Check payable to VNPS and Mail to:
Membership Chair, Blandy Experimental Farm, 400 Blandy Farm Lane, Unit 2, Boyce, VA 22620**

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail** _____

___ Individual	\$30.00	___ Sustaining	\$100.00
___ Family	\$40.00	___ Life	\$500.00
___ Student	\$15.00	___ Associate Groups	\$40.00
___ Patron	\$50.00	(Garden Clubs, etc.)	

**I wish to make an additional contribution to ___ VNPS or ___ The Pocahontas Chapter,
VNPS in the amount of:**

___ \$10 ___ \$20 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 Other _____

**Pocahontas Chapter
Virginia Native Plant Society
12565 Brook Lane
Chester, VA 23831**

