

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

January 2006

Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



January Meeting

Thursday January 5, 2006, 7:00 PM

at the Education and Library Complex of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
in Classroom 2

“Northern Exposures” By John Hayden

Please join University of Richmond Botanist John Hayden for an illustrated talk recreating some random walks through the fields and forests of four northern states (Wisconsin, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts), focusing on plants and wildflowers that will be familiar to residents of central Virginia.

Chapter News and Upcoming Events

VNPS Annual Workshop

PLANTING THE WILD: LINKS BETWEEN CULTIVATION AND CONSERVATION

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2006

Gottwald Hall, University of Richmond

10am to 3pm (registration and coffee at 9am)

Program: Stanwyn Shetler, Botanist Emeritus at the Smithsonian Institution, will open with “What is the Wild”. Rick Myers, Natural Areas Stewardship Program Manager at the DCR Division of Natural Heritage, will speak on “Virginia’s Natural Area Preserves and Their Management”. Bill Brumback, Conservation Director of the New England Wild Flower Society, will present “Evolution of a Conservationist: A Propagator’s Journey”. A complete flyer with directions, schedule and cost will be available soon.

The January Richmond Audubon Society meeting may interest VNPS members.

7PM, Thursday, January 19, 2006 at St. Luke Lutheran Church (intersection of Chippenham Parkway and Custis Road in South Richmond)

Lisa Guthrie, the Executive Director of the Virginia League of Conservation Voters, will be at their annual Legislative Meeting to discuss the upcoming General Assembly. Lisa is one of the most well-informed political thinkers in Virginia, and her insights are sure to produce an interesting program. We hope you will come and see what to watch for this session, and perhaps figure out how you can help get some crucial environmental legislation passed. The pre-meeting dinner will start at 5:30 p.m. for the nominal fee of \$5.00. Call or E-mail Linda Warfield at 743-1479 or lindawarfield@comcast.net for more information.

The Maymont Flower and Garden Show will be held Feb. 9-12, 2006. That is earlier than usual! We are seeking volunteers again this year to person the VNPS table. The show hours are 9:00-8:00 on Thurs., Fri., and Sat. and 9:00-4:00 on Sunday. Set up will be on Wed. Feb.8 (hours to be announced) and take down will follow the show

closing on Sunday. We need 2 volunteers to fill each of the work shifts. Until we find out exactly how many worker passes we will be allotted, we are planning on work shifts of approximately 3 hours. Please check your calendar and contact Daune Poklis with a day and general (morning, afternoon or evening) time you would like to work. More details will follow as we get them from Maymont and we get closer to the show dates. Contact Daune at Daune@Poklis.org or 804-741-7838

Pine Needle Basket Workshop: Kristi's workshop on December 9 at Rockwood Nature Center was attended by five native plant enthusiasts who enjoyed good food, and good conversation while using material gathered from the forest floor to weave loblolly pine needle baskets.



Minutes for the December 1, 2005 Meeting of the Pocahontas Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Because of the need of our speaker to leave at an earlier hour than usual, the program part of our meeting was presented first.

Program: Janit Potter of the Friends of Chesterfield Riverfront gave a slide lecture on Landscaping with Native Plants to Minimize Grass. This was a very informative talk with slides of lawns that have been bayscaped and a list of plants that can be used in these landscapes. Some of the advantages to this approach is less work, less water use, less nutrients entering the local waterways, and less money needed to maintain the yard.

Meeting: Kristi Orcutt, President called the meeting to order. She reminded the group of the workshop December 9 at Rockwood Nature Center at 6:00 p.m. to learn how to make pine needle baskets. She will be providing the materials but reservations are needed so she can have enough for everyone.

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	Kristi Orcutt
Vice President	Daune Poklis
Secretary	Peggy Furqueron
Treasurer	Bucci Zeugner
Membership Chair	Pat Brodie

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VNPS Website - www.vnps.org

Kristi also told the group about the New York Garden Club that will be visiting Virginia during Garden Week 2006 and they would like someone from our chapter to give them a tour of local gardens that utilize native plants. Kristi asked for volunteers to lead the tour and suggestions for gardens. Some of the suggested gardens are Lee Park in Petersburg, The William and Mary Conservation Area at the College, and the Moss Garden here in Richmond. If anyone would like to lead a tour, please contact Kristi.

Field trips were discussed next. In April, the chapter will be touring Monticello for their wildflower walk. Another suggestion for a future walk is the Thompson Natural Area which can be both a nature walk and a work day by pulling up the wild garlic in the preserve. There will be no walks in January since it will probably be too cold. The field trip in August will be to take the pontoon boats from Dutch Gap to Presquile Island. There will be more information the closer it is to August. It is suggested that having the plant walks during the week would be preferable to the weekend. Thursdays seem to be the best day so the plant walk in February may be scheduled for a Thursday.

Kristi reminded the group that the Virginia Society of Naturalists will have their monthly meeting on December 20 at the Science Museum at 7:00 p.m. They will be selling pizzas to raise money for a scholarship to a summer nature camp. The program will be an exhibit of photographs from local

photographers. We hope that our own Richard Moss will be exhibiting some of his lovely photographs of native plants.

Daune Poklis had the sign-up sheets for the Maymont Flower and Garden Show in February. Please sign up if you haven't already. It is a great way to see the show and help us promote the chapter.

Kristi told the group that the head office would like to have someone from our chapter monitor the General Assembly when it is in session to alert the society about bills that affect our mission statement on native plants. Judy Shelton said she would do this if she was reminded at the time the General Assembly meets in January.

Meeting adjourned for Holiday refreshments

Submitted by Peggy Furqueron, Secretary

Transplanting Pink Lady Slipper

by J. Dan Pittilo

An Article sent by Robert Wright from the *Chinquapin, the Newsletter of the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society*:13(3), 2005, reprinted with permission.

For years we have wondered why transplanting orchids was so difficult. I recall that once more than a decade ago, I came across a rotting log with at least two dozen *Cypripedium acaule* plants that were so nicely developed that I thought I'd try moving a few of them, I was able to thrust my hands below the plants and pull up a few intact without much disturbance to the plants' roots. Carefully including a sufficient amount of rotted



log to set the plants in, I moved these down to our "Nodding Trillium Garden". Thinking that rotting organic matter was what the plants needed, I transplanted them into a rotting stump along with some of the original rotted log. And, as many of you know from similar experience, the next year they declined and by the third year they were gone.

On the other hand, some young plants I dug up in the piney woods at my mother's house with an adequate supply of soil and took down to a piney woods at my in-laws farm in northern Georgia survived and spread in the next few years, until the woods to the west were clear cut and subsequent winds felled the trees in the transplanted area.

So, you might ask, what is taking place with these different procedures? Maybe Larry Mellichamp can give us an insight into the process. Larry spoke at the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference in July, explaining that one transplants pink lady slippers differently from other plants. Instead of digging up a circle about 6 inches around each plants and severing the roots, he advocates transplanting the plants by just removing the upper one inch layer of "duff" and then lifting the entire exposed root system carefully, leaving the root system intact. Put the octopus-like radiating root system in a large box lid, cover with some duff to prevent drying and carry it to the new site without breaking any roots. He explained that the roots do not penetrate the mineral soil, but exist in the duff just above it. Some of the duff that covered the roots is also collected and used when the plants are transplanted to a similar place. The new location is scraped of its overburden of litter and duff, the roots spread in a natural arrangement above the mineral soil, and the collected duff placed over the roots. This technique was described by Don Jacobs (of EcoGardens in Decatur, GA) several years ago, and Larry has tried it successfully. Water once to settle the duff; but then regular watering is not done because the plant will survive droughty conditions. The transplantation is best done as new roots are starting to grow - in Charlotte, NC this is about June first, or just after flowering. Do in your location just as the old flowers fall off. In general, transplant orchids, (or any plant for that matter) just before new root growth begins. For example, for *Platanthera* orchids, new root growth starts the first of August, just as flowering begins.

While we general shun the transplanting of orchids because it is difficult to find conditions that will match where they grow naturally, with so much development going on in our region, it would certainly be nice to save some of these colorful spring orchids that are otherwise doomed to destruction, to enjoy close to home. If you have had similar experience with transplanting one of our common terrestrial orchids, share it with us.

**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
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12565 Brook Lane
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