

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



January 2011

January Meeting

Thursday January 6, 2011 at 7:00 PM

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

The room is available at 6:30, come early and Socialize

This month rather than have a guest speaker we will have a members photo extravaganza! Bring photos you wish to share with fellow members. Most should be of plants. They need not be of native plants. We will also have people there who will help with any problems you are having with photography.

Both a 35mm slide projector, and a digital projector and a laptop computer will be available.

Chapter Events:

Saturday, January 15, 2011. Mid winter field trip. We will walk about a mile through James River Park on a loop trail. Meet at 10 AM at the Reddy Creek entrance to the park off Riverside Drive near 42nd St. I will bring books that you can use to identify plants in winter. We can meet for lunch afterwards. Cancelled in case of rain or excessive cold below 20 degrees. Rain date will be the following Saturday, January 22. Contact Ernest Wilson at (804) 502-6346 or ewilson611@aol.com

February 3: Chapter Meeting - John Hayden “The Bignoniaceae” The Bignoniaceae, or Trumpet Creeper Family, is a family of flowering plants comprising about 650-750 species in 116-120 genera. Members of the family are mostly trees and shrubs, and more rarely lianas (*Podranea* and *Macfadyena*) and herbaceous plants in 116-120 genera. As shrubs, they are twine climbers or tendril climbers, and rarely root climbers. The family and its genus *Bignonia* was named after Jean-Paul Bignon by his protégé Joseph Pitton de Tournefort in 1694. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bignoniaceae>)



Some Bignoniaceae: Left- Crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*), Right - Trumpet Creeper (*Campsis radicans*)

March 3: Chapter Meeting: Land Conservation in Virginia

March 5: The 2011 Annual Workshop will be at the University of Richmond on Saturday, March 5, 9:45 - 3:15 with a 45 minute break for lunch at 12:15. Registration, refreshments and coffee will be available at 9:15.

Please register early as the workshop has sold out the past three years. This workshop will focus on the world of plants from the ground down. Speakers are state geologist David Spears, Fairfax County Soil Scientist, Dan Schwartz, University of Richmond Soil Scientist, Dr. Amy Treonis and, last, but not least, Johnny Thompson, staff botanist for the VA division of Natural Heritage. The title for Johnny's talk is "Botany on the Slippery Slope: Shale Barrens."

Once again Pocahontas chapter will be responsible for the morning refreshments and ordering box lunches for the speakers at the VNPS Workshop. We need volunteers to help with getting supplies, set up, ordering, table arrangements and take down. If you would like to volunteer in any way please contact Daune Poklis by e-mail at daune@poklis.org or call 741-7838.

April 7: Chapter Meeting - Catharine Tucker - "Flowers of the Blueridge". There will be a field trip date to be announced to follow up Catharine's talk.

May: Annual Chapter Picnic and Field Trip - Date and location to be announced.

Of Interest:

Tree Seedlings: The VA Department of Forestry is taking orders for bare-rooted tree seedlings for spring delivery. Most of the seedlings are native species. Orders may be placed online or by mail. Shipping and Handling is included in the price and minimum order is of 10. (e.g. 10 Buttonbush, *Cephalanthus occidentalis*, are priced at \$20. Last week of shipping is the week of April 25, 2011. To see the catalog, prices and details go to www.BuyVirginiaTrees.com

Free to a Good Home: Ernest Wilson has available to anyone who wants them several dozen plants of the Louisiana iris cultivar "Black Gamecock". The plants are divisions from a garden where they have out grown their space. The flower is a beautiful purple one. The cultivar was selected from crosses between native iris species most of which grow naturally in the southern Mississippi valley.

Landscape Management Seminar: The Piedmont Landscape Association (PLA) would like to invite you to its 28th Annual Landscape Management Seminar, to be held Thursday, February 10, 2011. Come to Charlottesville and hear Michael Dirr, Mark Weathington, and Douglas Tallamy (who is being sponsored by the Jefferson Chapter of the VNPS)...and hang around afterward for one of the best door prize giveaways in the industry! See http://www.piedmont-landscape.org/PLA_Seminars.html for more information.

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

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Workshop on Sudden Oak Death in Wildland Forests: APHIS/National Plant Board P. *ramorum* Regulatory Program Review and USFS Framework for Sudden Oak Death in Wildland Forests, to be held Wednesday-Thursday, February 16-17, 2011 in Washington, DC. RSVP to Debbie Lee at dlee@resolv.org by Friday, January 7.

Chesapeake Conservancy 10 Fun Things to do in January: Sea Glass, See Geese and Gunpowder Falls. See <https://app.e2ma.net/app/view:CampaignPublic/id:1400828.6911723133/rid:56aa3270f56fd23190194c30c59f4b89>

Free Calendar: The Alien Plant Working Group's Invasive Plant Calendar for 2011 is now available online for you to download & print. Take a look at it at <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/calendar.htm> It highlights this year's updated version of Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas.

Winter Plants: Chimaphila - Wintergreen

Chimaphila, from Greek: cheima 'winter' and philos 'lover', hence 'winter lover'), is a genus of five species of small, evergreen, flowering plants native to temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere.

Two species are found in Virginia; *Chimaphila maculata*, (Striped Wintergreen, Spotted Wintergreen or Spotted Pipsissewa) and *Chimaphila umbellata*, (Umbellate Wintergreen, Pipsissewa, or Prince's pine). A third species, *Chimaphila menziesii*, or Little Prince's Pine is found in the western US and British Columbia, Canada.

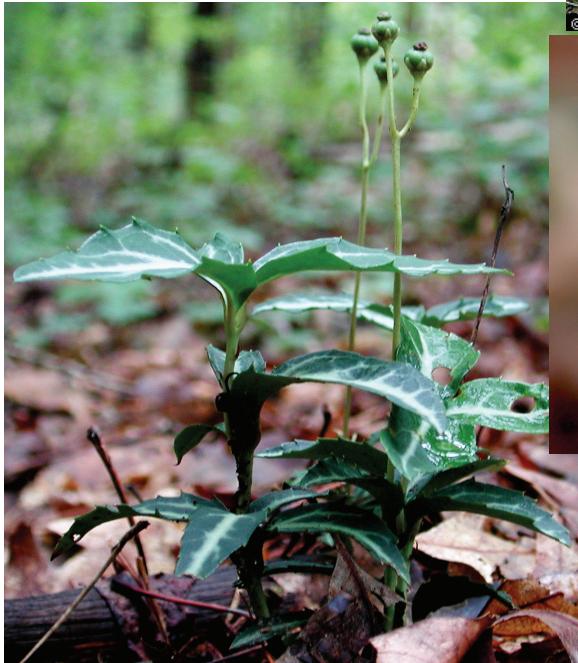
A related species, shown to the right, *Gaultheria procumbens* (Eastern Teaberry, Checkerberry, Boxberry, or American Wintergreen) is sometimes confused with the Chimaphilae, but it has rounder leaves and red berries in the fall.



Striped Wintergreen, *Chimaphila maculata*

is immediately recognizable by its leaves which are alternate but appearing whorled, evergreen, thickened, lance shaped with sharp serration, 1.5 to 3 inches long, dark blue-green with conspicuous white stripes along veins. The leaves in winter often develop a purplish hue.

The plant itself is 4-10 inches high and flowers from June to August. The flower is white to pinkish, with 5 petals, 1/2 inch across, and appearing in a small cluster at the end of a terminal spike. The fruit is a dry brown capsule persistent through the winter.



References:

1. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chimaphila>
2. <http://www.dendro.cnr.vt.edu/dendrology/syllabus/factsheet.cfm?ID=426>
3. <http://plants.usda.gov/java/>

Spotted Wintergreen also reproduces by underground runners, which accounts for the fact that plants are often found growing in clusters.

The range in the US is east of the Mississippi river, and in southern Arizona, Mexico and in eastern Canada In Virginia it has been found in every county.



Pipsissewa, *Chimaphila umbellata*

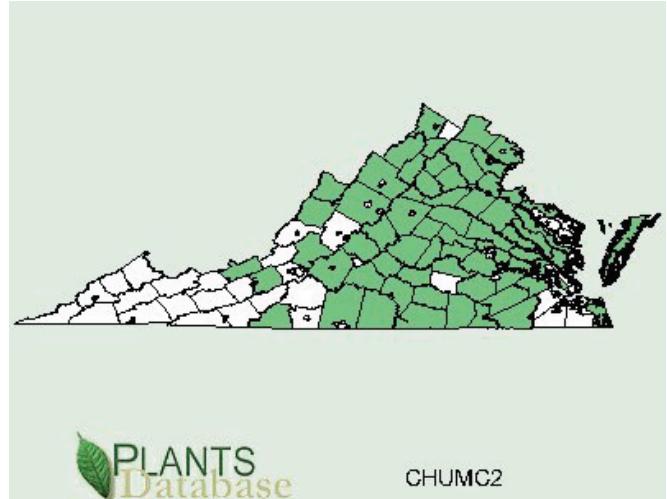
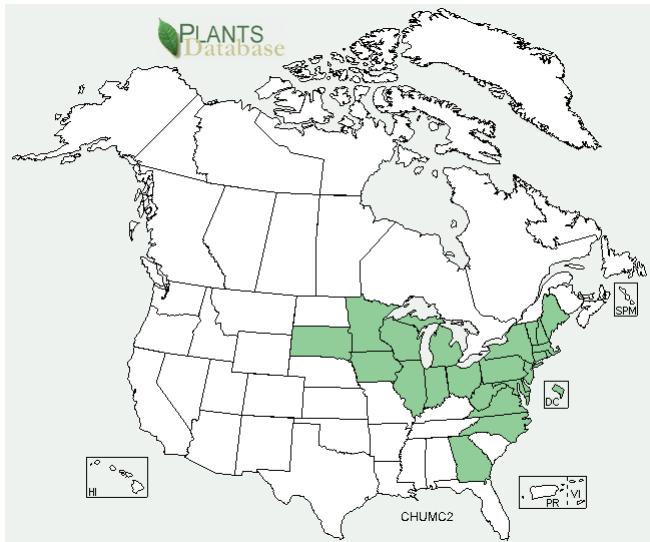
Chimaphila umbellata (Umbellate Wintergreen, Pipsissewa, or Prince's pine) is a small perennial flowering plant found in dry woodlands, or sandy soils. It is native throughout the cool temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere and subspecies are found in Europe and Asia.

Pipsissewa grows 10-35 cm. tall, and has evergreen shiny, bright green, toothed leaves arranged in opposite pairs or whorls of 3-4 along the stem. Leaves have a shallowly toothed margin, where the teeth have fine hairs at their ends. The flowers are white or pink, produced in a small umbel of 4-8 together.

Although it has green leaves year-round, it receives a significant portion of its nutrition from fungi in the soil (that is, it is a partial myco-heterotroph).

This dependency on soil fungi may be one reason why it is extremely difficult to grow in the garden. It also is a fire-sensitive species that is very susceptible to damage by fire and often shows a strong decline following fire.

Subspecies of Pipsissewa are found in all US states except Nebraska, Missouri, Kentucky and the states directly south of them. There are also subspecies found in Eurasia and central America. For the US and Virginia ranges of the subspecies in our area (ssp. *cisatlantica*) is shown in the maps below.



References:

1. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chimaphila_umbellata
 2. <http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=CHUMC2>
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