

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

October 2006

Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



The October Meeting will be on Thursday October 5, 2006 at 7:00 PM

Our Presentation will be:

What Makes Sense? Assessing Green Space Management Alternatives.
by Lou Verner

Lou will describe how green space management guidelines based on simple ecological principles can provide cost-effective, labor-saving alternatives to traditional maintenance practices. He will give examples of how maintaining/restoring native plant communities not only improves the bottom line, but also provides needed wildlife habitat and increased opportunities for passive recreation and eco-tourism. The important role of community and agency partnerships will also be discussed.

Lou is the Wildlife Mapping Coordinator for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Watchable Wildlife Program. He obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Management from Michigan State University and earned his doctorate in Ecology from the University of Illinois. Prior to coming to Virginia, Lou taught for 13 years as a faculty member of the Biology Department at Illinois Wesleyan University, was in New England for 6 years as the Director of Environmental Studies at the Putney School in Vermont, and a faculty member of Antioch New England Graduate School, and most recently was an Urban Wildlife Biologist for Texas Parks and Wildlife in the Dallas area.

In addition to his work as Coordinator of the Wildlife Mapping Program, Lou is also involved with the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail, the nation's first statewide program linking wildlife-viewing sites throughout the Commonwealth. Especially concerned with the effects of urbanization on wildlife, Lou has given presentations on the value of native plants, creating backyard and schoolyard habitats, the ecological value of riparian and wetland habitats, urban pond management, invasive species, amphibian monitoring, and conservation subdivision design.

Chapter News

At a special election held at the September Meeting Peggy Keefe was elected chapter president and Judith Sheldon elected chapter secretary. These positions were temporarily vacant.

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**Field Trip Cancelled** -We planned to have a field trip to Point of Rocks Park in eastern Chesterfield County, on Saturday, October 14th. Unfortunately, the boardwalks across the wetlands in the park have been damaged by storms and are passable only to the extremely adventurous, so it was decided to cancel the trip. See photographs on page 3.

## Future Speakers:

**November - Denise Green: Perennials in the Landscape**

**December- John Hayden: Plants and Ethnobotany of the Oaxaca Valley, Mexico.**

**January- Joy Ware: Diseases of Reptiles and Amphibians of Virginia**

**February- Greg Plunkett, the curator of the VCU Herbarium**

**March - Michael Foreman: Rain Gardens.**

**April - Vicki Shufer, Native Plants & Their Uses - a close-up look at native plants and how they were used for food, medicine and crafts by indigenous cultures.**

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## Events

### The VNPS Website

The VNPS web site has been redesigned. Check it out at [www.vnps.org](http://www.vnps.org). Changes are still being made but chapters (and perhaps some committee chairs) will be able to post their own events, and as events are put there, the front page will change to show new events, keeping the site more up to date and interesting.

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Requests for Volunteers

- Chantal Reed of "Roots and Shoots" is looking for a volunteer or volunteers to provide some instruction and a hands-on activity regarding local trees and native plants. The audience would consist of 9- to 15-year olds and the activity could take place at a local park (e.g., Henricus or Pocahontas), sometime in October or November would be preferred, and the session could be up to three hours in duration. If you can help, contact one of the chapter officers.

- Refreshments for the Meeting** - We need members to help with refreshments for our Chapter meetings. More details and a sign-up sheet will be at the meeting.

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	Peggy Keefe
Vice President	Daune Poklis
Secretary	Judith Sheldon
Treasurer	Bucci Zeugner
Membership Chair	Pat Brodie

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

Minutes for the September 7, 2006 meeting of the Pocahontas Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Richard Moss, past president, opened the meeting and called for a vote to confirm the acting officers as permanent for the remaining 06-07 term. The vote was unanimous. Peggy Keefe and Judy Sheldon are president and secretary respectively.

PRESENTATION: Dana Wiggins, Grass Roots Coordinator of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, presented a program about the Underwater Grasses Program of the CBF. This program is responsible for watershed restoration work and is dedicated to the replacement of underwater grasses. The grass beds have been decimated over the years by storms, runoff, turbulence, algal blooms, mute swans, motor-boats and real estate development. Underwater grasses are

important in the bay to absorb nutrients, dispel wave action, provide food and shelter to shellfish and invertebrates as well as bait- fish, and oxygenate the water.

Dana's program has two parts. This first part was the information presentation. for the second, she is looking for volunteers to attend the CBF underwater grass workshop in March. As a volunteer, you are asked to grow seeds (mainly wild celery) that have been collected and germinated. You are also invited to help plant these young plants in selected sites.

Please consider being a part of the Underwater Grasses Program and volunteering to grow some of these grasses. To volunteer to help contact Peggy at 675-5000x3676 or e-mail Daune at Daune@poklis.org or call 741-7838

SPECIAL GUEST: Heather Barrar, Environmental Volunteer Coordinator, Chesterfield County, Office of Water Quality, P. O. Box 40, Chesterfield, VA 23832, phone: 804.748.1920, fax: 804.768.8629 <http://www.chesterfield.gov/communitydevelopment/waterquality/>

Heather presented information about a riparian buffer restoration project in Chesterfield County for which she is seeking volunteers. She needs volunteers to help relocated plants at a development site. She needs help especially with the identification and possibly relocation of designated plants. She would like to proceed with the project in November. Those interested in participating please call either Peggy or Heather for more details.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

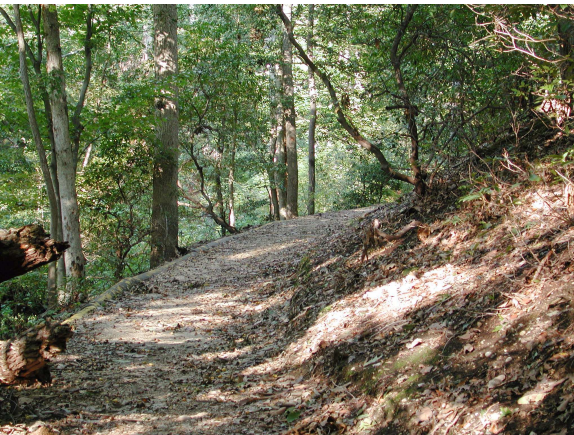
New Refreshment Policy: Sign up sheet, for 2 people to bring a sweet or fruit, 2 to bring a cheese or munchie item and someone to take care of drinks. The names will be published as a reminder in the newsletter. No one signed up for October refreshments. We will pass the sheet around again at the Oct. meeting for November.

New Attendance Policy: sign up sheet will be passed around

Newsletter Deadline Policy: Any newsletter item must be to the editor 2 weeks before the meeting date to assure inclusion.

Submitted by Daune Poklis

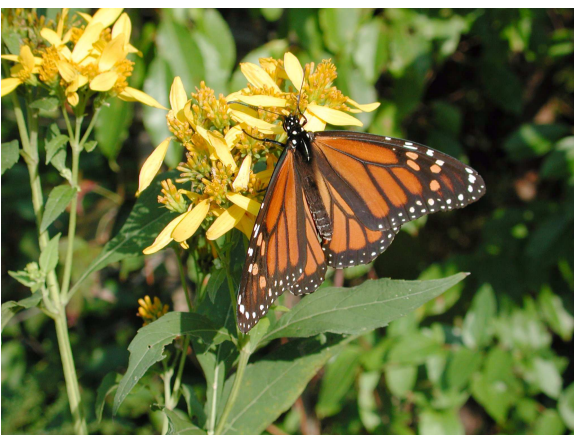
Photographs from Point of Rocks Park.



Left: The trail to the Marsh.



Right: The damaged Boardwalk.



Left: Wildflowers with butterfly on the edge of a meadow.



Right: An interesting shelf fungus growing on a rotting log beside the trail to the boardwalk.

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**

