

# THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Spiderwort  
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



*October 2009*

## October Meeting

**Thursday October 1, 2009 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's Presentation will be:**

**Early May in Southwest Virginia**  
**by Larry Wilcox**

Larry Wilcox is an amateur photographer who has always been an outdoorsman, but most of his time in the woods was in the fall and winter. His wife has been a wildflower enthusiast since her college days and he became interested in wildflowers through her. He started taking pictures of the flowers and was introduced to a whole new area of photography. Larry said, "My wife identifies the plants and I take their photo. I love to travel and really enjoy taking pictures of wildflowers wherever we find them."

His presentation is of a trip that VNPS members took earlier this year to the Southwest corner of our state. The area visited contains many rare and unusual plants growing in diverse habitats, from wet lowlands to high mountain vistas. The surprising beauty of the area plus the richness of the plant life made this a truly unforgettable trip. A few of the plants exist no where else in Virginia

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### **EVENTS**

**October 3-** Ernest Wilson - Edible Plant walk at 2 PM. Meet at the Reedy Creek entrance to James River Park.

**October 10 - Hanover Master Gardener's Fall Plant Sale and Garden Fair.** 9:00AM - 2:00 PM. Hanover Human Resource Complex, 12308 Washington Highway, (Route 1 and Ashcake Rd.), Ashland, VA. Great prices on perennials, shrubs and trees, pumpkins and rain barrels.

**October 17** John Hummer invited the members to his ecology day. John will lead a tour around the property starting at noon. Dress appropriately for slogging through a wetland and bring a food item to share. Directions:

Address is 23500 Old C C Rd., Ruther Glen, Va. 22546. From I-95 take Ex 104 towards Bowling Green go approx 1 mi past McDonalds near interchange, turn right at Rt 684 (Dry bridge Rd.) go approx 1.8 mi turn right at Rt 690 (Old C C Rd.) his place is 2nd house on right side. Park along Old C C Rd. preferable right side of road, above and by pond. Any questions call him at 804-448-5258. →

**November 5** - Chapter Meeting: Teta Kane, Dragon Run

**December 3** - Chapter Meeting: J. Christopher Ludwig "Virginia Wildflowers: Diverse in Form, Unified in Function" - pollination strategies for plants.

**January 7, 2010** - Cathy Mayes - The American Chestnut.

**April 1, 2010** -Chapter Meeting: John Hayden - "Husk Tomatoes From Near and Far."

**May 2010** Annual Picnic



# Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS: September 3, 2009

The meeting was opened at 7:00 by the president.

## Announcements:

Ballots for the election of Pocahontas board members are included in the September newsletter which has been mailed to all members. There are two open board positions. Everyone present was urged to seriously consider volunteering for one of them.

The chapter will be participating again this year in the GoGreen Garden Festival to be held on September 12.

## Helpers wanted.

The chapter will have a tent at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden Children's Garden Good Green Fun event on September 25 from 10:00-2:00 and on October 24 from 10:00-2:00 and at the Goblins and Gourds event on October 25 from 1:00-4:00 Helpers needed for all. Daune Poklis is the contact person.

Daune reminded members about the annual meeting in Salem VA September 24-27 and encouraged all present to familiarize themselves with Douglas Tallamy's book "Bringing Nature Home".

**Field Trips:** On September 16 Richard Moss will lead a field trip to Point of Rocks, and on October 3 at 2 PM Ernest Wilson will lead a field trip on edible plants starting at the Reedy Creek entrance to the James River Park. The information is on the web site and will be in the newsletter next month. Contact him at by e-mail or phone after September 27 if you have questions.

John Hummer invites the members and all present to his ecology day, October 17. The details and directions are in the newsletter and on the web site. John will lead a tour around the property starting at noon. Dress appropriately for slogging through a wetland and bring a food item to share.

**President's message:** Daune said that she would like to see the web site serve as an 'evolving' newsletter with continuous updates as well as bulletin board for the membership. She would like to see it provide the members with an opportunity to exchange ideas, information and serve as a place to post pictures, observations and announcements of events of possible interest to the members. She encouraged the membership to visit it often and become involved with it.

**The Flora of Virginia Project:** Bland Cowder updated the group on the status of the Flora of Virginia project. The publisher has been chosen, and a 2012 publication date is a realistic goal. For further information go to

[www.floraofvirginia.org](http://www.floraofvirginia.org)

New members' names were announced; guests introduced themselves and were welcomed.

**Nicky Staunton's presentation,** Digital Journaling - Daily Discoveries or Sharp Eyes on Nature was to a full house. She started with a discussion and explanation of the equipment she uses: the cameras, stabilizers, ring flash, reflectors, polarizer, battery charger and loop, and emphasized the importance of becoming familiar and comfortable with your camera. She referred to the various computer programs which allow the digital nature photographer to "see" what the camera saw and the various places to store digital photos. She describes herself as "an amateur, opportunistic (nature) photographer". When the lights went down and the "photo journal" came up, Nicky gave us a view of the world and her "friends" from her home at Rocks Edge. We saw the grand silhouette of Old Rag Mountain against the sky, the entrance, the dell, the rocks, the critters (mammals, insects, and amphibians, etc.), the life cycle of a butterfly, the plants (trees, flowers, grasses, seeds, fungi etc.) down to the tiniest of things. Nicky showed each of us how to "be aware", to appreciate and enjoy the inter connectedness of all things through digital journaling. "Don't be afraid to try" After a few questions and answers the meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

## 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** ..... **Daune Poklis**  
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**Chapter Website - [pocahontaschapter-vnps.org](http://pocahontaschapter-vnps.org)**

Photos from the September 16 Field Trip to R. Garland Dodd Park.



1. At the edge of a forested area in the park Kudzu is taking over. Shown are Kudzu flowers, they are purple and smell like grape drink.

2. Purple False Foxglove (*Agalinis purpurea*) along the boardwalk in the Marsh.

3. Wild rice (*Zizania aquatica*), staminate flowers, along the boardwalk.

4. *Spiranthes cernua* - nodding lady's tresses was not in flower for the field trip, but appeared for a subsequent trip on September 23.

5. Tickseed-sunflower (*Bidens coronata*) and halberd leaf tearthumb, *Polygonum arifolium* (small white flowers).

6. A green snake watched as we passed

7. Black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) at the edge of the marsh

8. Broadleaf arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*)

In a meadow we saw: 9. Wingstem (*Verbesina alternifolia*) and

10. Rough Ruellia (*Ruellia caroliniensis*)



Left: Daune Poklis at the Pocahontas Chapter tables at the GoGreen Garden Festival at the Science Museum on Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Notes:**

1. The hard copy of Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping is available. It has just been updated, reprinted and released this July. If you are interested, please send \$5.00 per copy (to cover our cost and mailing) to Richard Moss, Treasurer, 12565 Brook Lane, Chester, VA 23831. Make your check to the Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS. Copies will also be available at the Chapter meeting.

2. This is Bob, the cat. He was first observed at R. Garland Dodd Park on the Day of the field trip, at the edge of the woods near the parking lot, apparently waiting for a handout. On a subsequent visit 2 days later, he was still there and was friendly, so on the next day armed with cat carrier and some food, I picked him up, carted him to the Vet. where he received shots and a clean bill of health. He now resides on my sofa. He has a bob tail which resembles that of a rabbit, thus the name Bob.



Richard Moss

**NOTICE of Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS, Election of Officers**  
At the Chapter Meeting on October 1, 2009 The Pocahontas Chapter will elect officers for 2009-2010.

A Ballot with a stamped, addressed envelope was mailed in the September Newsletter.

If you have not returned your Ballot you may vote in person at the October meeting.

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

