

# THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

November 2005

Spiderwort  
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



## November Meeting

Thursday November 3, 2005, 7:00 PM

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

### Plant Rescue and Relocation

by Carolyn Will

Carolyn Will grew up in the Shenandoah Valley and graduated from James Madison University. Home for the last 30 years has been 8 acres of woods near Williamsburg with extensive native flowers and native shrub plantings.

Carolyn has been rescuing native plants since the early 1970's and, in 1988, co-founded the Williamsburg Wildflower Rescue Team, which has rescued and relocated thousands of native plants. Rescued native plants have been relocated to the College of William and Mary, various public walking trails and parks, Master Gardener's demonstration gardens, James City County public school gardens, York River State Park, and Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens. The rescue team's work has been honored by the James City County Board of Supervisors and the Williamsburg Area Garden Clubs.

Carolyn is a volunteer gardener of the native plant beds at York River State Park and volunteer caretaker of the William and Mary Wildflower Refuge. In both positions, she relocates, propagates, and cares for native plants while educating the public about gardening with native plants.

---

---

## Chapter News and Upcoming Events

**VNPS T-Shirts and Note Pads:** We have a new set of T-Shirts available which feature the work of Shenandoah Chapter member Anita Cooper. The t-shirts are 100% cotton and background colors will be chestnut, pine and eggplant. We also have decorative note pads available.

The suggested price is \$15 for t-shirts and \$4 for note pads.

Note pads and a sample T-shirt will be available at the meeting for examination. Orders can be placed at the meeting.

**Field Trip Lake Anna State Park:** Peggy Furqueron will lead a trip to Lake Anna State Park, about 50 minutes from Richmond on November 12. Meet at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden at 9:30 a.m. Bring a lunch for a picnic and we should be back early afternoon.

**Pine Needle Basket Weaving Class:** Kristi Orcutt plans to offer a class on how to weave pine needle baskets on December 9 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Rockwood Park. Bring a dish, enjoy a meal, and learn to weave an approximately 3 inch diameter basket. Needed materials will be supplied. Limited space. **Reservations required.** Call Kristi at 790-1295 for more information and to reserve a place.

# Minutes of the October 6, 2005 Meeting of the Pocahontas Chapter of the Native Plant Society

Kristi Orcutt, President, opened the meeting. She greeted guests to our meeting and reminded the members that Arthur Evans' new Society of Naturalists will have their first meeting on October 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Science Museum. For more information, Kristie said to e-mail her and she will have it on the list-serve for the chapter.

The state headquarters of the Native Plant Society has beautiful new t-shirts for sale as a fund-raiser. The shirts are in three sizes: medium, large and extra-large, no small available. There are also notepads for sale for \$4.00 each. These items will be for sale at the monthly meetings. The shirts come in three colors and can be seen on the state website.

**Old Business:** Daune Poklis will have a sign-up sheet at the next monthly meeting for the Maymont Flower and Garden Show, Feb. 9-12. The Society has an informational booth at the show and volunteers are needed to staff the booth. Shifts will be for 3 hours; free ticket to the show and shuttle pass are given to the volunteers. Please plan to participate because it takes a lot of volunteers to fill all of the time slots.

Kristi is setting up the e-mail list-serve. If you want to be on the list, you need to e-mail her. She will not be sending out the information to everyone on the newsletter e-mail list, so if you want to be on the list, e-mail her at Botnizn@aol.com. It is also mentioned that the state website has the officers from last year listed for the chapter instead of this year's. Kristi said she will alert them to this misinformation and ask them to update the officer list.

Noreen Cullen, gave us an update on the book donation for the library at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. The chapter usually gives a donation once a year to the library. Noreen asked the librarian for suggestions and has found 4 books on their list. The library requested that the chapter donate the actual books instead of a cash gift because the cash gift would go into the general fund of the botanical garden and not necessarily be used for the library. Noreen has purchased 3 of the books and is waiting on the last one. The books will be especially needed this year since the botanical garden has been having financial difficulties and had to let go their full time librarian position. The books

are *Landscaping with Native Plants*, *American Woodland Garden*, *Book of Swamps and Bogs*, and *Wildflowers and Winter Weeds*.

**New Business** None.

**Program:** Burt McLaughlin, past president of the Beekeeper's Society gave a wonderful lecture on the basics of beekeeping. Mr. McLoughlin gave an overview of a bee's life and the organization of the hive. He showed with props how the supers are stacked to make up the home for the hive. He described how the hone is extracted and how the wax is used. He also gave a report on the problems that beekeepers are having with mites and beetles that parasitize the honey bee. Mr. McLaughlin distributed three very informative handouts on the uses of honey complete with many recipes. The Beekeeper's Society is also looking for a new meeting place. They were meeting on the 2nd Friday of the month at J. Sergeant Reynolds but need to find a new place since J. Sergeant Reynolds has to charge them for the meeting place. If anyone knows of a location, call Kristi Orcutt for Burt's phone number. It was a very good program.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Peggy Furqueron, Secretary

## 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 Polkis
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](http://www.vnps.org)

# Native Plant of the Month

Groundsel Tree, Sea Myrtle

*Baccharis halimifolia*



Groundsel tree in bloom



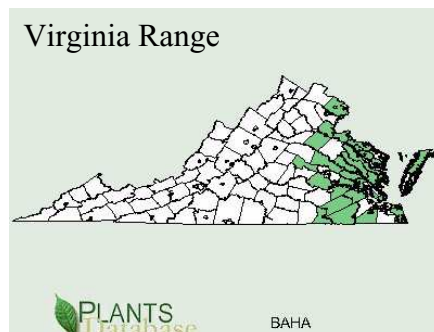
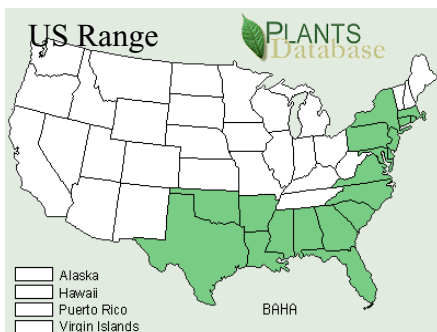
Seeds

Groundsel tree is a fairly common semi-evergreen large shrub or small tree of edges and waste places, especially in moist areas. It is the only composite (member of the sunflower family) to reach tree size in our area. More common towards the coast, the plants are quite showy in late fall. Male flowers are yellow, female flowers white. It is deciduous shrub growing to about 12 ft. X 12 ft. at a medium rate. It is hardy to zone 5. It is in flower in October and the flowers are dioecious (individual flowers are either male or female, but only one sex is to be found on any one plant so both male and female plants must be grown if seed is required) and are pollinated by insects. The plant not is self-fertile. The small, thick, smooth leaves are distinctively shaped, slightly resembling Lamb's-quarters. The plant prefers light (sandy), medium (loamy) and heavy (clay) soils, requires well-drained soil and can grow in nutritionally poor soil. The plant can grow in very alkaline and saline soils. It cannot grow in the shade. It requires dry or moist soil and can tolerate maritime exposure. Interestingly, groundsel tree is listed as a noxious plant for Australia.

Locally, groundsel trees can be seen along I 95, particularly just south of Richmond.

## References:

1. [http://www.ibiblio.org/pfaf/cgi-bin/arr\\_html?Baccharis+halimifolia&CAN=LATIND](http://www.ibiblio.org/pfaf/cgi-bin/arr_html?Baccharis+halimifolia&CAN=LATIND)
2. [http://www.floridanature.org/species.asp?species=Baccharis\\_halimifolia](http://www.floridanature.org/species.asp?species=Baccharis_halimifolia)
3. <http://www.duke.edu/~cwcook/trees/baha.html>
4. <http://www.cnr.vt.edu/dendro/dendrology/Syllabus2/factsheet.cfm?ID=482>



Groundsel trees in flower - male plant (yellow) on the left, female (white) on the right

**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**

