

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE
VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

November 2006

Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



November Meeting Thursday November 2, 2006 at 7:00 PM

Our Presentation will be:
Perennials in the Landscape.
by Denise Green

Denise will be talking about using perennials in the landscape, describing which ones work best in which situations. She owns Sassafras Farm where she grows about 120 species of native perennials. She also offers landscape design and consultation with an emphasis on using native plant material for low maintenance and wildlife friendly gardens.

Chapter News

Future Speakers:

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.

Events

The Virginia Horticultural Foundation is sponsoring the third annual Home Gardener program, *Home Gardener - Go Native!* on Thursday, February 1, 2007 at the Holiday Inn Sunspree, 3900 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, Virginia
** FREE PARKING. Topics and speakers will include:

- Native Plants for Mid-Atlantic Gardens, Allan Armitage, Professor of Horticulture, University of Georgia
- Conservation Landscaping in Your Habitat at Home, Carol Heiser, Habitat Education Coordinator, VA Department of Game & Inland Fisheries
- Virginia's Remarkable Native (+ a Few Exotic) Trees, Nancy Hugo, Outdoor Writer and Project Coordinator, Remarkable Trees of Virginia Project
- Top 20 Native Trees and Shrubs, Ed Bradley and Norman Grose, authors Best Plants for Hampton Roads: A Landscape and Garden Companion
- Native Plants for Rain Gardens, Mike Andruczyk, Extension Agent, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Chesapeake

This should be a very interesting program! Contact Daune Poklis, who plans to attend, for the registration form and more information at 741-7838 or by e-mail at daune@poklis.org.

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.

Minutes for the Oct. 5, 2006 meeting of the Pocahontas Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Peggy Keefe, chapter president, introduced the speaker, Lou Verner, Ph.D., Wildlife Mapping Coordinator for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Watchable Wildlife Program. Lou gave an informative power point presentation on alternative ways to manage and maintain urban green space. Traditional methods rely on: changing beds of annuals, mowing, sterile ponds, excessive and often non-native waterfowl, lawn grass often to the edge of a waterway, and limited understory. A primary theme discussed was reduction of labor-intensive lawn grass and incorporating more native plantings that create an understory and attract native wildlife. Providing diversity of plant and animal life in parks benefits urban ecotourism. He discussed a case study using the Dallas park system, where he previously worked, as an example of transforming a non-diverse park to a green space with plant diversity. An important aspect of the plan is educating the public about these changes and creating community partnerships.

He noted that the Virginia Wildlife Action Plan indicates many species of wildlife are in need of conservation. Native grasses and other native plantings along streams and ponds attract and sustain wildlife, as well as filtering nutrients and helping to control erosion. After the presentation, there was a short meeting. Peggy said she and two chapter members attended the annual meeting hosted by the Shenandoah Chapter. She described the meeting as exceeding expectations with 116 attending. On one of the field trips they saw Federal-protected rock cress, native bittersweet, and ladies tresses. The VNPS wants to target the Founder’s Fund in the up-coming year. Peggy reminded members to renew their memberships if they have not done so. Next year’s annual meeting will be held in Williamsburg.

John Hummer was present and invited the Chapter for a field trip to his property which has an acidic wetland, on Oct. 21. Peggy called for volunteers to participate on three committees: Powhatan Indian program for the Children’s Garden at LGBG, riparian buffer planting project with Heather Burran on Nov. 11, and development of a roadside plants booklet. Please contact Peggy if you are interested in participating on a committee.

Submitted by:
Judy Sheldon, Secretary

NOTE: Page 2 of the September Minutes was inadvertently left out of the October Newsletter. They are included below:

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 |

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

Minutes for the September 7, 2006 meeting - Page 2.

Speaker List - Anyone who would be willing to be include on a Speaker List please contact Peggy or Richard. We have had several requests for speakers about native plants, invasives etc. from various garden and church groups.

Library Purchases - We are looking for someone to assume the responsibility of locating and purchasing the books we donate annually to the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden Library.

Seeking Volunteers for our booth at the Green Industry Counsel event being held with LGBG plant sale.

New business: A motion was made, seconded and approved by the members present that the President (Peggy Keefe) be reimbursed for her annual meeting registration fee plus \$100.00 toward room and board expenses at the annual meeting this year. The motion was made by Richard Moss, seconded by Pat Brodie and voted unanimously by those present to increase our speaker honorarium to \$40.00.

Seeking Volunteers for our booth at the Green Industry Counsel event being held with LGBG plant sale.

John Roberts has agreed to serve as our "ears and eyes" on the legislature this year and report to us on pending legislation of interest to VNPS members.

Member list: We are developing a members list to be distributed to all the active members. Your name, address, phone number and e-address will be included unless you OPT-OUT. This list will be available to our chapter members ONLY. If you wish to opt-out, please contact the Membership Chairperson, Pat Brodie.

List Serve: We are developing a way of informing members of events and items of interest that come to our attention between meetings and newsletters. As with the membership list, if you do NOT want to be included, you will need to notify Richard Moss: mossrd@mindspring.com or 804-748-2940

Field Trips: Any suggestions for future field trips and walks should be given to any board member.

Submitted by Daune Poklis

October Field Trip

Several members from the Pocahontas Chapter visited John Hummer's place in Caroline County on October 21st. John has planted native plants around his beaver created pond system, producing a truly spectacular site. He has several types of wetland ecology (communities) at his place, ranging from the fully aquatic to shrubby bogs. Besides these there were shoreline habitats, floating mat systems, seepage banks, hummocks and transitional areas, each with its own characteristic flora.

Plants seen in flower include: *Gentiana autumnalis*, *G. catesbai*, crosses of the two, *G. saponaria*, *Tofieldia biflora*, *Spiranthes cernua*, *Lobelia glandulosa*, *Helianthes angustifolius*, *Coreopsis gladiata* and *Aster novi-belgii*. Numerous species of *Sarracenia*, including many hybrids were also present. There were snow white trumpet types (*S. leucophylla*), and very golden-yellow colored ones (*S. alabamensis*), and the locally native *S. purpurea* buried deep in the Sphagnum moss in the Shrub bog

Two conspicuous sedge grasses seen were *Andropogon glomeratus*, and *Scirpus cyperinus*. There were also two 'button' grasses, *Eriocaulon decangulare*, and *E. compressum*.

John also has long leaf pines planted in an area he maintains by periodic burning.

We plan to visit this site again next Summer.



Left: The beaver pond which is largely responsible for this wetland system.

Right: A group of one of the many Pitcher plants around the pond (these are a *S. gulfensis alabamensis* cross).

Thanks to John Hummer for the plant information and the photographs.



**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**

