

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

November 2007

Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



November Meeting

Thursday November 1, 2007 at 7:00 PM

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

NOTE: Due to Garden Fest at LGBG we are requested to come in through the main entrance and enter the Education Library Complex building from the garden entrance. That way, we won't be bumping into private party people.

This Month's Presentation will be

The James River Parks System and will followed by a field trip on Saturday Nov. 3
by Ralph White

Ralph White was born in New York City, attended high school in Thailand and the Philippines, college in the US (Wesleyan University in Connecticut, BA in government) then went back to Thailand with the Peace Corps where he make a small Nature Center ("Kao Chong").

"I Returned to the US when I realized I wasn't really Asian, and did some writing for the Audubon Society (probably one of the shortest publication runs ever made, a not-very good-seller called *Teaching conservation in the Developing World*." He then did a nature interpretive internship with Aullwood Audubon in Ohio, and worked for the National Park Service as a Seasonal Interpretive Ranger in Washington DC, North Dakota, and Arizona.

"I Chased a girl to Richmond. She moved on, but I stayed began at the James River park in 1980 as a nature teacher but gradually morphed into the Manager of the James River Park System when the staff was cut from 14 down to 1 courtesy of the Reagan Revolution.(You can pretty much call yourself anything if you're the only one in the park.)"

"There are currently 13, mostly natural area, parks along the Fall Line in Richmond totaling about 550 acres. There is a small staff (about a quarter of which will be with you on the Nov. 3 field trip) but a large cadre of volunteers and support groups with participants totaling almost a thousand every year."

"The work of the manager is to promote and protect the natural area experience along the James in Richmond -- things like: adventure recreation (like whitewater boating, mt biking and rock climbing), aesthetic appreciation (nature painting, photography, and poetry) and the appreciation of nature (immersion experiences like nature walks and inner tube floats; educational programs like interpretive talks and hands-on learning experiences with animals.) Hopefully he will entice you this evening to come out and do a project to improve the park!"

Event Calendar 2007

November 3 Field Trip: James River Park - Buttermilk Trail - led by Ralph White. This approximately 6 mile trail (About 4 1/2 hours for the total trip) follows the ancestral shores of the James with lots of twists and turns and short elevation changes. At that time of year there should be some lovely, tree-framed views of the river and several bridges opening up. Much of the walk is in forest (100 year old on the south side, 1/2 that on the north) with a little bit (at the beginning) in the open. It passes thorough part of

Hollywood Cemetery, alongside the base of Maymont, gets close to the Kanawha Canal, goes alongside the remains of several small quarries, and passes over the bridges to and from Belle Isle. There are convenient “bail out” spots for those who don’t have time for the whole walk. Bring something to drink... wear comfortable shoes and if you want a camera, note pad and pencil. **NOTE:** There is a \$5.00 fee for this trip payable to James River Park.

The trail was built by volunteers 2 years ago and has gotten rave reviews. (It is a mixed-use trail and the XTERRA people who put on the triathlon say it is the finest running and biking trail of any city in the nation. There are very few user conflicts.) VNPS members might like to walk it with the intent of giving written suggestions for further improvements, particularly in regards to plant diversity and preservation!

This particular hike is also part of our regular interpretive program presentations. It meets at 10 am at the parking lot for Belle Isle which is located on Tredegar St. Very easy to find: get to 5th St and follow it to the river. When it ends you turn right and park in the lot. (FYI: Go to the one marked “Belle Isle” and NOT the one for the National Park Service Civil War Center, otherwise you’ll have to pay a few bucks.) John Roberts is the contact person for this field trip. Contact him by phone 804-329-6879 or e-mail at zbtaz@yahoo.com to sign up for anyone who did not do so at the Nov. 1 meeting.

Nov. 9-11 **Nature Journaling** (with a Twist). Learn new ways to observe and record natural phenomena with veteran teacher, artist, and technology wizard Rhonda Roebuck. Rhonda shares techniques that include transferring old graphics and “cut out” literature onto new pages, manipulating digital photographs (both electronically and using unusual solvents), and “layering” illustrations and text. Just having uninterrupted time to observe what’s going on outdoors for an entire weekend is a reason to attend this workshop! Rhonda shares resources particularly helpful to teachers, but this is a workshop for any one who wants to learn new ways to record what they see. Tuition of \$350 includes instruction, most materials, two nights’ lodging, and five meals (dinner Friday through brunch Sunday). To register or for more information contact: Nancy Ross Hugo, Director, Flower Camp; 804-798-6364; nancy@flowercamp.org

Nov. 10 Author Richard Louv (“Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder”) will be in town on Saturday, Nov. 10. Louv is speaking from 1 - 3 p.m. at the VCU School of Business Auditorium; tickets are \$10 and must be purchased in advance. Learn more: James River Association.

Nov. 12 Sierra meets 2nd Monday at 7:30 at the Science Museum. This month it is on Mountain top removal.

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
Vice President	Ernest Wilson
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

Nov. 20 The Virginia Society of Naturalists invites you to its last presentation of 2007. Please join us for Steve Nash’s presentation “Mile-a-minute, snakeheads, starry sky beetles: a Virginia Rogue’s Gallery.” The Virginia Society of Naturalists meets promptly at 7:30PM at the Science Museum of Virginia; doors to the Discovery Room open at 7PM. The Museum is located at 2500 West Broad Street in Richmond. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Dec. 6 **December Meeting:** Hal Horwitz - Orchids of North America. **NOTE: Change of Date,** previously Hal was scheduled for February 7. Ernest Wilson originally scheduled for December will speak on February 7.

Jan. 3, 2008 **January Meeting:** John Hayden- “Consider the Lilies...” An examination of recent developments in classification of the petaloid monocots (lilies and relatives), focusing on examples native to Virginia, North America at large, and some favorite and familiar cultivated plants.

Jan. 12 Caledon Natural Area-a VNPS Registry Site; details to follow.

Minutes for the October 4, 2007, Meeting of the Pocahontas Chapter.

Daune Poklis, chapter president, began the meeting by asking Pat Brodie to report on membership. Pat said a roster is being printed and will be distributed to the membership. New members and guests were introduced. We currently have 73 members. Daune announced upcoming events and asked members to sign-up on the appropriate sheet if they plan to go. The field trip to John Hummer's wetland is Oct. 20. On Nov. 1, Ralph White will speak, followed by a field trip in the James River Park on Nov. 3. This will probably be the highly recommended Buttermilk Trail. The Botanical Society of D.C. will sponsor a walk at Zuni, and on Oct. 23-24, there is a conference on the Long Leaf Pine Restoration Project.

Daune announced that the spiderwort, the wildflower of the Pocahontas Chapter, has been selected to be the VNPS wildflower of the year for 2008. Information will soon be available for members to give to nurseries who may want to carry this wildflower. Two publications for sale at the meeting were *Native Trees of VA* and *Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat Landscaping*. Another book recommended was *60 Hikes 60 Miles Around Richmond*. Daune asked volunteers to help in the Children's Garden on Oct. 27 and 28 as we offer activities demonstrating the use of native plants by Powhatan Indians. Our chapter will sponsor Pete McKee, an historian of living history from Henricus Park, in the Children's Garden on the 28th. Members were reminded that we will need to elect a new treasurer, president and membership chair in the coming months. We also need someone to coordinate field trips and manage printed information and publications.

Daune introduced John Hummer who owns and manages a wetland on his 10-acre property near Ruther Glen in Caroline County. He gave a rich educational program with excellent photographs of the plants and animals living in the systems that comprise the wetland. Types of habitats described were shrub bog, floating mat system, shoreline, and seepage. Over time, beavers created the system, and at the present time, beavers pose challenges to the management of the current system. John described the types of natural maintenance of a wetland, such as burning, rain and rainfall run-off, drought, and the natural filter of sphagnum moss. The section of the talk on species diversity covered varieties of ferns, grasses, water lilies, and insect-digesting plants living in the wetland. John has also introduced some species not native to Caroline County. He talked about interesting fauna he has found in the wetland, including many varieties of frogs, toads, lizards, turtles, snakes, spiders, and numerous types of insects.

John, has graciously invited members to his wetland property for a field trip on Saturday, Oct. 20. If it rains, the trip will take place the following Saturday.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Sheldon, chapter secretary

Message From our President Daune Poklis

September 22 was an especially busy day for the Pocahontas chapter. We were represented at two events at the same time. Luckily for us they were at the same place. Because it was the 4th Saturday of the month we had our tent and monthly activity at the Children's Garden from 10:00-2:00. There were approximately 15 children with their parents who sampled some dried fruits and nuts and learned about the late summer activities of the Powhatans. I want to acknowledge Sarah (student volunteer) a senior at Maggie Walker Governor's School who is fulfilling her required community service hours at LGBG. In August and September, she helped me set up our exhibit and worked it with me. She was a great help!

The Pocahontas chapter also had a tent at the 2nd Annual Virginia Garden Festival located in the Parking Lot at LGBG. Over the course of the day, (9:00-5:00) we had approximately 110 contacts. A contact is defined as a verbal or physical exchange of information about the VNPS, the Pocahontas chapter, alien species, alternative native species, land and water conservation, web site resources, etc.. It seems to be time well spent since most of the attendees were knowledgeable and/or interested gardeners.

1. I want to thank Frances Melton and Irene Caperton for working shifts at the VA Garden Festival and Pat Brodie for spending her entire day from set up to take down at the Garden Festival.
2. We are looking for a new Treasurer. Our present treasurer, Bucci Zuegner has done an outstanding job managing and investing our money. Without fund-raisers or "bake sales", we have managed to stay in the black. Bucci said she would be glad to help and support the new person in every way to make the transition as easy as possible.
3. We are taking orders for the *The Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation* booklet (viewable online published by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. at \$6.00each. Contact me to order.
4. The Pocahontas group is interested in establishing a program to remove exotic vegetation which are destroying native plant habitats. If you are interested please contact Ernest Wilson 502-6346 or ernest_3@msn.com.
5. We need someone for the December meeting to step up and be in charge of organizing refreshments. Please contact Daune if you can help.
6. Anyone interested in a trip to Botanique Nursery, 387, Pitcherplant Lane, Stanardsville, VA 22973 contact either me or Ernest Wilson (502-6346 or ernest_3@msn.com). Rob suggests we arrange a visit before the first hard frost, so we have to do it soon or wait until next year.

Daune Poklis daune@poklis.org or 741-7838

**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**

