

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



November 2012

Spiderwort

(Tradescantia virginiana)

Chapter Meeting

Thursday November 1, 2012 at 7:00 PM

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

The room is available at 6:30, come early and Socialize

Our Speaker is Grace Chapman

The topic will be: *Native Plants and Pollinators*

Grace Chapman is Director of Horticulture at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. She has a strong public horticulture background with experience at premier gardens in the United States and United Kingdom. She was horticulture supervisor and adjunct professor at the Ambler Arboretum of Temple University in Ambler, Pennsylvania. As a recipient of the prestigious Martin McLaren Horticulture Scholar award presented by the Garden Club of America, Chapman studied botanic garden education, practical horticulture and landscape design in England at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Royal Horticulture Society Rosemoor, the Eden Project, and the Chelsea Physic Garden; and in Scotland at the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh. Chapman has served as lead horticulturist in award-winning group efforts at the 2006 Chelsea Flower Show and the 2008, 2009, and 2010 Philadelphia International Flower Shows. Chapman has a Master of Science in public horticulture with a certificate in museum studies from the Longwood Graduate Program, University of Delaware. Her Bachelor of Science degree is in environmental horticulture with a public gardens management specialization from University of Florida. Chapman hobbies include backpacking, organic vegetable gardening, quilting, and beekeeping.

Pocahontas Chapter Programs 2012 - 2013

- December 8 **Chapter Christmas Party** will be on the **second Saturday** in December at the home of Suzanne Jenkins who has graciously offered to host our gathering this year. This will be a little more formal than an open house. Plan to arrive at 1:30 to arrange food: potluck lunch with desserts. Bring your own beverage to share, perhaps wine or sparkling cider. The chapter will provide soft drinks, cups, paper plates and utensils. We'll eat at 2:00 and visit until 3:30. Then, we'll clean up and clear out by 4:00! With shorter days in early December and who-knows-what weather, we're allowing for everyone to be home before dark. Directions to Suzanne's home will be in the December newsletter.
- January 3 Several invitations have been issued but none have confirmed yet.
- February 9 **Chapter Meeting, 10 AM - NOTE CHANGE OF DAY & TIME!** The February meeting is moved from Thursday, Feb 7 to **Saturday, February 9 at 10 AM** in order to encourage everyone to attend the special presentation at LGBG by Jackie Bailey Labovitz. She is a well-known photographer who specializes in Virginia wildflowers. Her web site provides an excellent sample of her beautiful photographs. This is a presentation you won't want to miss. See <http://www.baileylabovitz.com/jblportfolio/home.htm>. PLUS, we will have a short business meeting following Jackie's program. The Garden has arranged for us to meet in one of the nearby rooms in the Education Building to take care of chapter business in a timely manner.

- March 7 "Lichens of Virginia at the University of Richmond Herbarium" presented by Dr. John Hayden and Michelle Ferrell.
- March 2 or 9 (Saturday) - The VNPS Winter Workshop is usually held at the University of Richmond. Save the date and plan to register. Our chapter will provide the continental breakfast, coffee, tea and morning refreshments. This will be an opportunity to meet, greet and display our activities to members from other chapters.
- April 4 Several invitations to speakers are pending. Suggestions or requests are welcome.
- May Watch for the date and place for our annual picnic and for announcement of the 5th annual Invasive Plant Removal Day.

Pocahontas Chapter Field Trips - 2012-2013

Please call or e-mail the trip leader if you plan to participate in a particular trip. Let him or her know to expect you. Cancel if your plans change, so the group doesn't wait for you.

- November 8 Virginia Commonwealth University Rice Center Tour and Open House.
Meet at 12:00 Noon at the LGBG parking lot, rain or shine. Eat early and pack a snack. We'll depart at 12:15 PM for the 40-minute drive east to the Rice Center. The tour is from 1-4:00 pm.
We'll carpool, if we can, although parking there is not a problem. If you haven't seen this facility and the surrounding woods and wetlands, this is your chance. Come prepared for a chill wind off the river, and wear comfortable walking shoes. Binoculars would be a big help. Water and rest room facilities are available on site. Notify trip leader Catharine Tucker (804-938-6941 or cath.tucker@gmail.com) if you plan to come so that we know to watch for you. If you need a ride or don't want to drive yourself, let the trip leader know that also.

Where else would you like to go?

The chapter board members need ideas, suggestions, and people who are willing to be trip leaders. Remember, trip leaders only need to pick a meeting site and know how get the group to the site and back, not how to identify plants. We can have great fun exploring to see what we can find! We can take photos of "unknowns" to identify later or key them out while we're there.

President's Message

Once again, we have turned out a group of hardy volunteers from the chapter to accomplish amazing things! On October

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

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Chapter Website
pocahontaschapter-vnps.org

25, a group of us spent a gorgeous fall morning planting native plants in The Anderson Meadow at LGBG. In about two and a half hours, we set nearly 1,000 plants and covered them in good black dirt as fast as Jay Austin could dig the holes. We talked as fast as we planted, I think, and my muscles have just about recovered from stooping over!

The time spent on this project was important, as well as fun, because it is part of our contribution to the Garden in return for our use of meeting space. Our contribution of 11.25 "man-hours" at, say, \$10 per hour represents \$112.50 that off-sets the \$2100 market value of the classroom space where we meet. Under the Memorandum of Understanding with the Garden, we use the laboratory classroom plus its A/V equipment, but pay only \$250 plus the \$150 contributed to the library for books on native plants each year.

Another project has been suggested for us at the Garden, one which we could do a little at a time over the winter months. Common privet has taken hold along the creek that runs along the East border of the property. This area has lots of periwinkle ground cover which should continue to protect the soil from eroding, but many native trees (hickory, dogwood and redbud) can be released by removing the privet. The area is a candidate for planting more shade-loving native plants in the future. Access is easy from the nearby service road. At the next meeting, we can discuss whether and how we might organize to do this.

Field trips are important, too, to explore areas around Richmond and provide fun opportunities to recruit members and

learn more about the wild areas in the metropolitan area. There are more places than we realize within a 30-minute drive. Going back to the same places several times during the year can give us a clearer picture of what is there at different seasons. Short visits to county or city parks, or even to yards where members have made an effort to encourage or plant natives, can be fun. But these require that someone collect the ideas and suggestions and some others volunteer to serve as trip leaders. So far, I've been happy to do some of this, but I can't do it all -- and shouldn't, for the good of the chapter. We need to look ahead. I'm looking for a few good folks to step up and do ONE chore related to planning or leading a field trip in each month in 2013.

At the November 1 meeting, we will vote (or count e-mail votes) to elect officers who will serve for the coming year. Only one new person has been nominated. We need to include more members in leadership positions as we make plans through the coming year. Please give serious thought about ways you might be able to help expand the Board and keep this chapter moving ahead. We can accomplish much more in the way of preserving native plant habitat, removing invasive plants, and educating people about the values of conserving our native plants.

Pocahontas Chapter VNPS Minutes October 4, 2012

The meeting was called to order by the president, Catharine Tucker. She welcomed and acknowledged new members Andy Wichorek, Ashland, VA; Sally Chamberlin, Chesterfield VA; and Ursula Sherrill, Chesterfield, VA and guests.

Ursula introduced the evening's speaker James Schroering, ANR Agent, Virginia Agriculture Extension Program, Hanover County. His topic was "Insect Invaders Attacking Virginia's Forests". Jim differentiated the invaders into those which attack foliage: canker worms, tent caterpillars and gypsy moths; those which attack bark: the engraver beetle, turpentine beetle and Southern pine beetle; and the wood borers: the emerald ash borer and the Asian long horn beetle.

The most devastating to the native tree population are the wood borers. Their presence is the most difficult to detect and often they are established in an area before they are discovered.

Jim showed examples of characteristic damage and encouraged everyone to be on the lookout for bore holes, under bark tunnels, canopy death etc. associated with the different invaders.

Besides insects, he discussed the diseases that are destroying our native trees such as the thousand canker disease and the woolly and red spruce algid. Often the only way to prevent spread of insects or disease is removal/destruction of the tree. Jim recommended that if anyone has a concern about a possible diseased tree, they should contact their extension agent or a certified arborist.

The business meeting followed the presentation.

Announcements:

The Riverine Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists will have an open house October 18 at 7:00pm at Tuckahoe Library to introduce the next basic class for prospective members. Applications are now being accepted for the class to begin Jan 10.

Copies of the quarterly report to the VNPS board are available for viewing.

The Rice Center is open to the public the second Thursday of each month from 1:00-4:00.

The State board meeting summary:

The Jefferson Chapter developed a native plant list which the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors adopted and now requires all developers to use in their landscape designs. ("Wouldn't that be great if we could do that in our area?")

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is asking the VNPS for suggestions to update their invasive plant list.

As of May 2012, the VNPS has 1636 members across the state.

It was agreed that the older more well established chapters would take a reduction of 5% of the amount received from the state for dues in order to increase the VNPS office manager's benefits.

The Flora of Virginia will make its debut December 9, at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden and December 10, in Vienna, Virginia. There will be other promotional programs across the state throughout the year. There is also a scheduled event in 2014 at the Library of Virginia.

Nancy Vehrs was elected the new president of the Virginia Native Plant Society at the annual meeting September 15, 2012.

Speakers and Field Trips: (See Calendar and Field Trips on page 1 and 2.)

New Business:

The slate of officers for the 2012-13 year is: Catharine Tucker, President; Pat Brodie, Vice President; Kristi Orcutt, Secretary; Richard Moss, Treasurer. The voting will take place at the next meeting and via an electronic balloting system as in the past.

A motion was made by Daune Poklis, seconded by Richard Moss, to donate \$50.00 to the Chamberlayne Heights Methodist Church for the use of the Fellowship Hall on August 30, 2012. It was approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Daune Poklis, Secretary

Chapter Elections

Ballot for Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS Election of Officers

OFFICE	NOMINEE	or Write in
President	<input type="checkbox"/> Catharine W. Tucker	Write In -->
Vice-President	<input type="checkbox"/> Pat Brodie	Write In -->
Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/> Kristi Orcutt	Write In -->
Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/> Richard Moss	Write In -->

Instructions:

You may vote in person at the November 1 meeting, or electronically at <http://pocahontaschapter-vnps/ballot.html>, or by copying and mailing the ballot above to Richard Moss, 12565 Brook Lane, Chester, VA 23832.

**Pocahontas Chapter
Virginia Native Plant Society
12565 Brook Lane**

