

# THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

December 2005

Spiderwort  
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



## November Meeting

Thursday December 1, 2005, 7:00 PM

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

### BayScaping Landscape Concepts

by

**Janit Llewellyn Potter**

Landscaping with native plants is called BayScaping and it improves water quality and the environment. Native plants are hardy because they have adapted to the local conditions. Once established, native plants do not need pesticides, fertilizers, or watering. Not only is this good for the environment, it saves time and money. BayScaping brings a taste of wilderness to developed areas by attracting a variety of birds, butterflies and other animals. Gardeners, residents and visitors enjoy the variety of colors, shapes, and seasonal beauty of plants used in BayScapes.

Our speaker will be Janit Potter who is the Executive Director of Friends of Chesterfield's Riverfront, a non-profit organization dedicated to lead, partner and unify the community for the Appomattox and James Rivers. She has a Masters of Landscape Architecture (MLA), from the School of Environmental Design at the University of Georgia with over 35 credit hours earned in the historic preservation curriculum and a Bachelors of Arts (BA), in Biology from Converse College, in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Janit lives in Chesterfield in the Swift Creek Watershed with her 2 children, Forrest age 15 and Christian age 10. She enjoys family paddles on flatwater especially at the Dutch Gap Conservation Area and on the Swift Creek Reservoir. She also enjoys knitting, gardening and training the family dogs, Pal and Geno along with the occasional family camping experience.

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## 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.

**The Maymont Flower and Garden Show** will be held Feb. 9-12, 2006. That is earlier than usual! We are seeking volunteers again this year to person the VNPS table. The show hours are 9:00-8:00 on Thurs., Fri., and Sat.

and 9:00-4:00 on Sunday. Set up will be on Wed. Feb.8 (hours to be announced) and take down will follow the show closing on Sunday. We need 2 volunteers to fill each of the work shifts. Until we find out exactly how many worker passes we will be allotted, we are planning on work shifts of approximately 3 hours. Please check next year's calendar and contact Daune Poklis with a day and general (morning, afternoon or evening) time you would like to work. More details will follow as we get them from Maymont and we get closer to the show dates. Contact Daune at Daune@Poklis.org or 804-741-7838

**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.



(photo <http://www.kristinmorrill.com/dwcrafts.htm>)

## Minutes for the November 3, 2005 Meeting of the Pocahontas Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Daune Poklis, Vice-President, opened the meeting in Kristi Orcutt's, President, absence. Daune welcomed our guests. She reminded everyone to sign up for the Maymont Flower and Garden Show in February. The books that the chapter is donating to the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden Library were on display on the back table. They are very fine books.

On December 9, Kristi Orcutt is having a workshop on weaving pine needle baskets at Rockwood Nature Center. The workshop is free but reservations are needed; call or e-mail her. The class is limited to 8, so sign up soon.

The chapter's next field trip is Saturday Nov. 12 at Lake Anna State Park. Meet at the Botanical Garden Parking lot at 9:30 a.m. to car pool to the park.

Richard Moss, newsletter editor, needs any items that will appear in the newsletter by the Thursday before the monthly meeting. It was brought up that a winner had not been declared in the newsletter naming contest. Richard had received several entries; one was already being used by another chapter. Daune said that the matter will be brought up at the Executive Board meeting on Tuesday.

**Program:** Carolyn Will of the Williamsburg Wildflower Rescue Team gave a very interesting talk on the work of her organization. The group has 12 members who work to save native plants from destruction during residential and commercial development. They work with Williamsburg city, James City County and private developers. They relocate the plants to a public place. Two of their sites are the native plant garden at the visitor's center at York River State Park and a nature preserve on the campus of William and Mary College. They always get permission to rescue the plants. They have had great success with many of the plants, even relocating lady slippers. Carolyn had many beautiful slides to illustrate her talk.

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 Poklis
Secretary	Peggy Furqueron
Treasurer	Bucci Zeugner
Membership Chair	Pat Brodie

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# Native Plant of the Month

## Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*)



Christmas fern growing on a bank around a beech tree



Above: Christmas fern close up.

Right: Fertile frond - The smaller leaflets at the top are the spore bearing leaflets.

Left: Fiddleheads in the Spring.



Photo Credits: **1:** Gary P. Fleming  
<http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/dnh/ncTIId.htm>. (Taken in Fairfax Co.)

**2,3,4:** <http://www.ct-botanical-society.org/ferns/polystichumacro.html>.

**3, 4:** © Janit Novak



The Christmas fern is so-called because it is evergreen and has been used in the past for Christmas decoration. It is one of our most common and widespread ferns, growing in a wide variety of situations. However, its preferred environments are the lower parts of wooded hillsides and stream banks in the woods. The fronds are dimorphic. The smaller fronds are sterile, and the larger fronds are sterile on the lower two-thirds, but the third or so of the distal pinnae are highly constricted, bearing dense sori on the backs.

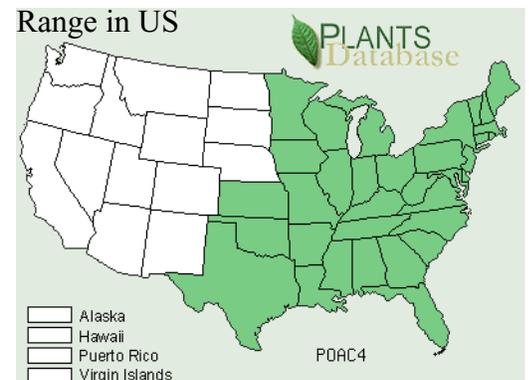
The Christmas fern can be an effective erosion control. The fronds begin the year erect, but slowly decline into fall then become recumbent on the ground after a hard frost. They then persist for another year or two after dying, holding in place leaves and other duff.

The Christmas fern is very easy to grow and is attractive in many situations, with dark green, shiny leaves. It grows from a crown and over a period of years will make a very large, dense clump. The fronds may also be used in flower arrangements. (1)

Christmas fern is native to the eastern half of the United States and southern Canada. In Virginia it is found throughout most of the state.

### References:

1. <http://www.jaknouse.athens.oh.us/ferns/polsacro.html>
2. <http://www.gwf.org/christmasfern.htm>
3. <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/dnh/ncTIId.htm>
4. <http://www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/faqs/fernsfaq2.html>



**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  
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