

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE
VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

December 2006

Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



December Meeting

Thursday December 7, 2006 at 7:00 PM

Our Presentation will be:

Plants and Ethnobotany of the Oaxaca Valley, Mexico.

by John Hayden

Dr. Hayden is Professor of Biology at the University of Richmond, where he teaches botany, curates the herbarium, and oversees greenhouse operations. His research centers on the plant family Euphorbiaceae, and floristics of Yucatan, Mexico. He also serves as Botany Chair for VNPS.

NOTE: We will have refreshments at the meeting. If you wish, Please bring some Holiday goodies for us to share.

Future Speakers:

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.

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- January 20 Ferndale Park on the Appomattox River - See Skunk Cabbage in Flower
- February 24 *Streams of Stewardship* - A Symposium on Water Management  
Innovative design approaches and stewardship practices that conserve water in the landscape, bring beauty to our built and natural environments, and contribute to a healthy watershed. **We need volunteers to staff an educational table.**  
For symposium details and updates, go to [www.lewisginter.org](http://www.lewisginter.org). Registration begins January 2, 2007
- March 3 Annual Workshop, University of Richmond
- March 17 Field Trip to Native Plant Nurseries, Hyla Brooks, Others near Gordonsville
- April 14 Field Trip to see wildflowers at Monticello
- April 22 Spring Fling at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden Volunteers needed in Children's Garden 1- 4 p.m.
- May 5 Annual Picnic and Field Trip at Richard Moss's house in Chester
- April 28, May 26 June 23, July 28, August 25, Sept. 22, Oct. 27 - LGBG program on Indian use of Native Plants  
Volunteers needed at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in the Children's Garden 10 am - 2 pm
- October 28 *Goblins and Gourds* at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden Volunteers needed in Children's Garden 1- 4 p.m.

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. 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.

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## Minutes for the Nov. 2, 2006 meeting of the Pocahontas Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Daune Poklis, chapter vice-president, introduced Denise Green, who presented a program on using native perennials in the landscape. Denise is a landscape designer and is owner of Sassafras Farm, a native plant nursery in Gloucester County, where she grows approximately 125 types. She grows many of the plants offered at the Virginia Living Museum (Newport News) native plant sales.

Denise passed out a list of the perennials discussed in her slide presentation, which was organized in the following categories: plants for dry shade, for moist shade, for sunny sites, and for wet sites. Guiding principles for her approach to landscape design are to leave the natural landscape intact but take out the invasives, ask what would grow well here, take advantage of existing plants, and keep the landscape low maintenance. Also keep in mind that many natives grow well under the canopy. A couple of notable plants cited for the dry shady area are Fringed Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra eximia*). This plant blooms all summer and into the fall. *Coreopsis major* is highly adaptable growing well in sun, shade, dry and wet sites, providing goldfinch food and nectar for butterflies.

Two of the plants mentioned for moist shade are the numerous varieties of *Chrysogonum* and foam flower, both providing good ground cover. Among the longer list of plants for sunny sites were various types of asters and goldenrods. Slides of the teaching marsh at Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) at Gloucester Point showed a modified meadow with native grasses and flowering plants growing together. Denise helped to install

this meadow. She mentioned that stands of the sun-loving native Carolina Lupine can be viewed along Route 14 between West Point and Gloucester between the third week of April and the second week of May. Among the plants for wet sites are the salt tolerant Rose Mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*) and Seashore Mallow (*Kosteletskyia virginica*).

After this very informative program, Peggy Keefe called the meeting to order. She said VNPS items were available for purchase including, shirts, mugs, bookmarks. She briefly described the group's visit to John Hummer's bog garden as "spectacular" with displays of pitcher plants and Venus Fly Traps.

Our chapter Powhatan Indian Committee is working with the LGBG Children's Garden staff. Daune has passed out a list of plants used by the Indians to members who may have access to some of these plants on their property. If you would like a list, request it from Daune. We will need lots of volunteers to help in the garden on this project on the fourth Saturday of the month from spring through the fall in 2007. Peggy reminded us of the Riparian Buffer Plant I.D. program on Nov. 11 at Pocoshock Creek. On Feb. 24 Streams of Stewardship program on water management will take place at LGBG and our Chapter will have an information table. Peggy also reminded us to note roadside plants of this season in preparation of planning a plant guide.

### 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     |

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VNPS Website - [www.vnps.org](http://www.vnps.org)

A field trip to be lead by Dr. Wilson is set for the third Saturday in January, 2007, to view Skunk Cabbage near the Appomattox River. Participants need to bring rubber boots. Denise Green invited our chapter to accompany the John Clayton Chapter on a tour of the VIMS teaching marsh in Sept., or Oct., 2007. Before closing the meeting, Peggy reminded members to renew their memberships.

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## **Pocahontas Chapter & Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden Educational Program - Native Plant use by the Powhatan Indians**

As part of the 400th Anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, the Pocahontas Chapter and Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden are developing educational programs for children, families, and school groups about Virginia native plant species and their uses as they relate to the Powhatan Indians. The Executive Board thought this would be a great opportunity to highlight our state's native plants to a wider audience. It also allows us to forge stronger bonds with Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden by working on a project that benefits both of our missions.

After several meetings with the Children's Garden staff, a three level plan was developed. Our chapter has agreed to provide native plant specimens and to maintain a 4 x 8 display bed in the Children's Garden near the longhouse area. Daune Poklis has a list of the plant species that the Powhatan Indians used and anyone who can donate plants from their property to the display garden should contact Daune. We will also need volunteers to help weed and water the display bed from April to October. Please see Daune or Peggy to sign up.

The first level of our plan is to provide educational programs that can be used by Garden volunteers without our assistance. These will consist of materials that are kept in a box and handled by the children. The volunteers will ask questions and provide discussion. Some ideas for these boxes are pine needles with a discussion on how the Powhatan Indians used them for weaving, tea, and firewood, and nuts or other dried fruits to show them fresh and dried and how they were used for food. The second level is a monthly program run by members of our chapter that cover plant species used seasonally by the Powhatan Indians. We will be providing hands on demonstrations and crafts for the children. These programs are the 4th Saturday of the month from April to October and run from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Children's Garden.

The topics are:

|           |                                                                                           |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April     | Planting Food Crops                                                                       |
| May       | Pottery and how Plants were used in Decoration                                            |
| June      | The Concept of the Five Seasons, the Use of Tobacco in Religious Observances, and Fishing |
| July      | Weaving, Knotting, Cordage, Mats, Nets and the Plants used to make them                   |
| August    | Berries for dying fabric and drying for food                                              |
| September | Food Gathering: Nuts, Seeds, Bark                                                         |
| October   | Harvest and Ready for Winter                                                              |

Volunteers will be needed to help with these programs. We also need people who have worked in education to help design these programs.

The third level of our plan is to sponsor an expert on Powhatan Indian Culture to speak at the Children's Garden in April and October. We have selected Melanie Wright who is the Powhatan Indian specialist at Henricus Historical Park in Chesterfield County to give a program at the Spring Fling on April 22 from 1 pm to 4 pm and at the Goblins and Gourds on October 28 from 1 pm to 4 pm. We will need volunteers to help with these programs.

In addition, we are developing a treasure hunt featuring native plant species that the Powhatan Indians used. The plants can be found throughout the Botanical Garden.

The Virginia Native Plant Society will be credited with our contribution with signage at the Children's Garden. Brochures and membership applications will be at all of the events. We are hoping that these programs will be a way to increase our presence in the community and membership in our chapter. I know it looks like a lot of work but Daune Poklis, Judy Sheldon, and I have gotten most of the research done and now we really need volunteers to help run the programs. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please call Daune Poklis at 741-7838 or Peggy Keefe at 285-0579.

Peggy Keefe, Chapter President

**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**

