

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

December 2007



Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)

December Meeting

Thursday December 6, 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
*In Praise of Native Orchids***

***A 30 minute overview of native orchids of North America, north of Mexico
by Hal Horwitz***

Hal Horwitz, a native and resident of Richmond, VA, has photographed people, places and things -- above and below water --for over forty years. Twenty years ago he became fascinated with wildflowers and has photographed little else since. Hal has developed a special interest in the Orchids native to North America. Retired from his practice of Pediatric Dentistry, he travels with his wife, Helen, to capture the beauty of wildflowers photographically. These cross-continent excursions have lead to an enormous appreciation for the natural beauty and diversity of North America.

Hal has taught numerous flower photography courses. He has shown multi-media slide presentations and lectured at symposiums, orchid societies, garden clubs, wildflower societies and civic groups. Solo exhibitions have been mounted in private and public galleries and museums in the Mid-Atlantic area, and his images have been published world wide in many magazines, books, advertisements and digital productions. Presently, in addition to his work on North American wildflowers, Hal is finishing a book on the Wild Orchids of Israel and writing the initial treatment on Orchidaceae for the Flora of Virginia.

NOTE: Traditionally, our chapter has refreshments at the December meeting. Please bring a finger food or beverage to share. Don't limit yourselves to sweets!!

Event Calendar 2008

- Jan. 3 **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 **January Field Trip:** FIELD TRIP TO CALEDON STATE PARK. Meet at 9:00 AM at the North Park Library parking lot 8508 Franconia Road, one block south of East Parham Road between I-95 and 301. Dress warmly and carry a light lunch and water in a back pack. Good walking shoes or boots are essential. The ground may be wet in places. Binoculars and a camera would also be useful. We will see Bald eagles and many plants. Ground is generally flat except where streams have cut ravines. Hike may last 3-4 hours and cover up to four miles. A rest room is available at park. The park is an old growth forest for the most part but we will also walk along a Potomac River Beach also. Rain date is January 13 or January 20.
- Feb. 7 **February Meeting:** Ernest Wilson- Twig Identification (part 1 of tree id).

- Mar. 6 TBA
 March TBA Host Annual Workshop at U of R.
 Apr. 3 **April Meeting:** Pat Brodie - The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, TX.
 Apr. 20 LGBG Children's Garden - Spring Fling (#1 of 4 day activities at LGBG) corn/squash/bean seed planting in cups.
 May **Picnic and Tree/Plant ID** (part 3) Field trip-- by flowers and leaves - also practice using Newcomb's. Led by Ernest Wilson.
 July 18-21 The Native Orchid Conference is holding its 7th annual Meeting July 18-21, 2008 at West Virginia university, Morgantown, WV. The conference schedule will include an initial day of meetings or presentations on Friday (18th) followed by an all-day field trip on Saturday into the low mountain of southern and central PA. Orchids expected to be in bloom include: *Epipactis helleborine*, *Goodyera pubescens*, *Goodyera tessellata*, *Gymnadeniopsis clavellata* (*Platanthera clavellata*), *Listera smallii*, *Malaxis unifolia*, *Platanthera ciliaris*, *Platanthera peramoena*, and *Spiranthes lacera* var *lacera*. Sunday the presentations will resume and the conference will finish with a final day afield Monday (21st). This trip will be into the Appalachian Mountains of east central WVA to the Cranberry Glades Botanical area. Participants should see the following orchids in bloom: *Corallorhiza bentleyi*, *Corallorhiza maculata* var. *maculata*, *Goodyera pubescens*, *Goodyera repens* var *ophioides*, *Gymnadeniopsis clavellata* (*Platanthera clavellata*), *Platanthera ciliaris*, *Platanthera grandiflora* (-a new, unnamed variety/species), and *Platanthera peramoena*. Registration information will be available at the NOC website ([http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/Native Orchid Conference](http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/Native%20Orchid%20Conference))

Minutes for the Nov. 1, 2007, Meeting of the Pocahontas Chapter

Daune Poklis, chapter president, began the meeting and welcomed visitors. She stated that the membership roster will be available at the December meeting. Vice-president, Ernest Wilson reported on the field trip to John Hummer's wetland on Oct. 20. Two people attended and saw, among many plants, the blooming gentians and insectivorous plants. He encouraged members to visit the wetland when John offers field trips in the future. Ernest reminded us of the November field trip to the James River Park. No trip is scheduled for December. In January there is a trip to Caledon on the Potomac River. Daune called attention to related events: Richard Louv (author of *Last Child in the Woods*) at VCU on Nov. 10, Steve Nash speaking about invasives at the VA Society of Naturalists on Nov. 20, Bill Cullina of the New England Wildflower Society at LGBG on Feb. 2 (www.hortmag.com). For members wanting to contact former chapter president Peggy Keefe, the contact information is (785)

842-5770 or E-mail pegakeefe@hotmail.com. A member of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation spoke about the Grasses for the Masses program that chapter members had the opportunity to participate in last spring. She will notify us about workshops in January and February for members who want to grow aquatic grasses at home and then plant them in the lower James in May or June. Daune reminded members that we will need volunteers for positions of treasurer, membership chair, education /outreach, and president. She thanked all that participated in the Children's Garden project, including those who donated plant material. We were reminded to enter the Education Building at LGBG for Dec. and Jan. meetings through the visitor center due to other events taking place in the building. Daune asked for a volunteer to coordinate refreshments for the December meeting.

Daune introduced the speaker, Ralph White, manager of the James River Park, as a long time friend of our chapter. He began the program giving background information about the 8-mile long fall line on which Richmond was founded and around which the park is located. The falling water was the source of energy for processing raw resources but that process also led to the destruction of the natural environment. By the late 1960s the river was filthy and the dams became open cesspools from industrial and public waste. On the positive side, the response to the Federal Clean Water Act was for Richmond to build a sewage treatment line and plant. Ralph handed-out maps of the park system for us to follow as he discussed each area and trail in the park. Some of the highlights of the discussion were: the leaf dump site that the Audubon Society helped reclaim as a wetland, description of the historically significant Pump House site,

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

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islands around Reedy Creek with remnant populations of wildflowers (“a carpet of trout lilies”), the slave trail near Ancarrow’s Landing, and the new North Bank- Buttermilk Trail said to be one of the finest urban mountain bike trails.

Ralph said that our chapter could assist the park by helping to “restore plant richness.” In the future he expects the park will expand and link with other parks. He would like to see better bus routes developed in order to reduce cars and parking lots, and to develop features with tourist appeal, such as bateau rides at the Pump House park canal, and bike connections with other parks. Members were encouraged to sign-up for the 7-mile field trip on Nov. 3, on the North Bank Buttermilk Trail to be led by Ralph.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Sheldon, chapter secretary

A Message from Our Chapter President, Daune Poklis

The Pocahontas Chapter and Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden cosponsored program, *Native Plant Use by the Powhatan Indians at the Time of the Founding of Jamestown*, has concluded for the year.

Over the past year in each newsletter and at each meeting, some mention has been made about our ongoing, coordinated educational effort with Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden Children’s Garden. We began by providing native plants used by the Tidewater tribes, to plant in the beds around the long house in the Children’s Garden. The Lewis Ginter staff did most of the planting and maintenance of those beds.

In April and October we participated in the Spring Fling and Ghosts and Gourds. At each of these special event days we sponsored a living historian to answer any questions about the Powhatans’ lifestyle in 1607 and demonstrate various skills. They were Melonie Wright and Pete McKee.

On the 4th Saturday of April through October, we had a tent at Good Green Fun. Each month we had a designated theme with information and related children’s activities. There were usually 2 or more Pocahontas chapter members at each of these Saturday events to help the children and answer questions. The themes included: planting food crops; making pottery; the 5 seasons, berry collection and drying; cordage, basket, and mat making from plants and reeds; children’s games; food gathering including edible and inedible nut identification; and preparing for winter.

The Pocahontas Chapter was included in the Good Green Fun and special events publicity and on all the signs and labels in the longhouse garden plots. The Children’s Garden staff and volunteers were most welcoming and helpful. Thank you Kelly Reiley, Allison Kiesler, Heather Veneziano and Dawn Lipscomb Also thanks to the middle and high school students who volunteer in the Children’s Garden: Megan Stewart, Alexis Spain, Meagan Madden, Yulesh Patel and Lorrie Lincoln, Mary Lincoln, Kristina Pham, Aileen Bi, Sarah Culbertson and Colleen Howarth.

This project was quite an undertaking for our chapter. Those who helped plan, design, research, develop, equip, staff and present the programs spent many hours behind the scenes gathering supplies, creating projects for the children and making our tent eye-catching, interesting and informative to the parents and children. Those who provided us with plants deserve special acknowledgement. After all, “native plants” were really the intended focus of the project. A special nod to the following people for all their help: Peggy Keefe, Judy Sheldon, Pat Brodie, Catharine Tucker, Inge Becker, Denise Green -Sassafras farms, Maryann Fitzpatrick, Richard Moss, John Hayden, Ernest Wilson, Vickie Shufer, Brenda Huff and John Roberts.

Then too, there are those whose help is hard to categorize but to whom we are grateful: Warren Cook, Assistant chief of the Pamunkey tribe, Joyce (Pale Moon) Krigsvold- Potter Pamunkey reservation and Extension agent, Mike Parrish. The LGBG Children’s Garden has invited us back to participate in the Spring Fling, Good Green Fun and Ghosts and Gourds programs. We have also agreed to continue to supply and help maintain the “Native Plants used by the Powhatans Garden”. This was a very successful joint effort and I ask that each of you consider helping out with some phase of it next year. (there will be sign up sheets)

Once again I want to thank every one of you who helped with this project.

Also, thank you to Pat Brodie for donating a First Aid kit to take on field trips.

If you would like to serve on the board, be on the nominating committee, or want to help the chapter in some other way, please contact me at 690-7878 cell or daune@poklis.org or any of the board members.

Daune Poklis

Membership Roster Now Available

The membership roster has been completed and will be available for pick-up at the meetings beginning in December. My thanks to all the members who responded in a timely manner to my requests for contact information. I take full responsibility for the accuracy of the information. If you find any errors, please contact me so that I can make the necessary corrections.

Pat Brodie - 266-3070 or owpa03v@aol.com

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** _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Groups	\$40.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 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** _____

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Virginia Native Plant Society
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