

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

December 2010

Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



December Holiday Party

Saturday December 4, 2010 2:00 - 4:00 PM

at Ernest Wilson's House 1925 Floyd Avenue, Richmond, VA

This month instead of a meeting at Lewis Ginter, we will have a Christmas Party/Wine Tasting. Ernest's house is the Second house from Meadow St. on the south side of Floyd Ave. On street parking time limits do not apply on Saturday. Bring an under \$10.00 bottle of wine, and some food to share if you wish. Call Ernest at 278-6357 for more information. NOTE: We will **not** meet at Lewis Ginter for December. Our normal Thursday monthly meetings at Lewis Ginter will resume on Thursday January 6, 2011.

Chapter Events:

January 6, 2011: Monthly Meeting at Lewis Ginter - Please bring any interesting pictures you have of plants or plant walks and we will show them at the meeting. Both a 35mm slide projector, and a digital projector and a laptop computer will be available.

Of Interest:

The VA Department of Forestry is taking orders for bare-rooted tree seedlings for spring delivery. Most of the seedlings are native species. Orders may be placed online or by mail. Shipping and Handling is included in the price and minimum order is of 10. (e.g. 10 Buttonbush, *Cephalanthus occidentalis*, are priced at \$20, S&H included). Last week of shipping is the week of April 25, 2011. To see the catalog, prices and details go to www.BuyVirginiaTrees.com

Ernest Wilson has available to anyone who wants them several dozen plants of the Louisiana iris cultivar "Black Gamecock". The plants are divisions from a garden where they have out grown their space. The flower is a beautiful purple one. The cultivar was selected from crosses between native iris species most of which grow naturally in the southern Mississippi valley.

Information on the Chesapeake Bay from the Chesapeake Network regarding the 2010 Chesapeake Watershed Forum and the keynote speaker, John Quigley is available at:

<http://www.chesapeakenetwork.org/profile.htm?mode=pvb&pid=32084&op=ViewArticle&articleId=173&blogId=124>

Maymont Gardens has several Christmas events and tours this December. See: <http://www.maymont.org/Page.aspx?pid=217>

The Sierra Club (Falls of the James Group) will be having its annual dinner December 8th at the Science Museum of Va., and the speaker will be Dr. Jeffrey Kirwan, co-author of *The Remarkable Trees of Virginia*. \$25 for Members, \$30 for non-members. Reservations By Dec. 1 to Karie Walker, 2500 Grenoble Rd., Richmond, VA 23294. Questions 562-2500 or tamsmith47@gmail.com

Welcome New Members

Lisa Deaton, Sandston, VA

Minutes of the November 4th Meeting of the Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS

President Ernest Wilson called the meeting to order.

Upcoming Events for December 2010:

This December we will have a Chapter party at Ernest Wilson's house from 2pm till 4pm December 4th. Bring a bottle of wine under 10 dollars for a lovely wine tasting. There will be food, vegetarian fare and plenty of fun for all.

The address is 1925 Floyd Ave. phone # 278-6357 if you need directions

Ernest turned the meeting over to Larry Wilcox, our guest speaker, who gave a wonderful talk on the VNPS May southwest Virginia trip. The slides were beautifully presented and fascinating.

The Wilcoxs' also announced three VNPS trips being planned next year.

1. Green Swamp Trip -lodging and lunch will be about 100 dollars
2. Kansas Prairie Trip - June 11th-18th about 500 dollars for lodging, but will be well worth it
3. Blue Ridge Trip- Cost has not been established yet

For more information about these trips contact Mrs. Wilcox at w8n2cwildflowers@cox.net.

After a question and answer period, the president closed the meeting.

Here's hoping you all have a wonderful and Happy Holiday season, and I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the Chapter party at Ernie's House.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

Tom Matney, Secretary

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Pictures from the November 6th Field Trip to Pocahontas State Park

We walked along the Beaver lake trail which went from an upland hardwood forest to a creek and swampy area

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.

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then up and down several fairly steep hills. Above is a photo taken from the dock at Beaver Lake. Along the trail we saw lots of grape ferns. Three, with different leaf types, are shown on the next page. The first two may be cut leaved grape fern, *Botrychium dissectum*, which has leathery, highly variable leaves. This grape fern is evergreen, and in winter turns a bronzy-green color. The third one is probably Rattlesnake fern, *Botrychium virginianum*. which has thinner non leathery leaves and dies back in the winter. (see next page)



Three Grape Ferns, **1** and **2** probably *Botrychium dissectum*, **3** probably *Botrychium virginianum*.

4. A Pawpaw patch. The paw-paw, *Asimina triloba*, leaves had turned yellow and were falling.



5. Lizard's tail, *Saururus cernuus*, and Sensitive fern, *Onoclea sensibilis*



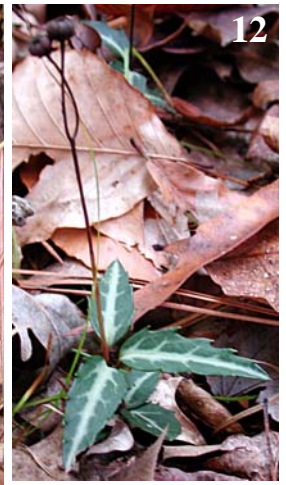
6. Crane fly orchid, *Tipuaria discolor*, was quite common, but this specimen has much darker leaves than usual.

7. Water cress, *Nasturtium officinale*, was found growing in this natural spring near an old house site.

8. Evergreen wild ginger, little brown jug, probably *Hexastylis virginica*, although the leaves seem more pointed than usual.



9. Hepatica, *Hepatica nobilis*.



10. Mountain Mint, *Pycnanthemum virginianum*.
11. Rattlesnake plantain, *Goodyera pubescens*.
12. Striped wintergreen, *Chimaphila maculata*.
13. An interesting edible mushroom, Hen of the Woods, *Grifola frondosa*.
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