

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

February 2004

Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



FEBRUARY MEETING

“Conifers”

by W. John Hayden
Professor of Biology
Department of Biology
University of Richmond

Thursday, February 5, 2004 at 7:00 PM

Breakout Room in the Education and Library Complex
of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens

The talk will encompass the following: the origin of the conifers and their relationships to other groups of gymnosperms; classification of conifers (there will be just one cladogram--I promise!); some attention to the morphological features of stems, leaves, pollen strobili, seed cones, and seeds in general; and then bunches of pictures of diverse conifers. I will cover some of the conifers native to Virginia, some from elsewhere, and some that are known only as cultivars in garden settings; however, the focus will be on the plants themselves, not conifers as garden elements.

I will also conduct a conifer walk on the following Saturday (Feb. 7) at LGBG at 10:00 AM to noon. Meet in the Atrium of the Visitors Center. Nancy Hugo has arranged for up to 12 reduced price passes (\$5.00) for VNPS people who are not Garden members. If there are more than 12 non-garden members in attendance, they would need to pay the full admission.

Yes, I'm going to talk the talk AND walk the walk!
John Hayden

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CHAPTER NEWS

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2004 MEETING

John Roberts, one of our chapter members, gave a fascinating slide lecture on his trips to the Arctic. The trips included visits to Alaska and Canada. A real treat was a recording that John had made with a homemade hydrophone of narwhales singing. What an experience. John had pictures of many plant species, including mountain sorrel and willows.

Dean Walton, our president, was absent but we had a meeting because one of the officers was present.

Duane Polklis reminded members that the newsletter is still in need of a name; so if anyone has suggestions send them to Richard Moss or bring them to the next meeting. The Virginia Native Plant Society will not be having a booth at the Maymont Flower and Garden Show in February this year because no one contacted Maymont before the deadline. Marie Minor always took care of this in the past and since she has moved her membership no one remembered to contact Maymont. Peggy Furqueron, secretary will contact Maymont and find out when the deadline is for next year so the society can be represented. Peggy Furqueron also asked if there was interest in having another clean-up at Lee Park in Petersburg on the 3rd Saturday in April. The chapter had two clean-

ups last year. After picking up trash, the members had a picnic lunch and then walked out to the wildflower preserve by the lake. Peggy will contact Lee Park to let them know if the 3rd Saturday in April will be all right. The annual workshop will be in March at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden and the lectures will be on the Potomac Basin. Our chapter is usually responsible for refreshments and Duane Polklis will check with the Lewis Ginter about our bringing our own refreshments or if there are restrictions about food because of the catering service at Lewis Ginter. The February speaker will be John Hayden and he will be speaking on conifers. Noreen Cullen wanted to know what the members would think out bringing their favorite gardening books and gardening catalogs to share with the group instead of having a lecture in March. There were not any comments. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Peggy Furqueron, Secretary

Faith T. Campbell, Ph.D. of The Nature Conservancy and past VNPS board member sent the following Washington Post article concerning another alien invasive pest:

**Evidence Found of Tree Pest In Vienna, Virginia
Nearly 200 Ash To Be Destroyed**

By C. Woodrow Irvin
Washington Post Staff Writer
Thursday, January 29, 2004; Page VA03

More than 190 ash trees in neighborhoods near the new Colvin Run Elementary School will be destroyed by April because of evidence that some have been infested by a deadly exotic pest, Fairfax County officials said.

Most of the threatened ash trees are at Wolf Trap Farm Park or in common areas of the neighborhoods within a half-mile radius of the school, at 1400 Trap Rd. in Vienna. About 30 trees are on private property, officials said.

Property owners and local civic groups who own such trees will be notified by letter and invited to a public meeting Feb. 17 at the school, which opened in September. The decision to destroy the trees was made by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The tree eradication effort was prompted by the discovery of evidence of emerald ash borers in 16 trees planted at the school. The infested trees were purchased from a nursery in Prince George's County, which received them from a tree nursery owner in

Michigan in 2002, Fairfax officials said, a violation of federal quarantine rules. The pest has destroyed millions of ash trees in southeast Michigan, where 13 counties are under quarantine.

The eradication effort must be completed by April 1, before the adult borers emerge in the spring, Fairfax officials said. Spraying does not work on the insects, which is why the trees must be removed before the borer spreads to the county's forests. Ash species make up about 4 percent of the county's tree population, officials said.

The emerald ash borer is about a half-inch long and looks something like a firefly dressed in a green satin suit. It is native to Asia but in recent years was somehow introduced to North America.

None of the insects actually has been seen in Fairfax County. But state agriculture officials found exit holes in the ash bark typical of the borer, which could mean adult insects escaped into the area near the school. The fear is that the parasites, if given a chance to spread, could decimate the local ash population, literally eating the trees from the inside out.

Troy D. Shaw, program coordinator of the county's forest pest program, said the potentially infested trees near the school may be anywhere from 20 to 50 years old.



**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	Dean Walton
Vice President	-
Secretary	Peggy Furqueron
Treasurer	Bucci Zeugner
Membership Chair	Pat Brodie

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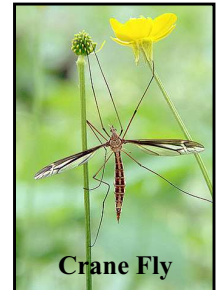
NATIVE PLANT OF THE MONTH

Cranefly Orchid (*Tipularia discolor*)

Tipularia is a genus of orchids consisting of one species found in the eastern United States and two other species found in Asia from Sikkim to Korea and in Japan. The species found in the eastern US (*Tipularia discolor*) goes by the common name of Crane Fly Orchid.

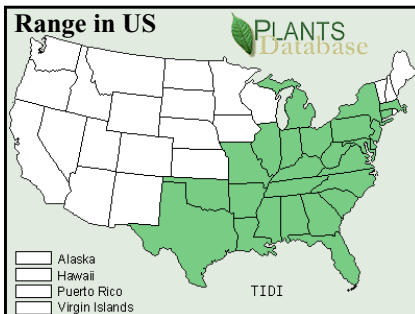
This orchid has a single leaf which emerges in the autumn from a small corm and persists through the winter. The leaf is dull to shiny green often with purple raised spots above, and shiny purple below. In late Spring the leaf withers and disappears. In mid summer an essentially leafless 1 - 2 foot spike with greenish-brown flowers appears. The individual flowers are green and purple, and about 0.4 inch across with a 3/4 inch long spur which lies behind the flower. It is this spur that gives the flower the gangling look of the Crane Fly, as in its common name.

Crane fly orchids are relatively common in deciduous woodlands, appearing as solitary plants or more often small colonies and seem to be expanding in range.



Photographs:

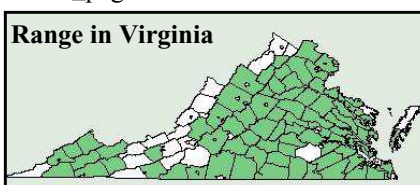
1. Leaf in winter with last summer's flower stalk and seed pods
2. Small colony in January
3. Leaves in late October showing purple leaf underside (left leaf).
4. Flower stalk in summer.
5. Close up of flower



Photos 1 & 2 Taken 1-31-04 by Richard Moss, in Chester, VA.

Photos 3,4,5 from: http://www.missouriplants.com/Others/Tipularia_discolor_page.html were taken in Brown Summit, NC., 7-6-02 and 10-20-02.

Text information from <http://rareplants.co.uk/tipularia/> and http://www.missouriplants.com/Others/Tipularia_discolor_page.html



Range: *Tipularia discolor*

Source: USDA, NRCS. 2003. *The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5* (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA

**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**

