

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

February 2005

Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



FEBRUARY MEETING

A video: “Spring Wildflowers of the Mid-Atlantic Region”

Narrated by Suzanne Lohr

Photos by Marion Lobstein, John DeMary and Suzanne Lohr

Thursday, February 3, 2005 at 7:00 PM

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

CHAPTER NEWS

February Field Trip:

The field trip to Catherine Tucker’s family farm will be on Feb. 19; rain date is Feb. 20. Meet at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden at 9:30 a.m. and bring a packed lunch. We will be carpooling to the site.

Volunteers needed for the Maymont Flower and Garden Show

All volunteers will receive a pass to the show (worth \$12.00) which also allows the worker free transportation to and from the secure parking area at the Richmond Braves Baseball Diamond. Contact Daune Polkis at 804-741-7838 or by e-mail at Daune@Poklis.org

Pocahontas Chapter Volunteers Needed to Help Host the Virginia Native Plant Society Workshop!!!

This year the Workshop will be at the University of Richmond campus on Saturday, February 26th which is during the Maymont Flower and Garden Show. This year, as in the past, our chapter plans to provided the morning refreshments at the Workshop. We will be responsible for ordering, set up, presentation and taking down (clean up). Because we have done it so often, the process is pretty well established, however, we need 3 or 4 people willing to help with the ordering, picking up the order, coming early to set up the tables, being present during the workshop, and to being sure every thing is cleaned up and put away afterwards. Judy Shelton has volunteered to serve as chairperson so please call her at 266-0856 to volunteer to help. This isn’t a big job if several people help, and it serves as a good will gesture to the organization.

Botanical Art and Flowers: Friday, April 15 - Sunday, April 17

Nancy Ross Hugo is organizing a weekend workshop at Flower Camp in Buckingham County that will benefit The Flora of Virginia Project. Botanical artist Lara Gastinger, creator of illustrations for The Flora of Virginia, will be teaching a form of botanical art that is more expressive than technical illustration but equally responsive to botanical detail. Lara’s emphasis on observation and on depicting plants at all stages of their development will help participants experience a Piedmont spring through artists’ eyes. Both beginners and experts are welcome. Tuition of \$250 (10% donated to the Flora of Virginia Project) includes instruction, five meals, and two nights’ overnight accommodations. A list of required materials will be mailed upon registration. Enrollment limited to 15. To register or for more information contact Nancy at 804-798-6364; nancy@flowercamp.org

16TH ANNUAL MAYMONT FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

February 24-27; Thursday-Saturday: 9am-8pm; Sunday: 9am-6pm

Greater Richmond Convention Center Exhibit Hall, 400 East Marshall Street

Move over Academy Awards - the Maymont Flower & Garden Show boasts its own silver screen "CineMagic" this February. Twenty magnificent movie-themed gardens take center stage, presenting creative designs and blooms more beautiful than any Hollywood celebrity on the red carpet. And the award for best supporting role goes to the associated floral exhibits and displays brightening every corner of the Greater Richmond Convention Center. As always, the show's popular lecture series features an acclaimed cast of knowledgeable garden-world superstars, including Tracy Disabato-Aust and Steve Bender, while the Great Garden Marketplace gets two green thumbs up for its boundless assortment of garden merchandise. With all this and more, the 2005 Maymont Flower & Garden Show is sure to be a blockbuster success! \$14 general admission; \$12 advance tickets available through February 22. For show information, call 804-358-7166, ext. 310 or visit www.maymont.org.

"SPRING!" AT MAYMONT

Every Weekend in March, April and May

The weather is perfect, baby animals are born every day and fresh blossoms fill the grounds with color. Richmond families already know that there's no better time to visit Maymont than in the spring, but now the reasons to visit are multiplying as fast as our baby bunnies. Every weekend from March through May, new experiences await as Maymont presents a whirlwind of programs and events showcasing every facet of the park and museum complex. Get up close and personal with the baby goats, climb aboard the Tram for a special tour, enjoy an in-depth look at the gardens, chat with a Victorian lady and take advantage of enhanced concession and visitor service amenities to help you make the most of your visit. Fees vary for activities; activities are weather-dependent. Call 804-358-7166 ext. 310 or visit www.maymont.org for details.

GREAT GARDENING AT MAYMONT: ROSE CARE AND PRUNING

Wednesday March 9, 9:00 am, Stone Barn

Maymont's roses bloom from May through late fall, and are often still vibrant with color in December. Maymont's horticulture staff reveals secrets of the incredible Italian Garden roses during this popular annual workshop. A discussion of proper rose care is followed by lots of hands-on experience pruning some of Richmond's most famous roses. Learn about everything from plant diseases to growing trophy flowers along the way, and meet and work with others who are interested in the world's most popular and widely cultivated garden flower. \$15 per person/\$12 for members. Registration required by March 4, call 804-358-7166, ext. 310.

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

Address all correspondence to
Richard Moss, Editor
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Chester VA 23831
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VNPS Website - www.vnps.org

Minutes of the January 6, 2005 meeting of the Pocahontas Chapter of the VNPS

Dean Walton, President, was not present so Peggy Furqueron, Secretary called the meeting to order.

Old Business: Duane Poklis is in charge of the booth at the Maymont Flower and Garden Show. Since the annual workshop will be on the same Saturday in February as the Flower and Garden show, Judy Shelton will be in charge of the volunteers from our chapter who will be helping provide

refreshments for the annual workshop. The dates for the Maymont show are Feb. 24-27 and the shifts are 9 am-12 pm, 12 pm -3 pm, 3 pm-5:30 pm, 5:30 pm-8 pm. All shifts are open except for the first 2 shifts on Friday. Please contact Duane to volunteer. At present 12 people from other chapters have volunteered to man the booth, but Duane needs at least 30. The annual workshop will be on Biodiversity.

The field trip to Catherine Tucker's family farm will be on Feb. 19; rain date is Feb. 20. Meet at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden at 9:30 a.m. and bring a packed lunch. We will be carpooling to the site.

The March field trip will be to the Hardwire River in Fluvanna on March 19. Meet at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden at 9 a.m. and bring packed lunch. We will be carpooling to the site.

The chapter will tentatively hold elections in May. Duane Poklis has offered to serve as Vice-President. The other officers except for the President have agreed to serve again so we just need someone to run for the president's office.

Duane is trying to arrange for Rebecca Wilson to speak at the February meeting on prescribed burns.

New Business: Peggy Furqueron told the group that Three Lakes Nature Preserve is looking for Native Plant Gardeners. After discussion, it is decided that Peggy will call the center and find out exactly what the gardeners will be needed for and then report back to the chapter.

The Wildflower of the Year 2005 is bloodroot and the Wildflower of the Year 2006 will be the spice bush.

The Horticultural Society meets at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden the first Monday of every month at 1:00 p.m. This might be a group that the Native Plant Society can work with on projects.

Program: Dr. John Hayden gave a wonderful talk on two trips that he made to the Willamette Valley in Oregon and the Uinta Mountains in Utah. He had beautiful slides to illustrate his talk. Many of the plant species were from the higher elevations near the tree line. He also informed us that there are no longer asters in the United States. The taxonomy has been changed yet again.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by

Daune Poklis, acting secretary

Native Plant of the Month

Skunk Cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*)



Skunk Cabbage is a large-leafed plant that grows in wet areas, especially near streams, ponds, marshes, and wet woods. It is easy to recognize, with its huge leaves rising directly from the ground. Skunk Cabbage is one of the first plants to bloom in the Spring, and can bloom anywhere from February to May. The first part of the plant to appear is the spathe which is an odd looking brownish-purple, shell-like pod with green splotches. As the spathe gets bigger, it will reveal another part inside, called a spadix. The spadix is a little knob covered with

small yellow flowers. Like many other dark-colored flowers, skunk cabbage is pollinated mostly by flies. The flowers actually produce heat -- a benefit to the flies out in cold weather. The leaves which may be one to two feet long and a foot wide emerge after the flowers. The crushed leaf exudes a skunk-like odor, hence the name "skunk cabbage", and ingested leaf juice produces a strong inflammatory reaction in the mouth and esophagus of human beings.

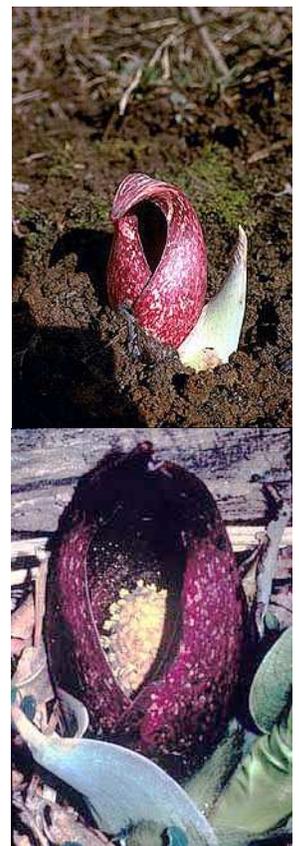
The US range of Skunk Cabbage is from Maine to Wisconsin south to North Carolina.

References:

<http://www.ct-botanical-society.org/galleries/symplocarpusfoet.html>

http://www.fcps.k12.va.us/StratfordLandingES/Ecology/mpages/skunk_cabbage.htm

<http://natureinstitute.org/pub/ic/ic4/skunkcabbage.htm>



**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**

