

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

February 2009



Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)

February Meeting

Thursday February 5, 2009 at 7:00 PM

at the Education and Library Complex of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Classroom 2

The room is available at 6:30, come early and Socialize

**This Month's Presentation will be: *The Tall Grass Prairie*
by Helen Hamilton**

VNPS members visited several tallgrass prairie preserves and a working ranch in Kansas last June. While the grasses and wildflower were just beginning their summer growth, we learned a lot about managing native grass prairies, scheduled burns, and grazing by cattle. Included in the talk will be photos of many native plants, as well as accounts of some of the adventures of the group members.

Our Speaker, Helen Hamilton taught biology in local high schools, worked as a plant technician for the National Park Service, and completed Master Gardening training in 2004. Currently she is recording secretary of the Virginia Native Plant Society, president of the local chapter of VNPS, Horticulture Chair of the Williamsburg Botanical Garden, and member of the James City County Water Conservation Committee and Stewardship committee member, Williamsburg Land Conservancy.



2009 Calendar of Events

If you plan to participate in any event or field trip, please contact either Ernest Wilson at (804) 502-6346, e-mail ernest_3@msn.com or Daune Poklis at daune@poklis.org or (804) 741-7838.

February

- 10 10:00-12:00, Butterfly Garden workday James River Park Headquarters. Bring gloves, tools, water, etc. Directions on page 4.
- 26 10:00-12:00, Invasive Removal James River Park, 42nd Street. Directions on page 4

March

- 5 **Monthly Meeting:** Phil Sheridan- Meadowview long leaf pine project
- 7 9:15-3:15, Topic: High Mountain Flora Workshop at University of Richmond
- 10 10:00-12:00, Butterfly Garden workday
- 14 8:30-3:00, Good Gardening Symposium Prince George High School, Prince George, VA. See page 3.
- 17 10:00-12:00, Invasive Removal 42nd Street

25 Field trip- Living Museum. Departure time and Place to be determined

April

2 **Monthly Meeting:** Speaker to be announced.

4 Bluebells at James River Park

7 10:00-12:00, Butterfly Garden Workday

14 10:00-12:00, Invasive Removal 42nd St.

15 or 16 or 17? All Day field trip DC Arboretum

22 Field trip Lee Park and Ferndale Park in Petersburg

Late April field trip to Lynchburg and Peaks of Otter

NOTICE:

Attention Members:

1. If you have a suggestion for a field trip destination, or would like to volunteer to organize and/or lead a field trip to one of your favorite places please call or e-mail Daune Poklis at daune@poklis.org or 741-7838.
2. If there is a topic or speaker you would like to recommend for the next year call or e-mail Daune Poklis. We are anxious to complete our calendar of events for the rest of this year and next, with events/topics of member interest.
3. We are seeking a Newsletter editor and Butterfly Garden workers. If you would be interested contact Daune.
4. The Butterfly garden will need weeding and tending from mid-late February on. We have scheduled work days on alternating Tuesdays starting February 10, 2009 from 10:00-12:00. If you want to help with the garden but cannot attend work days during the week, there will be some weekend work days dates announced later.

Daune Poklis, Pocahontas Chapter President

NEWS

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**
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Chapter Website - pocahontaschapter-vnps.org

Flora of Virginia Project

You are invited to visit the new and updated Flora of Virginia Project website that has been under revision, updating and reconstruction of the format for the past year. Now, it is ready for you to visit to learn of progress, changes. The new pages are attractive and informative. Check it out at: <http://www.floraofvirginia.org/>

Meet all of the Flora staff and see some of the illustrations by Lara Gastinger and Michael Terry (Poaceae) who is also the Flora of Virginia Project webmaster. One of the pages tells the reader how to donate to the project, something that is absolutely needed more than ever with the budget cuts by the Commonwealth for the coming year. Every gift is appreciated, regardless of size.

Nicky Staunton, VNPS 1st VP and a Flora of Virginia Project Director

Seal Level Rise Report

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in collaboration with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), has released a report that discusses the impacts of sea-level rise on the physical characteristics of the coast, on coastal communities, and the habitats that depend on them. The report, Coastal Sensitivity to Sea-level Rise: A Focus on

the Mid-Atlantic Region examines multiple opportunities for governments and coastal communities to plan for and adapt to rising sea levels.

The report can be read online at or downloaded (all or individual parts) from: <http://epa.gov/climate change/effects/coastal/sap4-1.html>

Chapter 5 (of Part I)--the impact on coastal habitats is noteworthy.

Sally Anderson, VNPS President

Minutes of the Pocahontas Chapter Meeting on January 8, 2009

Daune Poklis, chapter president, began the meeting with a review of upcoming events listed on the web site (pocahontaschapter-vnps.org), and introduced visitors. John Hayden, Botany professor at the University of Richmond and chapter member, passed out a handout for the power point presentation on Virginia grasses listing the common and genus names of grasses he would discuss. He began by saying that he purposely left out the term "native" grasses in the title as he planned to discuss the common introduced varieties that we find in the wild, as well as the native grasses.

Dr. Hayden discussed the morphology of grass and said magnification is important, as well as looking at the flowers and spikelets. Attention to the flower is not as important in identification as attention to the structures

that enclose the flowers. Some grasses spread by stolon or rhizome. Others form clumps by "tillering." Grass may be perennial or annual. Some of the large grasses are sugar cane and bamboo. Cool season grasses use ordinary photosynthesis and photorespiration which increases with heat. Warm season grasses use extra steps in photosynthesis adapted to high temperatures and drought as well as other adaptations that minimize photorespiration. Examples are crab grass, corn, and sugar cane. Dr. Hayden then discussed the following types of grasses (several examples are listed in parentheses): beach/shore/coastal (sandspurs, saltgrass, Ammophila); freshwater marshes, swamps, wet woods (wild rice, cane); panicles of spikelets, multiple florets (Quaking grass, river oats, fescue); panicles of spikelets, florets solitary (Panic grass, plume grass); spikes of spikelets in two rows (wild rye, barley); spikes of spikelets crowded around axis (Foxtail, Sweet vernal grass); spikes of spikelets on one side of axis (Bermuda grass, Goose grass); and paired spikelets, sessile and pedicellate (Broomsedge, Little bluestem, Maize). Following the presentation, there were questions about choices for lawn grass. Daune suggested that the county extension services are a good source for this kind of information.

Dr. Hayden will be teaching a continuing education class on grasses at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Sheldon, chapter secretary

**The Seventh Annual
Good Gardening Symposium
Enrich the Environment - Go Native!**

Saturday, March 14, 2009

8:45 AM -- 3:00 PM

Prince George High School

7801 Laurel Spring Road, Prince George, VA

"Virginia's Native Plants from the Mountains to the Sea"
Catharine Tucker, Virginia Native Plant Society

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"The Alien Invasion"

Controlling Invasive Trees and Shrubs and Developing a
Healthy Habitat

Jim and Denise Pilversack, Master Naturalists and Wildlife
Habitat Facilitators

~

"Invasives - In or Out of our Landscapes?"

Dierdre Roden, Master Gardener and Master Naturalist

~

"Creating a Butterfly Habitat with Native Plants"

Ruth Burch, Butterfly Society of Virginia

Symposium Registration fee: \$10

Box Lunch fee: \$8 (or you may bring your own)

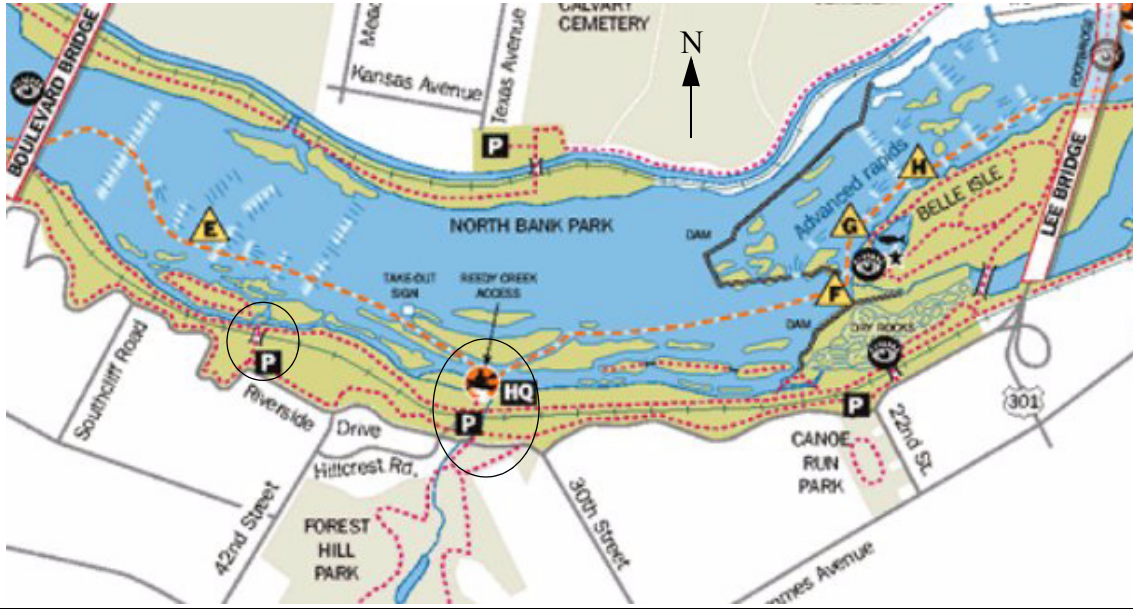
Registration forms available online at: www.vmga.net or
from the Prince George Extension Office, 6450
Administration Drive, Prince George, Virginia.
Call 804-733-2686 for more information

Registration opens February 2, 2009 - Space is Limited
Sponsored by the Prince George Master Gardeners

Direction to James River Park Headquarters and the 42nd St. Entrance:

Butterfly Garden at the Park Headquarters: Take Riverside Drive to the park entrance which is across from Hillcrest Rd. You can park in the parking area near the entrance and walk to the Headquarters building, or drive to the Headquarters building. Either way, cross the Railroad tracks, turn Right and continue to the Park headquarters building on the left. The butterfly garden is just past and beside the building

42nd Street Entrance: Take Riverside Drive to the 42nd Street Entrance which is between 42nd street and Southcliff Road. Look for the sign.



**Pocahontas Chapter
Virginia Native Plant Society
12565 Brook Lane
Chester, VA 23831**

