

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

February 2011

Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



February Meeting

Thursday February 3, 2011 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 Bignoniaceae”

by John Hayden, PhD

The Bignoniaceae, or Trumpet Creeper Family, is a family of flowering plants comprising about 650-750 species in 116-120 genera. Members of the family are mostly trees and shrubs, and more rarely lianas (*Podranea* and *Macfadyena*) and herbaceous plants in 116-120 genera. As shrubs, they are twine climbers or tendril climbers, and rarely root climbers. The family and its genus *Bignonia* was named after Jean-Paul Bignon by his protégé Joseph Pitton de Tournefort in 1694. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bignoniaceae>)

Chapter Events:

NOTICE: A member living in the far west end needs ride to meetings. Willing to meet at River Road Shopping Center. Call Pat Brodie for details. 266-3070

February 19: Saturday Field Trip: Late Winter Walk along the tow path of the Appomattox River Transportation Canal. We will meet in the parking lot in front of the Martin's store in Chester where route 10 crosses route 1/301 at 9:30. We will precede to Ferndale Park and observe first the blooming Skunk Cabbage in a swamp next to the river. We will then walk on the tow path and observe parts of the park which most people don't. Afterwards we can have lunch at restaurant in downtown Petersburg.

March 3: Chapter Meeting: Tara Quinn of the Capitol Region Land Conservancy. Tara will discuss the Conservancy and its programs. The Capital Region Land Conservancy is Central Virginia's only land trust dedicated solely to serving the City of Richmond and Chesterfield, Henrico, Hanover, Goochland, Powhatan, New Kent, and Charles City counties. Its mission is to promote the conservation of the capital region's historically significant land, scenic natural areas, and ecologically sensitive land, water, and wildlife resources. In its first five years, CRLC facilitated the conservation of over 4,500 acres of land, including over 30 miles of stream and river frontage. Protecting land in our region helps ensure safe drinking water, locally grown food, preservation of our historic resources and habitat for wildlife. For more information see their website at: <http://www.capitalregionland.org/>

March 5: The 2011 Annual Workshop will be at the University of Richmond on Saturday, March 5, 9:45 - 3:15 with a 45 minute break for lunch at 12:15. Registration, refreshments and coffee will be available at 9:15.

Please register early as the workshop has sold out the past three years. This workshop will focus on the world of plants from the ground down. Speakers are state geologist David Spears, Fairfax County Soil Scientist, Dan Schwartz, University of Richmond Soil Scientist, Dr. Amy Treonis and, last, but not least, Johnny Thompson, staff botanist for the VA division of Natural Heritage. The title for Johnny's talk is "Botany on the Slippery Slope: Shale Barrens."

Once again Pocahontas chapter will be responsible for the morning refreshments and ordering box lunches for the speakers at the VNPS Workshop. We need volunteers to help with getting supplies, set up, ordering, table arrangements and take down. If you would like to volunteer in any way please contact Daune Poklis by e-mail at daune@poklis.org or call 741-7838.

April 7: Chapter Meeting - Catharine Tucker - "Flowers of the Blue Ridge". There will be a field trip date to be announced to follow up Catharine's talk.

May: Annual Chapter Picnic and Field Trip - Date and location to be announced.

Of Interest:

Tree Seedlings: 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. Last week of shipping is the week of April 25, 2011. To see the catalog, prices and details go to www.BuyVirginiaTrees.com

Free to a Good Home: 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.

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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Landscape Management Seminar: The Piedmont Landscape Association (PLA) would like to invite you to its 28th Annual Landscape Management Seminar, to be held Thursday, February 10, 2011. Come to Charlottesville and hear Michael Dirr, Mark Weathington, and Douglas Tallamy (who is being sponsored by the Jefferson Chapter of the VNPS)...and hang around afterward for one of the best door prize giveaways in the industry! See http://www.piedmont-landscape.org/PLA_Seminars.html for more information.

Workshop on Sudden Oak Death in Wildland Forests: APHIS/National Plant Board P. ramorum Regulatory Program Review and USFS Framework for Sudden Oak Death in Wildland Forests, to be held Wednesday-Thursday, February 16-17, 2011 in Washington, DC. RSVP to Debbie Lee at dlee@resolv.org by Friday, January 7.

Free Calendar: The Alien Plant Working Group's Invasive Plant Calendar for 2011 is now available online for you to download & print. Take a look at it at <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/calendar.htm> It highlights this year's updated version of Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas. decline following fire.

Minutes of the January 6, 2011 Meeting of The Pocahontas Chapter of the VNPS

On January 6, 2011, President Ernest Wilson open the meeting at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens with announcements about future activities. A diverse program of slides taken by the members of the chapter followed. Members showed slides of autumn leaves in Richmond, Persian gardens, Southwest Virginia, Ellesmere Island in the Arctic, butterflies, Ethiopian mountains, and landscapes of eastern and western North American mountains - demonstrating the many different interests of our members and their widespread travel experiences. There was enough here to fill several programs.

January Field Trip

On a bright and beautiful but cool Saturday in the middle of January four members went on a walk in James River Park to identify trees from characteristics seen only in the winter. We used a key in Winter Tree Finder by M. T. and T. Watts. This is an inexpensive small book which can fit into one's pocket but yet is perfectly adequate for the task. We were able to identify approximately 17 species of trees and shrubs. A major surprise was how common the Hop Hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*) was in the uplands along the Buttermilk Trail. All the participants said they enjoyed the outing. Along the river, a Belted Kingfisher was flushed but in spite of much looking not many birds other than a flock of chickadees were observed.

Web site information forwarded from Daune Poklis.

I thought you and your members might be interested in an interactive version (using google maps) of the current USDA zone hardiness map at http://www.plantmaps.com/usda_hardiness_zone_map.php

There are also detailed interactive zone maps for each US State such as Virginia for example: <http://www.plantmaps.com/interactive-virginia-usda-plant-zone-hardiness-map.php>

There is a detailed zip code to zone search using the latest US postal service zips and giving the reader their zone down to the sub zone level (a or b). By entering your zip code you can also get first/last freeze, Heat Zones, drought conditions and annual climatology for your area.

You can also embed the zip to zone search in your website using the plantmaps widget at <http://www.plantmaps.com/hardiness-zone-zipcode-search-widget.php>

Interesting Plants

Cross Vine (*Bignonia capreolata*)

Cross vine is a Virginia native vine which can reach 50 feet or more long with showy yellow and orange red trumpet shaped flowers, 2 inches long and 1 1/2 inches across which hang in clusters of two to five. They are sometimes seen high in a tree, as the vine climbs by means



of tendrils. Claws at the end of its tendrils allow crossvine to cling to stone, bricks and fences without support. Leaves are opposite, 4–6 inches long by 2 inches wide, with a third leaflet modified into a tendril. Persistent, glossy, semi-evergreen leaves change from dark green in summer to reddish-purple in winter.



The blooms can vary from brick red with yellow throats to yellow with brick red throats to various combinations of these two colors to completely brick red. The flowers can be unscented or in my experience smell something like curry. They are a good nectar source

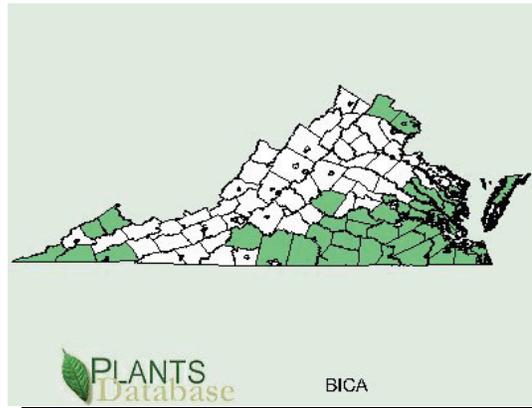
for hummingbirds. Bloom time is April-May.

The fruit is a brown pod 4-8 inches long containing brown winged seeds.

Cross vine grows under a wide variety of conditions and will spread by root sproutings, so if not managed can become invasive. Planted next to pine trees, along a fence or provide a trellis and the vine will climb to find sunlight. It will do well in filtered shade to full sun but flowers best in full sun. The vine is drought tolerant and has no pest problems.

From: http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=bica

The natural range of Cross vine in Virginia is shown below:



Left: Seed pod. Photo <http://hiddencovenature.com>
Above: Individual seeds. Photo <http://sparkleberrysprings.com>

The related trumpet creeper (*Campsis radicans*) is similar, but climbs with ivylike aerial roots instead of tendrils and blooms later in the summer. Plant the two together, and you and the hummingbirds will have flame colored tubular flowers from which to feed from early spring and throughout the summer.

From: http://www.floridata.com/ref/b/bignon_c.cfm



Trumpet creeper.

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