

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Spiderwort

(*Tradescantia virginiana*)

February 2013



Chapter Meeting

Saturday, February 9, 2013 at 11:15 AM

At the Education and Library Complex of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in the Lab

The February meeting is changed from Thursday to Saturday, February 9 to allow everyone to attend the special presentation at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden Artist Lecture: *Under-story* with Jackie Bailey Labovitz at 10 - 11 am. Photographer Jackie Bailey Labovitz discusses her fascination with the natural world and the process by which she produced *Under-story*, an exhibit of native wildflower photographs. "Lady's slippers," writes Jack Sanders, author of *The Secrets of Wildflowers*, "are among those special wildflowers whose locations are whispered only to trusted people." Without a whisper, Jackie Bailey Labovitz began her relentless search for the rare exotic woodland orchids. Join Jackie as she shares tales of what happened along the way hiking day in and day out with one lens, one camera, in natural light just beneath the forest canopy. Jackie's web site provides an excellent sample of her beautiful photographs. This is a presentation you won't want to miss. See <http://www.baileylabovitz.com/jblportfolio/home.htm>. The Lecture is **Free for VNPS and LBGB members**. Call to register at 262-9887 x230 to reserve a seat or register on-line at www.lewisginter.org.



Afterward, make plans to stay and join VNPS members as they assist garden staff with invasive Chinese Privet removal behind Bloemendaal.

Following our meeting and a quick break for BYO lunch, everyone is invited -- even urged -- to stay and help with the removal of invasive privet on the creek banks at the edge of the Garden. We'll begin at 12:30 PM. We'll work until we get tired or finish, whichever comes first.

Pocahontas Chapter Programs 2013

- March 7 **Chapter Meeting:** "Lichens of Virginia at the University of Richmond Herbarium" presented by Dr. John Hayden and Michelle Ferrell.
- March 16 (Saturday) - **The VNPS Winter Workshop** at the University of Richmond. Save the date and plan to register. Our chapter will provide the continental breakfast, coffee, tea and morning refreshments. This will be an opportunity to meet, greet and display our activities to members from other chapters.
- April 4 **Chapter Meeting:** Hal Horwitz Wildflowers across America
- April 20 **Buffalo Creek Nature Area Field Trip.** Join Pocahontas Chapter on a field trip to Buffalo Creek Nature Area on April 20th, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Plan to pack a lunch and water, and meet the group at the Old Stony Point Fashion Park at Forest Hill Avenue and Huguenot Road. We will meet at the mail boxes in front of the McDonald's and carpool. Riders will help with travel expenses. Buffalo Creek Nature Area is known for its nearly 100 hundred species of spring wild flowers, which bloom within a two-week space in late April and early May. The Virginia Native Plant Society has named it a Virginia Native Plant Registry Site. The area is also noted for a hemlock stand growing outside its common range and dating to the mid-1800s. Westvaco manages Buffalo Creek Nature Area,

visited by about 70,000 people each year. The site is located near Evington, Virginia, which is a 2 ½ drive from Richmond.

Ruby Jane Robertson and Irene Caperton are organizing the trip and have selected an early date since last year's bloom at Buffalo Creek was earlier than normal. Please contact us by April 13th if you plan to participate by emailing idcaperton@verizon.net. We hope that you'll join us and share a beautiful spring experience.

May 4 Chapter Picnic At a new park on the North bank of the James River near Rt. 522. More details coming soon.

President's Message:

We have some interesting chapter activities planned. The chapter meeting February 9 will follow the special presentation by wildflower photographer Jackie Bailey Labovitz at the Garden. Read more about that in the meeting announcement. Our first work day to remove privet along the creek at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden is scheduled for Saturday afternoon, February 9. Participating in this activity is part of our contribution to the Garden in return for reduced cost of our meeting room. Besides, it will be fun to work together and see progress in this neglected wooded area.

March 16 is the date for the VNPS Winter Workshop. Registration is scheduled to begin February 16, so get yours in as soon as possible. If you have volunteered to help with our plans to host the event, remember that you still need to register to attend the talks.

Field trip planning still needs some folks to volunteer to help with ideas and planning. We're looking forward to hearing about Virginia's lichens in March and seeing Hall's gorgeous photos in April.

By April we may have forgotten what a crazy hot-cold winter we're having! Here in Hanover, I found two forsythia blooms down near the ground this week, and my iris are eight inches high. Buds were swelling until this week, so I'm hoping they won't freeze. This reminds me of Project Budburst which I've mentioned in our meetings a couple of times. Similar to the Great Backyard Bird Count or Feeder Watch projects which gather data on birds, Project Budburst is an opportunity for individuals to add to the body of data about plants. Some of

the plants especially targeted for data are forsythia, bluebells, may apples and columbine. These are species we see often in our gardens or nearby woods. Check out the project description and see more details on the web site. I hope you'll find this an interesting way to focus your observations and help add to national data as well.

Project Budburst: From this web site (<http://budburst.org/>): "Every plant tells a story. Whether you have an afternoon, a few weeks, a season, or a whole year, you can make an important contribution to a better understanding of changing climates. Project BudBurst is a network of people across the United States who monitor plants as the seasons change and submit ecological data based on the timing of leafing, flowering, and fruiting of plants. If you would like to make a meaningful contribution to understanding environmental change, join our rapidly growing community today! We are looking forward to learning more about the stories your plants can tell." What can your plants tell? Register, choose a plant to watch - in your yard, in a park. Choose a tree, shrub or garden plant, native or not. The Project Budburst web site Make one-time observations or regular observations throughout the season and submit your data. Even if you don't collect and log data, check out the newsletter and postings from other people around the country.

Catharine

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

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Chapter Website

pocahontaschapter-vnps.org

Minutes of the Pocahontas Chapter Meeting, Jan 3, 2013

There were 29 persons in attendance. Meeting began with Catharine Tucker asking for introductions and welcoming new visitors.

Catharine introduced this evening's speaker: John Roberts, a 10 year member of our chapter.

John has a passion for wilderness travel, leads paddling trips, and has visited most continents and over 40 countries. His topic tonight is Beringia Wilderness: Wild Water and Wildflowers.

John started his presentation by sharing three books he frequently references during his travels:

Barren Land Beauties: Showy Plants of the Canadian Arctic by Page Burt,

A Naturalist's Guide to the Arctic by E.C. Pielou

After the Ice Age: The Return of Life to Glaciated North America by E.C. Pielou.

John showed a geographic and geologic history of Beringia, then proceeded to share an array of stunning photos taken during recent travels of that region. Visitors enjoyed images of stunning landscapes, native artifacts, and of course lots of wildlife. Birds pictured included Northern Wheateater and Northern Shrike. Mammals shown included Saiga Antelope and Brooks Range Caribou and of course diverse tundra wildflowers including lousewort, death camus, twinflower, cloud berries, cottongrass and fireweed.

General Meeting:

Flora of Virginia: The Flora of Virginia is now in print and available. An online digitized version is planned and fundraising is underway. To obtain your copy of the Flora, contact Richard Moss to purchase a copy through the Pocahontas Chapter.

The Pocahontas Chapter voted to gift one copy of the Flora to the Herbarium in honor of John Hayden.

Note: please scan your copy of the Flora to ensure it is printed correctly (no missing pages, etc.)

Winter Workshop March 16: The Winter Workshop will be at the University of Richmond Gottwald Center for the Sciences. This year's workshop will focus on the Virginia Piedmont. Speakers include R. Tim Spira and Chris Ludwig. The Pocahontas Chapter hosts this event each year. Members are encouraged to volunteer to help set-up at 8:30 a.m. and take down between 3 – 4 p.m. Approximately 10 people volunteered to help this day. Registration opens February 16 and typically sells out. Volunteers should be sure to pre-register to ensure a seat for themselves as well.

Field Trip Reports: Thursday, April 25: Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation is offering a Wildflower Pilgrimage to Hike the Buffalo Creek Trail to reap the bounty of spring wildflowers. Registered with the Virginia Native Plant Registry, this 125-acre nature area is graced with an abundance of wildflowers. Bring a packed lunch. Departs from Rockwood Nature Center, 3401 Courthouse Road. \$32, Transportation provided. Course #26613. Space is limited. Register by calling 748-1623.

Please consider coordinating a field trip for the chapter. Catharine will be away most of May and June and so consider this your call to contribute to chapter activities. If you have field trip destination recommendations, please email members of the Board with your suggestions. Consider serving as a field trip leader. Your responsibilities would include welcoming participants, organizing the trip and handling details. Extensive botanical knowledge not required; just a willingness to be the point of contact for participants.

Other field trips of interest: Daune Poklis reminds us that the Friends of Dragon Run are offering guided kayak trips starting April 6th and running (as long as water levels allow) until May 10. Your fee / donation includes kayak rental. Spaces are very limited and, being very popular, trip spaces are already filling up fast. Visit <http://www.dragonrun.org/> for details. To sign up: contact Martha Graham by e-mail (preferred) mgr8040@verizon.net or phone (757)-898-8040.

Blooming Reports: Skunk Cabbage, Forsythia and others seem to be two weeks earlier than typically seen. If you are interested in tracking flower blooming dates: Project BudBurst is a network of people across the United States who monitor plants as the seasons change and submit ecological data based on the timing of leafing,

flowering, and fruiting of plants. If you would like to make a meaningful contribution to understanding environmental change, consider visiting budburst.org for more information.

Change in Feb. meeting date

NOTE: There is no meeting scheduled on the first Thursday this month. Instead the meeting has been changed to Saturday, February 9th at 10 am (this month only) to take advantage of a special opportunity at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden.

Photographer Jackie Bailey Labovitz will discuss her fascination with the natural world and the process by which she produced Under-story, an exhibit of native wildflower photographs. Join Jackie as she shares tales of what happened along the way hiking day in and day out with one lens, one camera, in natural light just beneath the forest canopy. 10 am at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Call the registrar at 262-9887 x230 to reserve a seat or register on-line at www.lewisginter.org

Afterward, make plans to stay and join VNPS members as they assist garden staff with invasive Chinese Privet removal behind Bloemendaal.

Future Meetings:

March meeting is March 7th at 7pm.

The Pocahontas Chapter Annual Picnic is tentatively scheduled for the first Saturday in May, (May 4th) at a new park on the North bank of the James River near Rt. 522. More details coming soon.

Note: The 2013 membership list is incomplete; a supplement will go out by email.

Respectfully submitted by Kristi Orcutt

**Pocahontas Chapter
Virginia Native Plant Society
12565 Brook Lane
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