

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Tradescantia virginiana

February 2014



**Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM,
February 6, 2014**

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

**The room is available at 6:30, come early and Socialize
Our Speaker will be Daune Poklis who will present “VNPS Trip to
the Smokies”**

Experience the Smoky Mountains in spring with native plant and scenic photographs by Daune Poklis, who participated in a Virginia Native Plant Society sponsored field trip to the Great Smoky Mountain National Park last April.



Pocahontas Chapter Programs - Winter - Spring 2013

- March 1 VNPS Workshop at U. of R. –Topic Climate Change. Pocahontas Chapter will provide a continental breakfast and be responsible for box lunches for the speakers as in the past. The program will be held in the Jepson Center which is a larger venue but more difficult for us to set up. We will need lots of volunteers to help with set up and take down. **Contact Rubyjane Robertson at rubyjane1@aol.com if you can help.** Don't forget that to attend the workshop, you must register!
- Mar 6 Emily Gianfortoni, Pocahontas Chapter member, will present: *Challenges of Replacing Exotic Plants with Natives in a Suburban Yard*.
- Apr 3 *Botany 2013: Into the Bayou and Beyond*, presented by Deanna Dong and W. John Hayden, University of Richmond.
- May Picnic at Amelia County Wildlife Management Area

Other events of interest:

The Winter workshop will be held on March 1, 2014 at the University of Richmond Jepson center. The topic is Climate. Registration information is at: <http://vnps.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/2014WSbroch2.pdf>.

Once again the Pocahontas Chapter will be responsible for morning refreshments and speaker lunches. Anyone interested in helping please contact Rubyjane Robertson at rubyjane1@aol.com. Don't forget that to attend the workshop, you must register!

Message from Catharine Tucker

Days are longer; sunrise wakes me earlier. Despite the cold, I have found a few signs that spring is coming. Other folks have reported some also. The plants in the woods here in Hanover seem to be surviving the cold quite well with only a few buds beginning to swell on the tulip poplar seedlings and wilted fronds on the Christmas ferns and Ebony spleen-wort. Heartleaf ginger is sending up a tentative shoot under the leaves. The native plants have long ago adapted to all the temperature ups and downs that are normally part of winter in central Virginia, in spite of the rather extreme swings we've experienced this winter.

But the non-natives are confused. Walking out in the warm sun today, I found forsythia buds showing a few green leaf tips and yellow petals. The multiflora rose, that I can't quite bring myself to eradicate completely

because of the lovely fragrance, is sending out tiny new leaves to spite the cold and snow. A few jonquils are poking up below the leaf cover. They'll all get their noses frosted next week, I suspect.

Watching for the signs of spring, whether it's birds starting to sing on a warm afternoon or finding skunk cabbage, is more fun the more you learn. That learning process, regardless of the level at which you begin, is what keeps us interested in the Virginia Native Plant Society. I hope your interest will lead you to join other chapter members in chapter activities, even helping with some of the work that keeps the chapter functioning.

Interesting programs are scheduled for the next three months and there are ideas for projects and programs to carry forward into next fall. Two people have offered to schedule and lead the work days at Lewis Ginter, and these will begin soon, depending on reasonable weather. The project to remove invasive plants, mostly periwinkle, honeysuckle and English ivy, from the creek bank in the Garden is one of the ways we pay for the use of our meeting room.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

Catharine Tucker, President Pro Tem

Our Chapter Officers have completed their terms and have either declined to serve another term or are now working on overtime.

Our Chapter is in danger of collapsing at the end of the April meeting without volunteers to provide leadership.

Please step forward to help. No one need do more than one of these tasks. Here's the minimum we need:

- Conduct meetings.
- Ensure the speaker is reminded of the date, time, location of meeting & has required equipment.
- Introduce the speaker at meetings.
- Take minutes at meetings.
- Keep our membership roll up to date using information from the state office.
- Schedule work days at the Garden
- Collect ideas for field trips for chapter.

Contact any of last year's officers to volunteer or learn more about the tasks.

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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Chapter Website
pocahontaschapter-vnps.org

Minutes of the Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS Meeting, January 9, 2014

Approximately 20 people attended the January 9 meeting at Glen Allen Public Library. Chapter member, Beth Farmer, presented a well-illustrated, well-received program on Landscaping with Native Plants. Her suggestions for blooms or garden color in every season and ideas for attracting pollinators drew rapt attention and several questions.

During the business meeting, there were no minutes from previous meetings. Treasurer Richard Moss reported a balance of \$4,922.14 with no outstanding bills.

President Tucker reiterated that chapter officers are working on overtime and need relief. She noted that this Chapter is in danger of collapsing at the end of the April meeting without officers to provide leadership. She will continue to work to find volunteers.

Minutes of the state board meeting last December included the following announcements:

- The Winter Workshop on the topic of Plants and Climate Change will be held at University of Richmond on March 1. Registration should be open by at least 2/16/14.
[NOTE: Flyers were received in the mail around January

20.] The workshop will be open to students this year, and a larger auditorium is reserved. John Hayden has been authorized to arrange for professional video recording of the speakers' presentations.

- Pocahontas Chapter is again hosting the refreshments. RubyJane Robertson is chairing the committee of volunteers to order & pick up refreshments for 120 people, set up tables with cloths, hang the chapter banner, and arrange for tables for other chapters. Several more people volunteered at this meeting.
- The statewide mail solicitation for the 2013 Annual Fund Raiser to support the Flora of VA educational exhibit to be launched in March raised around \$8500 [as of Dec 6]. When Bland Crowder notified the Library of Virginia of this amount, they were thrilled. Donations are still welcomed.

Following discussion of how this chapter could contribute to the Flora projects, Hal Horwitz moved, seconded by Suzanne Jenkins, to contribute \$100 to the Flora Education Project at the Library of Virginia and an additional \$100 to ongoing efforts to digitize the Flora. Suzanne proposed an amendment to increase the amount to \$200 each which Hal accepted. The motion was approved by voice vote without objection. This will be implemented by the President and the Treasurer.

The next meeting is Thursday, February 6, at 6:30 pm at our usual room at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Daune Poklis will describe her trip to the Smokies in Spring 2013.

Winter Observations



This Skunk Cabbage

(*Symplocarpus foetidus*), growing in Surry County started to bloom at the end of December. The picture above taken on December 20, 2013 shows several flower buds emerging.

In the left photo, taken January 16, 2014, after the first January cold spell, the original flower has been severely damaged (the brown flower on the right), but 2 new flowers were coming up.

The status of these flowers after the second cold spell has not been determined yet, due to snow cover.

Black Mushroom

This mushroom has been appearing in my yard every January for at least the last 10 years. The picture on the left was taken on December 31, 2004 and the picture on the right taken this January. They grow to about 1 to 1.5 inches tall, and as they age, the black skin on the stem tends to peel off. Anyone know what they are?

Richard Moss



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