

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

March 2005



Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)

MARCH MEETING

Thursday, March, 3, 2005 at 7:00 PM
Breakout Room in the Education and Library Complex
of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens

This month we will discuss recent and future field trips and the upcoming elections.

CHAPTER NEWS

The February field trip was to Catherine Tucker family's property in Hanover County. We walked through a mature park like forest (photo 1 & 2) with large beech (photo 4) and oak trees to a small stream with steep banks, sections of which were lined with mosses and other evergreen plants (photo 5), including evergreen wild ginger and liverwort (photo 6). On the way down to the stream we saw patches of club moss and the remains of beechdrops. (Photo 7 is of beechdrops in the summer.) After we crossed the stream we went uphill towards an area which had been logged some years ago and could compare the open forest of the mature unlogged forest with the more brushy understory of the logged area. As an example compare photo 2 with photo 3. Photo 3 is of a non-mature forest in Chesterfield County which was farmland about 60 years ago. Note the openness and lack of understory plants in the mature forest. We thoroughly enjoyed walking through this magnificent forest!



Minutes of the February 3, 2005 meeting of the Pocahontas Chapter of the VNPS

The Meeting was called to order by Peggy Furqueron, Secretary, in the absence of Dean Walton, President. Attendance was low because of the snowstorm earlier that day but those that did attend were treated to a wonderful chocolate cake with raspberry sauce that can work for three different holidays: Valentine’s Day, Christmas and Halloween.

Old Business: Peggy Furqueron was to inquire on the need at Three Lakes Nature Center for three native plant gardeners. She called the center and found that they were closed indefinitely so the chapter will not be able to volunteer with them at this time. Catherine Tucker told the group that the building that housed the nature center and aquarium was completely destroyed by the flooding from Tropical Storm Gaston.

Duane Poklis gave an update on the booth at the Maymont Flower and Garden Show. Most of the spots have been filled. There will be lots of handouts for the public including an updated list of nurseries that sell native plant species.

Judy Shelton is in charge of the refreshments at the annual workshop and she may need some help so volunteers should call her for assignments.

Elections need to be held this year. Richard Moss will get a current membership list from Pat Brodie, Membership chairperson. The slate of officers will be printed in the March newsletter and the ballots will be mailed out with the April newsletter. People can e-mail or mail their ballots to Noreen Cullen at 549 Glenmeadow Rd., Midlothian, Va 23114 e-mail at ncullen@richmond.edu.

New Business: Noreen Cullen announced the Banff Film Festival will be on March 12 at 6:30 pm at Monacan High School. She recommends that people come early because it is usually well attended and it is free.

Field Trips:

- February 19 Trip to Catherine Tucker’s family forest, meet at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden at 9:30 am to car pool to the site in Hanover County. Pack a lunch.
- March 19 Trip to York River State Park, meet at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden at 9:00 am to car pool to the site. Kristi Orcutt will see if she can get one of the naturalists at the park to guide the nature walk. Pack a lunch.
- April 16 or 17 Tentative Trip to Hardware River with Catherine Tucker leading the nature walk
- May 7 Annual picnic, Ferndale Park on the Appomattox river, nature walk on the canal tow path.

The newsletter still is nameless. It is suggested that nominations for the newsletter name be put on the ballot with the officer slate and be voted on. The person whose nomination wins will receive free membership dues for a year.

Meeting Adjourned.

Program: The videotape “Spring Wildflowers of the Mid-Atlantic Region” was shown for the program. The tape was full of very interesting facts on wildflowers in our region and had wonderful photographs to illustrate the wildflowers. Poison ivy was exported to Europe throughout much of the 19th century as a medicinal plant.

Submitted by Peggy Furqueron, Secretary

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

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Richard Moss, Editor
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VNPS Website - www.vnps.org

ELECTION OF CHAPTER OFFICERS

The following slate of officers for the Chapter has been proposed:

President	Kristi Orcutt
Vice President.....	Daune Poklis
Secretary	Peggy Furqueron
Treasurer	Bucci Zeugner

Ballots will mailed out in the April Newsletter and should be returned to Noreen Cullen at 549 Glenmeadow Rd., Midlothian, VA 23114, or e-mailed to ncullen@richmond.edu.

Any questions can be directed to Noreen.

Native Plant of the Month

Hazel Alder (*Alnus serrulata*)



Description: Hazel or Tag Alder is a common small tree or large shrub in the birch family of streamsid es and wetlands. It can grow 15 to 20 feet tall, has alternate leaves, elliptical in shape with finely toothed margins. The flowers appear in late winter before the leaves, have separate sexes, the male flowers in long, drooping yellowish catkins, and the female flowers tiny, red, at the tips of branches. The fruits ripen in late fall and persist throughout the winter, looking a bit like miniature pine cones.

Landscape Use: Useful in very wet areas where little else will grow, forms a thick, shrubby screen.

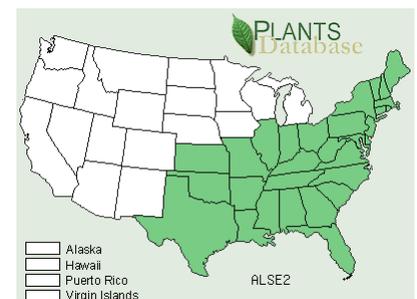
Coastal Ecology: This alder is a Facultative Wetland species. It is found in wet areas and along slow moving creeks. It is not found on the sandy dunes nor is it tolerant of salt spray. It is a deciduous shrub to small tree, with stalked dormant leaf buds. The clustered male flowers are yellow, dangling structures which liberate yellow pollen. The female flowers are clusters of small, bright red structures at the tip of the twigs which mature in the fall to reddish, conelike structures that liberate the seeds, then persist into the following growing season as blackish cones which have already liberated their seeds. The tiny green catkins at the tip of the stem are the preformed male flowers, which will mature early the following spring.

Hazel alder is found throughout Virginia and the US Range is from Texas to Maine.

Reference: <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/factsheets/maritime/Alnusse.htm>



Range of *Alnus serrulata* in the US.



**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**

