

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE
VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

March 2006

Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



March Meeting

Thursday March 2, 2006, 7:00 PM

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

Our Speaker will be
Ernest Wilson

Who Will Present a Program on “Spring Ephemerals”

Chapter News and Upcoming Events

VNPS Annual Workshop SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2006

PLANTING THE WILD: LINKS BETWEEN CULTIVATION AND CONSERVATION
Gottwald Hall, University of Richmond

10am to 3pm (registration and coffee at 9am. **Registration form is in the February VNPS Bulletin**)

Program: Stanwyn Shetler, Botanist Emeritus at the Smithsonian Institution, will open with “What is the Wild”. Rick Myers, Natural Areas Stewardship Program Manager at the DCR Division of Natural Heritage, will speak on “Virginia’s Natural Area Preserves and Their Management”. Bill Brumback, Conservation Director of the New England Wild Flower Society, will present “Evolution of a Conservationist: A Propagator’s Journey”

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#### VNPS Annual Meeting - SAVE THIS WEEKEND: September 23-24, 2006

The Shenandoah Chapter is hosting the annual VNPS meeting this fall. It is a weekend event which includes full day and half-day field trips on Saturday, an annual meeting with a speaker and dinner Saturday evening and half-day field trips on Sunday. More information later.

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Volunteer Opportunities in *Herbarium Virginicum* - the Combined Herbarium of LGBG and VCU

An herbarium is a collection of scientific specimens of dried, pressed plants mounted on stiff sheets, labeled (with scientific name, collection locality, habitat, date, and collector), and used in basic botanical research (e.g., taxonomy, nomenclature, ecology, and geography). *Herbarium Virginicum* represents roughly 20,000 specimens of native, introduced, and cultivated plants from the Southeastern US and from the grounds of the LGBG.

Volunteers are needed for any of the following activities: mounting specimens, printing specimen labels, organizing and filing specimens, data entry, digital imaging, internet design. Most tasks are “light clerical” in nature, and require little or no formal training. The few necessary skills can be easily learned. Benefits of this type of work include learning about plant names, plant morphology (shapes, colors, etc.), plant groups (species, families, etc.), and the geographic distributions of local and cultivated plants. The herbarium is a pleasant, well-lit, air-conditioned

atmosphere suitable for those looking for indoor opportunities to serve the Garden. Contact Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens for more information at 262-9887 or e-mail Volunteers@Lewisginter.org.

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**Volunteers Needed for Plant Inventory in a New Nature Park:** The Pocahontas Chapter has a unique opportunity to participate in the environmental planning of a newly proposed nature park in Hanover called March Park. It is located off Jamestown and Woodside Lane, abutting the Town of Ashland. A public interest organization, Hanover Naturally, Inc. with the Hanover Parks and Recreation Department have asked Robert Wright to spearhead natural resources inventory in the park this year. As part of the inventory, an effort to document all the plants and plant habitats in the park will be undertaken on Action Days. These are proposed for April 29th, rain date April 30 and May 27th, rain or shine. Summer and fall season dates for inventories will be announced later.

This park is composed of a mosaic of wooded and edge habitats and creek bottoms that promises to support an interesting and surprisingly diverse flora. Hopefully Richmond Audubon will be joining us for additional birding and inventory work. The assistance of the Virginia Herpetological Society, Richmond Naturalists Club and others are being recruited to help out in this community-based effort.

This is a great opportunity for members to get real hands-on experience in “uncharted waters” to help develop, brush up or hone plant identification skills, and to learn and/or better appreciate how environmental planning processes work at the local level. Information gathered by the inventory team will be used for trail layouts, preservation and management decisions, and as a basis for further scientific studies.

All those interested in this important project or for more information can contact Robert Wright via e-mail at [robertwright\\_1@hotmail.com](mailto:robertwright_1@hotmail.com) or can call me at 703.425.8924 (home) during evening hours.

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American Horticultural Society Garden School on Native Plants

Join the American Horticultural Society (AHS) for the first of its 2006 Garden Schools, *Gardening with Native Plants*, on April 6 & 7 at its headquarters at River Farm in Alexandria, Virginia. Participants will learn about many of the beautiful grasses, perennials, trees, and shrubs that are native to North America and how to design with them.

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	Kristi Orcutt
Vice President	Daune Poklis
Secretary	Peggy Furqueron
Treasurer	Bucci Zeugner
Membership Chair	Pat Brodie

Address all correspondence to
Richard Moss, Editor
12565 Brook Lane
Chester, VA 23831
mossrd@mindspring.com
VNPS Website - www.vnps.org

Minutes for the Feb. 2, 2006 Meeting of the Pocahontas Chapter of the VNPS

Kristi Orcutt, President, opened the meeting. She asked the members to share some of the plants that they have seen blooming in the area over the last few weeks. Kristi reported that the skunk cabbage at Ferndale Park on the Appomattox River was blooming and Richard Moss said the witch hazel on a friends property in Surry County was blooming in December. Other species mentioned were bittercress, henbit, mouse ear chickweed, winter jasmine, grape holly, flowering quince, forsythia, and daffodils.

Peggy Furqueron reported on the February field trip to Caledon Nature Area on February 20. The group will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the North Park Library off of Parham Road. To sign up call Peggy at 285-0579. The March field trip will be to the Brown and Williamson Nature area. This is a Thursday. Members should meet at the Chesterfield County Courthouse at 8:30 a.m. Call Kristi at 790-1295 to sign-up. The April field trip will be to Monticello and will cost \$10.00 for a guided wildflower walk. There will be a sign-up sheet at the March meeting for those wanting to attend.

The Maymont Flower and Garden Show is February 8-12. Daune still needs volunteers for the Friday night 5:30-8:00 p.m. shift and the Saturday morning 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. shift. Volunteers receive a free pass for the day and free shuttle transportation from the Diamond parking area.

The annual workshop will be on March 11 at University of Richmond. Fliers are available to publicize the event. The organizers are hoping to have 70 people attend.

Both Chesterfield and Henrico Parks and Recreation are having an adventure lecture series. These lectures are free; please call the county offices for the times and schedules.

Judy Shelton went to the Audubon Society meeting in January that featured the speaker from the League of Conservation Voters. Some of the bills that are before the General Assembly that are of interest to VNPS members are extending the sunset date on the invasive species council, House bill 402. The invasive species council gives advice to government and business on invasive plants. The speaker reminded everyone that their representatives do listen to them so it is important to speak up and let them know how they feel on these issues. There is a website that tracks the progress of all of the bills submitted to the General Assembly; it is <http://capwiz.com/violative/min/signup/>.

John Roberts reported that the Sierra Club is sponsoring an eradication of the English Ivy at the James River State Park in Richmond. Those interested in helping meet at the wetlands off Landry Drive from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on February 15, Wednesday. This will be an on going project so call John at 329-0812 for more information and future dates. Bring loppers, mattocks, garden shears, and gloves.

The Virginia Society of Naturalists will have a meeting Feb. 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the Science Museum. The presentation will be on tiger beetles. On February 13, Dr. John Hayden will be speaking on his research involving the plants of the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico. The lecture will be at 4:00 p.m. at the lecture hall of the Gottwald Science Center at the University of Richmond.

Program: Pat Brody gave a wonderful slide presentation of her trip to the Bruce Peninsula in Canada with the Virginia Native Plant Society. Pat and her husband flew up to Ontario, a 4 hour flight instead of the 2 day trip that their fellow travelers had. The Bruce Peninsula is on Lake Huron and has many species of plants found only at this site. Pat had many beautiful slides to show of the many different plants that they observed on this trip. She also had a handout of websites that talk about the Bruce Peninsula. For a special treat, everyone who attended the lecture received a card that Pat had made with a picture of the lovely calypso orchid that she had taken on the Bruce Peninsula. She makes her holiday cards using wildflower pictures from her travels during the year. After the lecture, Pat had a display of these cards for sale with the money going to the Flora of Virginia project. The lecture made everyone eager to attend the next trip sponsored by VNPS.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Peggy Furqueron, Secretary

Learn the Basics of Plant Survey and Practice Plant Identification

The Piedmont Chapter of VNPS has been contacted by member Bruce Jones owner of 88 acres of land in Rappahannock County about conducting a plant survey in exchange for a donation to the Flora of Virginia Project. After some discussion, it was decided that this would be an opportunity to learn the basics of plant survey and practice identification, while helping a landowner and also contributing to the Flora. Marion Lobstein, Associate Professor of Biology, NVCC-Manassas, has agreed to do a teaching session for participants at 10:30 in the morning of the first survey date, April 1, 2006. Lunch will be provided, and then we will form teams and begin work on the survey in the afternoon.

There will be additional survey dates set in early May, mid June and August in the hope that we will be able to identify additional plants more easily as they come into bloom. More instruction will be provided at each session as needed. While we can't expect everyone to make all of the dates, we would appreciate participation in several sessions if possible. A checklist will be developed prior to the survey as a guideline for what we can expect to find.

The Piedmont Chapter is extending an invitation to all VNPS members who are interested in participating in the survey. We feel like it will be good experience, and may enable us to provide this service to other landowners in our chapter area, and we thought other chapters might also like to be able to do this. Right now we are not limiting the number of participants, but we need you to sign up in advance.

No prior experience is needed. Any extra pair of eyes will be a help. We will ask you to bring your favorite identification book and a lens if you have them, and a notebook and pen. You can brush up on identification skills, learn names, press specimens, take notes or photographs, or just look for and point out new plants.

For addition information or to sign up to participate, please contact: e-mail [Sally Anderson rccsa@visuallink.com](mailto:Sally.Anderson@visuallink.com) or phone 540-722-3072 e-mail [Bruce Jones bsjonz@direcway.com](mailto:Bruce.Jones@direcway.com) or phone 540-675-3152

**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**

