

purchase them. He began by instructing about the terminal bud, lateral bud, leaf scar, lenticels, vein scar, bud scale scar and pith features we would need to understand in order to use the key. Twigs we identified using the key were hickory, sycamore, sweet gum and tulip poplars, all of which have distinctive scents. Ernest and Catherine will lead our group on a winter botany field trip on Saturday in Hanover County on property, described as mature hardwood forest, belonging to Catherine Tucker.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Sheldon, chapter secretary

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## Field Trip to Catherine Tucker's Property

The February field trip was a winter tree identification lesson given by Catherine Tucker and was the follow-up to the February meeting talk on tree identification given by Ernest Wilson.

Catherine's property has not been logged in more than 100 years, if ever, and is a mature forest. Mature forests, as seen below, tend to be very open since much of the understory shrubby plants have been shaded out by large trees.



Catherine giving an overview of her forest to our group.



The Forest. Note the open, park-like appearance.



Another view of the forest. Note the large hornet's nest in the middle of the photo.



A close-up of the hornet's nest.  
No hornets were apparent.

Our group wishes to thank Catharine for opening her property to us and leading the "in the field" field trip of winter tree identification. We all learned something and some of us learned a lot! Also, thanks to Ernest Wilson for donating his speaker honorarium for the "classroom" portion of the Winter tree id back to the chapter.

## Chapter Officer Nomination Notice for This Fall's Elections

The nominating committee has nominated the following for Pocahontas officer positions for the 2008-09 year:

President - Daune Poklis

Vice president - Ernest Wilson

Secretary - Judy Sheldon

Treasurer - Richard Moss

For comments or suggestions for other nominees, please contact Daune Poklis at (804) 741-7838 or [daune@poklis.org](mailto:daune@poklis.org)

- to the Native Plant Sale. Lunch included with registrations received before March 22. Fee: \$85 (\$68 FONA). For full program details and registration see: <http://www.usna.usda.gov/Education/events.html>
- March 29 VNPS-SHRC Plant Sale 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Virginia Native Plant Society- South Hampton Roads Chapter Plant Sale and Gathering of the Guilds, Francis Land House, 3131 Virginia Beach Blvd., Virginia Beach.
- March 29 Ernest Wilson will lead a walk along the James River Park North, Bank trail to view spring ephemerals including Trout Lilies, Glamour Ragwort, Spring Beauty, and VA Bluebells. We will meet at Texas Court (4 blocks east of the end of Meadow St. at 10:00AM
- Apr. 3 **April Meeting:** Pat Brodie - The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, TX.
- April 17-19 Celebrate Trilliums! Mt. Cuba Center, Wilmington, Delaware. This two-day conference (and optional third-day field trip) brings together academic and industry professionals, as well as expert gardeners, to address the science, conservation, and horticulture of trilliums of Eastern North America. Attendees will gain an understanding of the biology of trilliums, their ecology, conservation challenges, and issues impacting their propagation and production. Colleagues with a wide range of expertise will join us to share ideas and information to further our understanding of this intriguing genus. Schedule and session descriptions: <http://trilliumsymposium2008.org/>, registration information: <http://trilliumsymposium2008.org/registration.html>
- April 19 Ernest Wilson will lead a Ferndale Park walk. We Will leave the North Park Library at 10:00am and carpool to the Ukrops in Chester (like we have done before) and all leave from there at 10:30
- Apr. 20 LGBG Children's Garden - Spring Fling (#1 of 4 day activities at LGBG) corn/squash/bean seed planting in cups.
- May 3 Field trip to Forest Hill Park. Meet at 10:00 in the James River Park Headquarters parking lot.
- May 10 **Picnic and Tree/Plant ID Field trip--** James River Park, 42nd St. entrance. Eat then walk along the Buttermilk trail.
- May 24 Pocahontas at LGBG children's garden: Good Green fun (#2) - Making clay pots with plant decorations/tools
- July 18-21 The Native Orchid Conference is holding its 7th annual Meeting July 18-21, 2008 at West Virginia university, Morgantown, WV. Registration information available at [http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/Native Orchid Conference](http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/Native%20Orchid%20Conference). Contact Daune Poklis for more information.
- Sept. 27 LGBG Children's Garden-Good Green Fun (#3) - Seasons, cordage, mats
- Sept. 12-14 **VNPS Annual meeting held at the Key Bridge Marriott. It is near a metro stop and overlooks the Potomac Gorge. NOTE: Date changed to 1 week earlier than previously reported.**
- Oct. 26 Goblins & Gourds at LGBG (#4) - Last of the summer activities-gathering, drying etc. foods for winter, hunting and fishing

## 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** ..... **Daune Poklis**  
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**Vice President** ..... **Ernest Wilson**  
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**Secretary** ..... **Judith Sheldon**  
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## Minutes for the Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS, Meeting February 7, 2008

Chapter president Daune Poklis began the meeting with a brief discussion of a proposed field trip to Mt. Cuba in Delaware. Members may want to stay overnight and explore the nearby Brandywine country. She said the VNPS Annual Workshop will be held March 8 at the University of Richmond. As in the past, our chapter will be responsible for refreshments. Anyone who would like to help may contact Judy Sheldon. Membership chair Pat Brodie passed out membership rosters to those who had not picked-up one. Richard Moss, newsletter editor, was complimented on changes in the newsletter, such as the listing of new members. Daune suggested members look at the 2008 Event Calendar in the newsletter for upcoming events. Ernest Wilson, Pocahontas Chapter vice-president and retired professor of botany at Virginia State University, presented a lively and informative hands-on program entitled, Winter Botany, the Identification of Plants in Winter. Ernest and member Catherine Tucker brought a variety of deciduous tree twigs and dried wild flowers from the field for participants to identify. He passed out copies of Winter Tree Finder, by May Theilgaard Watts and Tom Watts, magnifying glasses, and rulers. The books are available if members would like to



# THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

**March 2008**

Spiderwort  
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



## **March Meeting**

**Thursday March 6, 2008 at 7:00 PM**

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

**This Month's Presentation will be: Orchids  
by Garland Hanson, president elect of The Virginia Orchid Society**

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## **2008 Event Calendar**

- March-May *Know Your Environment*, a monthly series of programs on environmental issues that affect you and your children at the Tuckahoe Area Library in Richmond. One book on an environmental issue, and often a film, are featured each month. topics are Foods and Additives (FEB), Invasive Species (MAR), Cradle to Cradle (sustainable economy APR) and Finding Nature (MAY). For a schedule or other information on the program contact Steve Carter-Lovejoy at 804-270-9578, ext. 234 or [scarter-lovejoy@henrico.lib.va.us](mailto:scarter-lovejoy@henrico.lib.va.us)
- March 8 Annual Workshop at University of Richmond: Doug Gill, Prof. of Zoology at University of Maryland and Hal Horwitz.
- March 8 Banff Festival of Mountain Films. The Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Department will present Banff's annual film series featuring films on adventure and mountain culture. FREE. Monacan High School, 11501 Smoketree Drive. Saturday, March 8, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Details: Noel Losen, 748-1129 or [losenn@chesterfield.gov](mailto:losenn@chesterfield.gov)
- March 10 7:00pm at Tuckahoe Library, Documentary Film - "America's Lost Landscape: The Tallgrass Prairie". The rich and complex story of one of the most astonishing alterations of nature in human history, in which 240 million acres of one of North America's dominant ecosystems was transformed to farmland in the span of a single lifetime.
- March 17 Book discussion - 7:00pm at Tuckahoe Library "A Plague of Rats and Rubbervines: the growing threat of species invasions", by Yvonne Baskin. The extent and consequences of human rearrangement of the Earth's species and possible solutions will be discussed.
- March 18 Invasive Plant Management Symposium at The National Arboretum, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Experts share their strategies to prevent invasive species from disrupting our native ecosystems. Speakers draw from research and field experience to detail effective control practices for private citizens and professional. Fee of \$55 includes lunch. See <http://www.usna.usda.gov/Education/events.html> for agenda and speaker bios. Registration required.
- March 22 Ernie Wilson will conduct an ivy removal in James River Park, North Bank Park. Use Parking lot off Texas Court. Directions: Follow Meadow Street south from the Fan. Go as far as you can. Turn left on Kansas Ave. Follow Kansas Ave. until you reach Texas Court. Turn right. Go one block, turn left into North Bank Park parking lot. There is a brown sign on the corner of Kansas Ave. and Texas Court pointing to parking lot. I will meet folks at 10 AM. For details call either Ernie at 804-358-3846 or 804-502-6346, or Daune Poklis 741-7838. Ernest will be out of town March 8-19.
- March 29 Lahr Native Plant Symposium at The National Arboretum: "Cultivars Considered", 9:00am-3:30pm. Tony Avent, renowned horticulturist and owner of Plant Delights Nursery, will explore the topic of native plant cultivars along with speakers from research, public gardens, and the nursery trade. Speakers will focus on how native plant cultivars fit into our gardens and the possible effects our garden choices have on the natural world. All registrants gain early entry

*Welcome to our New Members*

Joyce Major, Glen Allen, VA

Mike Ballato, Glen Allen, VA

## Trip to the Pamunkey River

John Roberts has talked to Gary Rouse about a 4-5 hour field trip in May on the Pamunkey River to explore plant life and nature. Gary was with the Natural Heritage division for some years and now leads canoe trips. He has spoken to our group, in about 2001. The trip cost for a group is \$300 weekdays and \$350 weekends for up to 14 people. John would like to advertise this for Richmond Audubon also so we can get more people. Gary can lead a trip on Sat May 3 for \$350 on the Pamunkey river. The cost for 10 people would be about \$35 each.

Trip Details:

### MYSTERY BRIDGE TO HANOVER COURTHOUSE

Trip Length: 7 miles (approx. 5 hrs) Season: Spring, summer or fall. Skill Level: Novice+ Description: This trip actually begins on the South Anna River, merging with the North Anna after approx. 1 mile to form the Pamunkey River. This non-tidal section of the Pamunkey boasts a relatively tranquil, remote and very scenic river “experience” with great opportunities for fishing, swimming and wildlife viewing. Fossil laden clay banks and a stand of Eastern Hemlocks (presumably a hold over from a much colder geologic period) are additional noteworthy features encountered during the course of this trip.

Contact John Roberts at (804) 329-6879 for more information.

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**Pocahontas Chapter  
Virginia Native Plant Society  
12565 Brook Lane  
Chester, VA 23831**

