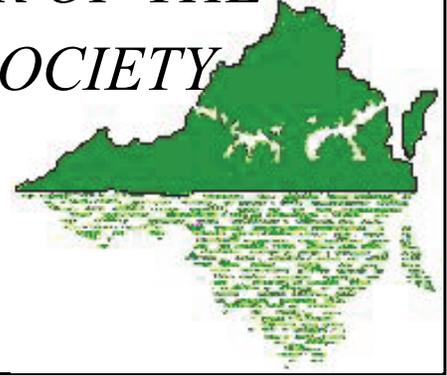


# THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Spiderwort  
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)

March 2013



## Chapter Meeting

Thursday March 7, 2013 at 7:00 PM

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

“Lichens of Virginia at the University of Richmond Herbarium” presented by Dr. John Hayden and Michelle Ferrell.

## Pocahontas Chapter Programs 2013

March 15 Next Great Privet Pull: (Friday). Meet 1:00 pm in the lobby of the main building at the Garden. Dress for the weather. Bring gloves. Tools will be provided by the Garden staff.

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. 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 hour 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](mailto:idcaperton@verizon.net). 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:

Our “great invasive privet pull” was a great success on February 9. Nine people worked for two hours. It was warm enough that we shed coats and enjoyed the warm sun on our backs. Jay Austin



stayed busy just carrying debris to the compost pile as fast as we could uproot English ivy, honeysuckle, periwinkle and privet. We pulled enough to clear the east bank of the creek from bridge to bridge.

We enthusiastically planned to clear the other bank on February 16, but gray clouds that threatened snow all morning began to deliver right at 1:00 pm. The four of us who showed up were dressed for the weather, but looked at the snow and agreed, "Nah! It's not worth getting soaked to the skin!"

So, we still have some work to look forward to! March 3-8 is National Invasive Species Awareness Week so our efforts to remove privet at the Garden led right into this observance. Let's try for a week day this time, Friday, March 15.

The VNPS Winter Workshop on March 16 is full. That's not surprising. And a good crew has volunteered to help with the continental breakfast and snacks that day.

We're looking forward to some more field trips in April and May, to Hal Horwitz' presentation at the April meeting and the picnic in May. If you have more suggestions for field trips or an idea about where to hold our picnic, send me an email.

Looking beyond spring and summer field seasons to next year, we need to think about new officers. More folks need to share the tasks of keeping the chapter going and growing. We have a number of new members who want to learn and participate in activities. Let's re-charge and get more members in on the planning. Speak up!



## Minutes of the February 9, 2013 Meeting of the Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS

Scheduled on this occasion on a Saturday so that members might take advantage of a morning artist lecture: Under-story with Jackie Bailey Labovitz.

Jackie discussed her fascination with photographing native wildflowers. Jackie shared tales of daring and tireless treks laden with camera equipment up steep mountainsides at wee morning hours seeking the perfect light for her floral subjects. The Chapter meeting followed the lecture.

In attendance: Frances Melton, Ruby Jane Robertson, Irene Caperton, Andy Winchonek, Caroline Meehan,

Emily Gianfortoni, Donna Cottingham, John Hayden, Richard Moss, Daune Poklis, Kristi Orcutt, Catharine Tucker, and others.

Catharine opened the meeting by welcoming visitors and shared that members can look for club communication via email and newsletters.

Treasurers report: same balance as last month approx. \$4700.

Received checks from state for \$91 and \$21 (memberships)

### Old Business:

### Winter Workshop:

The winter workshop is scheduled for March 16th, at University of Richmond. We are the host chapter and provide a continental breakfast. Daune is organizing volunteers. Registration starts at 8:30am. Program starts at 9:00am. Volunteers should pre-register if planning to attend the workshop sessions. The Workshop is FULL. **Note:** The State Board meeting will take place immediately after the workshop.

### Field Trips:

Volunteers are encouraged to coordinate field trips for chapter members and guests. Expertise is not a pre-requisite, only the willingness to select a destination and coordinate attendance and route.

Liability coverage is provided for all chapter-sponsored field trips so no liability is incurred by volunteers.

### 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**

### **Upcoming Field Trip:**

May 18: field trip along Reedy Creek in Richmond. Led by Richard Moss in partnership with DEQ staff. Friends of Reedy Creek and VCU students will be attending. Contact mossrd46@verizon.net for more information.

### **Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden Projects:**

Our chapter has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Garden to volunteer to help with garden projects. Privet removal was scheduled on Feb. 9th and on Feb. 16th. A large crew of Native Plant Society members and Master Naturalists successfully removed a large swath of privet bushes from the creek behind Bloemendaal on Feb. 9th. (**Addendum:** *Four hardy souls showed up ready to volunteer on Feb. 16th, however it was decided to postpone our efforts due to sleet and rain. New dates for privet pulls and other projects will be announced soon.*)

Our Chapter is seeking suitable projects initiated by Garden staff. Already we serve the garden by donating books to the Garden library. We seek more information about what the Garden needs from our Chapter members.

### **Flora of Virginia:**

Members revisited a list of sites to which to donate copies of the Flora of Virginia. The Chapter decided to donate a copy of the Flora to VSU in honor of Ernest Wilson. Chapter members are investigating the option of donating a copy of the Flora to the J. Sergeant Reynolds Horticulture Department.

### **New Business:**

#### **Elections:**

Catharine Tucker requests the establishment of a nominating committee for officer elections coming in September.

#### **Lecture:**

On March 9th, enjoy an artist lecture and gallery walk with Hal Horowitz. He will present "In Praise of Native Orchids" at 9:30 am at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. [http://www.lewisginter.org/events/event\\_detail.php?event\\_id=1043](http://www.lewisginter.org/events/event_detail.php?event_id=1043). Pre-registration is advised. Call 262-9887 x322 for more information.

Respectfully submitted by Kristi Orcutt

**The James River Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists is planning a Bioblitz for FrancisEmma** (previously known as Belmead), a 2,200 acre property on the James River in Powhatan County. The property, crossed with numerous streams, has 90 acres of wetlands, a 2 acre pond, and 2.5 miles of river frontage; much land is under cultivation, but nearly half has been placed in a conservation easement. The Bioblitz will start at 8:00 am on Saturday May 18 and will endeavor to document as many species as possible in the ensuing 24 hours. John Hayden (jhayden@richmond.edu) has agreed to serve as Botany leader for this working celebration of biodiversity and is looking for volunteers who are willing to contribute some portion of the day to documentation of plant species on the property.

**The National Invasive Species Awareness Week website** highlights a number of activities that have been underway this week to bring this issue to the forefront. In addition, they have created a list of 10 Ways to Observe National Invasive Species Awareness Week, which includes information about ways to learn more about invasives and get involved.

So, what can you do now?

Take a moment to read the guide and share the information with those in your community.

Learn the common culprits in your area and avoid them/eradicate them from your property. Some in our area include: bittersweet, sweet autumn clematis, Japanese honeysuckle, fountain grass, periwinkle, and exotic bamboo.

Buy native plants! Unable find them at your usual garden center? Ask them to carry native plants and then take your dollars to a retailer who does.

Participate in an invasive plant pull in your area.

Don't take them with you when you go. Whether out hiking, boating, camping, or just walking the dog, be aware that plant parts and seeds can cling to clothing, get caught in the cuffs of your pants, stick to pet fur and get embedded in shoe treads and tires. If you are in an area where known culprits exit, do a clean sweep before you leave it.

## Rhododendron leaves and Temperature

Rhododendron leaves curl up in winter as the temperature drops. Apparently the curled leaves protect the plant from water loss.

These pictures, taken by Catharine Tucker on the same day, show the leaves as the temperature rises. If the leaves are curled really tight, it's really cold out, at least 20°F or even colder.

If they are curled just a little, it's not super cold out, maybe just around 30 degrees or so.

When the temperature is around 40°F or so, the rhododendron leaves just droop a little but are not curled; they don't usually begin to curl until the temperature drops close to freezing.

When it's nice and warm out, the leaves are flat and held horizontally to capture the sun's rays.

Below 20 degrees    About 30 degrees

Over 40 degrees



## Announcement:

*Wildflowers & Grasses of Virginia's Coastal Plain*, A new book soon to be published will be a welcome addition to the books covering Virginia's flora. This was featured on the Flora of Virginia Project Facebook page.

See more description and a preview on the following web site:

<http://wildflowersofvirginia.com/wildflowers-grasses-of-virginias-coastal-plain/>

Helen Hamilton • Gustavus Hall

Wildflowers  
& Grasses  
OF VIRGINIA'S COASTAL PLAIN

Sponsored by:  
THE JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER  
of the Virginia Native Plant Society

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