

# THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

April 2004

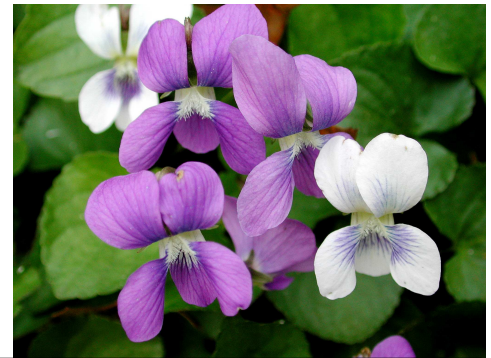


Spiderwort  
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)

## APRIL MEETING

### “Wild Flowers”

In preparation for spring and summer field trips Richard Moss, a Pocahontas chapter member, will give a slide presentation showing native plants found in our area.



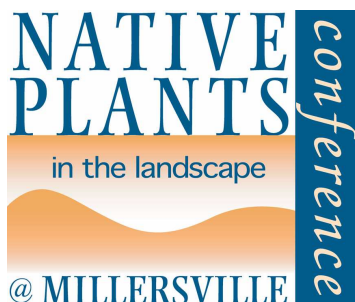
## CHAPTER NEWS

**The Chapter Picnic** will be Saturday May 1<sup>st</sup> at Richard Moss’s house in Chester, VA. We will also have a plant walk in the woods back of his house where we will have the opportunity to see many of the plants in the April meeting presentation. The ladyslippers should be in bloom. Directions and more details will be in the May Newsletter.

**The Cleanup and Plant Walk at Lee Memorial Park** in Petersburg will be Saturday April 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. Meet at the picnic pavilion and bring a lunch.

For more information call Peggy Furqueron at 264-9437. Directions from I-95 S going to Petersburg: Merge onto I-85 S /US-460 W via exit number 51 toward US-460 W/Durham/Atlanta and go 2.7 miles to the SQUIRREL LEVEL RD exit- exit number 65. Turn LEFT onto SQUIRREL LEVEL RD. and go 0.1 miles then turn LEFT onto DEFENSE RD. Go 1.1 miles on Defense Road to the park entrance and follow signs to the Picnic Pavilion.

## EVENTS



The Millersville Conference on Native Plants in the Landscape will be held in Millersville, PA on June 3-5, 2004. Speakers will include Bill Cullina: Nursery manager and propagator, New England Wildflower Society’s Garden in the Woods - “Natural Models in Landscape Design”, and Holly Shimizu: Executive Director, U.S. Botanic Garden -”East Coast Native Gardens”. For more information see <http://www.millersvillenativeplants.org/> or to receive a complete conference brochure and registration form in the mail, please contact The Department of Professional Training & Education at Millersville University by phone at 717-872-3030. Be sure to provide your complete

mailing address.

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## MINUTES OF THE MARCH 4, 2004 MEETING

The meeting was called to order by president Dean Walton at 7:30 p.m. In the absence of Peggy Furqueron, secretary, Pat Brodie agreed to take minutes.

### Old business:

It was announced that the Native Plant Society Annual Workshop would be held Saturday, March 6, 2004 at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. About 60 people have registered and walk-ins will be allowed.

Noreen Cullen reported that 2 books have been purchased for the library at LGBG in memory of Dorothy Rowley, first treasurer of the Pocahontas chapter. The books are: *Native Trees, Shrubs and Vines* by William Cullina and *Keepers of Life, Discovering Plants Through Native American Stories and Earth Activities for Children* by Michael J. Caduto and Joseph Bruchae. The staff of the library helped in the selection process.

The annual chapter picnic and woodland walk will be May 1, 2004 from 12 noon until 3 p.m. at Richard Moss' woods. Directions will be in the April newsletter. This event will replace the May meeting.

Members are reminded of the service project at Lee Memorial Park in Petersburg. Date, time, and directions will be in the next newsletter.

### Program:

The program was a "Strategic Planning Meeting." Attendance was small, but many ideas were discussed in an effort to plan the direction of the chapter.

Dean gave out copies of a survey from the state office concerning plant rescue. A discussion followed on the pros and cons of the issue. Friends of the Chesterfield Riverfront, Henricus and 3 Lakes Park were mentioned as places to call about receiving plants which have been rescued. The group felt that any rescue effort is worthwhile as it raises awareness of the issue of saving wild places.

### **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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The question was raised whether we needed a board or committee apart from the executive committee to serve as a steering committee and make decisions when the full group is not meeting. This would provide continuity and help the new officers. It was suggested that someone check the by-laws to see if this would be allowed. Many members felt we do not need another board, but perhaps a few members-at-large.

The position of vice president remains unfilled. The by-laws will be checked to see if this position is required and if a job description is provided. Noreen Cullen asked if membership would gain from having small groups work on issues and bring knowledge back to the full group. Perhaps programs would evolve from such work.

Lively discussion followed on the following questions:

What are we not doing? Why do people join? What do we want? Do we need a yearly agenda to be placed in the newsletter so the members can see what the chapter is doing? Should we be represented at the LGBG plant sale to raise awareness of the chapter? Should we be represented at other local events?

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Brodie, acting secretary

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# NATIVE PLANT OF THE MONTH

## Spice Bush *Lindera benzoin*



Spice bush is a fairly common understory shrub or small tree of streambanks and bottomlands. It is easy to identify because of its habitat and the fragrance of its leaves. When crushed the leaves release a lemony scent reminiscent of “Pledge” furniture polish. The small yellow flowers of this plant are some of the first to be seen in the spring. They appear in late March to early April before the leaves and are short lived. Spice bush is a dioecious species, meaning plants will have either male or female flowers. Male or staminate plants usually produce many more flowers than the female or pistillate plants.

The fruit is an oval drupe, green, then turning scarlet, about 0.5 inch in diameter and matures in September. The name of the plant comes from these drupes which have been used as a substitute for allspice. The fruit has a high lipid content, which makes it especially valuable to migrating birds having high energy requirements. White-tailed Deer often eat the leaves and twigs of this plant. Several fungi grow among the roots of Spice bush, exchanging nutrients with the shrub. In the fall the leaves turn a brilliant yellow, particularly when in a sunny location. (1-6)

There are several interesting cultivars of this plant: 'Green Gold' - A non-fruiting form, is notable for its very large, ornamental yellow blooms, 'Rubra' (also known as f. *rubra*) - This non-fruiting form is notable for its deep red-brown blooms and 'Xanthocarpa' (also known as f. *xanthocarpa*) - Discovered at the Arnold Arboretum in Boston, this unique form has orange-yellow fruit. (3)

Spice bush is an important host to the caterpillars of the butterflies in the swallowtail family, especially the Spice bush Swallowtail and the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail. The spice bush swallowtail caterpillar is interesting in that it starts out looking like bird droppings on the leaf, then as it matures, looks like a small snake (left to right below) The butterfly is shown at the far right. (4)



- References:**
1. [http://www.missouriplants.com/Yellowalt/Lindera\\_benzoin\\_page.html](http://www.missouriplants.com/Yellowalt/Lindera_benzoin_page.html)
  2. <http://www.duke.edu/~cwcook/trees/libe.html>
  3. <http://www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/l/linben/linben1.html>
  4. <http://www.butterflygardeningandconservation.com/butterfly/st/spicebush.php>
  5. <http://www.fcps.k12.va.us/StratfordLandingES/Ecology/mpages/spicebush.htm>
  6. <http://www.biologie.uni-ulm.de/systax/dendrologie/Lindebenlv.htm>

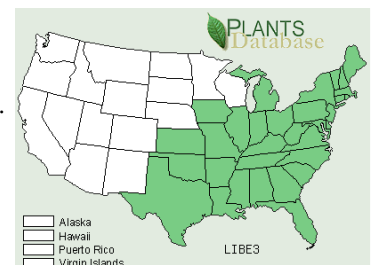
### Photographs:

Flower and fruit: Richard Moss

Leaves: Reference 6

Spice bush Swallowtail larva and adult:  
Reference 4

**Range:** Spice bush is found in all counties in Virginia. The US Range is shown in the map to the right. Map: USDA, NRCS. 2004. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.



# Virginia Native Plant Society Membership Application

## Pocahontas Chapter

**Make Check payable to VNPS and Mail to:**  
Membership Chair, Blandly Experimental Farm, 400 Blandly 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**

