

# THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

April 2007



Spiderwort  
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)

## April Meeting

**Thursday April 5, 2007 at 7:00 PM**

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

**Our Presentation will be:**

***Native Plants & Their Uses - a close-up look at native plants and how they  
were used for food, medicine and crafts by indigenous cultures***

**by Vickie Shufer**

Vickie Shufer has been living in Virginia Beach since 1979, conducting nature programs and working as a consultant to various state and local environmental agencies. She leads workshops and field trips for teachers, naturalists, and others interested in the outdoors as well as creating educational materials for public distribution. She is a former president of the Virginia Native Plant Society, Southampton Roads chapter, and currently holds the position of botany chair.

---

## Events

- April 14** Field Trip to see wildflowers at Monticello
- April 22** Spring Fling at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden Volunteers needed in Children's Garden 1- 4 p.m.
- April 23** A MAYMONT SPRING GARDEN AND TREE WALK, 6 pm, Maymont Grounds & Gardens. Note Maymont has many interesting programs for more see <http://www.maymont.org/>. or contact Peggy M. Singlemann at (804) 358-7166 ext 326
- April 28, May 26 June 23, July 28, Aug. 25, Sept. 22, Oct. 27** LGBG program on Indian use of Native Plants. Volunteers needed at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in the Children's Garden 10 am - 2 pm
- April 28** The Goochland-Powhatan Master Gardeners Spring Garden Fest. The Goochland Powhatan Master Gardeners in cooperation with J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College and Virginia Cooperative Extension present a Spring Garden Fest. Several of the many topics covered will include a Rain Barrel Workshop, a Propagation workshop and a Workshop on Rain Gardens. For further information call the Goochland Cooperative Extension office at 804-556-5841 or visit <http://www.gpmga.org/SpringFest.htm>
- May 3-6** **Volunteer Open House at Maymont** Thursday, May 3, 6-8pm, Robins Nature & Visitor Center 2201 Shields Lake Drive. Turn your hobby into a good deed - sign up to volunteer at Maymont. Meet with staff and volunteers to learn more about the opportunities with the animals, in the gardens, at Maymont House Museum and during special events. Registration not required. For information, call 804-358-7166, ext. 327.

May Annual Picnic and Field Trip at Richard Moss's house in Chester - more information later.

Oct. 28 *Goblins and Gourds* at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden: Volunteers needed in Children's Garden 1- 4 PM

~~~~~

## Minutes of the Pocahontas Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society Meeting for March 1, 2007

This month's speaker was J. Michael Foreman, currently Deputy Director at the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Soil and Conservation. He provided an overview of rain gardens with a power point presentation.

Many of the images of rain gardens were from newly developed areas in Northern Virginia. He also provided an excellent technical guide handout, developed by the VA Department of Forestry that addresses many elements of the rain garden, from function and design to maintenance. Michael entitled his talk, "The Why, What, and How of Rain Gardens". Storm water overflow carries pollutants into our waterways. Managing this runoff that can carry oil, animal waste, fertilizers and other pollutants will help protect waterways from pollution. With less forest and proliferation of impervious surfaces, storm water runoff has increased. A notable statistic: With loss of urban tree canopy, one inch of rain in the city of Baltimore has been calculated to produce 500,000,000 gallons of runoff. Although some municipalities have used methods, such as storm water management ponds, to address runoff problems, many communities have not. Bioretention is currently used to lessen the impact of runoff. Examples are grassy swales, engineered wetlands, and rain gardens.

The rain garden is designed to catch the water from impervious surfaces in our yards, in a housing development, or along a highway. Often, concrete curbs are modified to provide a path for water to flow into the planted area. The rain garden mimics the forest. Even a small garden should have diversity in canopy, understory, and smaller plants. Layers of the garden include, "a grass buffer strip" that slows the runoff, mulch for filtering,

native plants that use the moisture and nutrients, soil, ponding area for storage of runoff, and a berm of at least six inches of soil or rocks that works like a dam. By preventing the runoff from flowing directly into storm water drains, the waterways are protected from pollutants. There are many more elements to consider when designing and building a rain garden. The technical guide is available at [www.dof.virginia.gov](http://www.dof.virginia.gov) (<http://www.dof.virginia.gov>). A good example is the rain garden at Blandy Farm. Michael answered a number of questions.

One member of the audience said James River Association is planning a rain garden and buffer planting along Old Town Creek. She invited anyone interested in volunteering go to the James River Association website at <http://www.JamesRiverAssociation.org>.

After the presentation, President Peggy Keefe began the business meeting. A list of plants needed for the native plant section of the Children's Garden at LGBG was passed around.

Members are encouraged to donate plants from their property. A field trip to Hyla Brook Nursery is planned for March 18, and Monticello on April 14. We may have a field trip to the National Arboretum toward the end of May. The 3rd week in June appears to be the best time to visit the Pine Barrens to see the grass pinks. Peggy announced the VNPS

### 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        | Peggy Keefe    |
| Vice President   | Daune Poklis   |
| Secretary        | Judith Sheldon |
| Treasurer        | Bucci Zeugner  |
| Membership Chair | Pat Brodie     |

Address all correspondence to  
Richard Moss, Editor  
12565 Brook Lane  
Chester, VA 23831  
[mossrd@mindspring.com](mailto:mossrd@mindspring.com)  
VNPS Website - [www.vnps.org](http://www.vnps.org)

workshop on Saturday is full. She also said the S.E.A.L. program in Petersburg that works with at-risk youth contacted her about participating in a program they are offering on March 23 and 24. A motion was made by Daune, and seconded, to reimburse our chapter president's fee to the workshop on Saturday. The motion passed.

Submitted by,  
Judy Sheldon, Secretary

---

---

## REPORT ON THE "STREAMS OF STEWARSHIP" CONFERENCE

by Peggy Keefe

Daune Poklis, Sally Anderson State President, and I staffed an informational booth at the conference on February 24. We handed out a lot of native plant nursery lists and got some new names to add to our list. This conference was sponsored by the Botanical Garden and the Virginia Society of Landscape Designers and focused on ways to manage water in the environment. The main speaker was Warren Byrd from Waltz Landscape Architects. He presented a slide program showing some of the projects that he has designed around the world. He tries to incorporate water features in the landscape to collect water and filter it naturally. He used a lot of native plants in his designs. One of his latest projects was the Dell on the University of Virginia Campus in Charlottesville.

After lunch, participants could choose from three different lectures. I chose a talk about stream restoration from Ridge Schuyler from the Nature Conservancy. He described how the Nature Conservancy obtained funds to restore a severely degraded stream at the Forks of the Rivanna.

After the afternoon break, I attended a presentation by Kody Cario from the Environmental Concern Inc., Maryland and Alli Baird from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation on using living shorelines to control erosion. To build a living shoreline, the banks are extended out into the water and native grasses are planted to recreate a high, medium, and low tide stand of vegetation. This is a better solution than putting rocks and riprap on the banks.

The final lecture was by Warren Byrd who unveiled a new design for Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden using his water management ideas. Henrico County helped to fund this study because the water from the Botanical Garden flows through the county. Some of Warren Byrd's ideas were to put a small lake in front of the visitor's entrance where the grass field is presently. The stream that runs through the parking lot would be uncovered and planted with riparian plants and a bridge would cross the stream to the visitor's parking lot. These features would help to control storm water runoff and provide more permeable surfaces for the water to be reabsorbed and filtered. Anyone who would like more information about these topics or like to see the handouts that accompanied the lectures can see me at the monthly meetings.

---

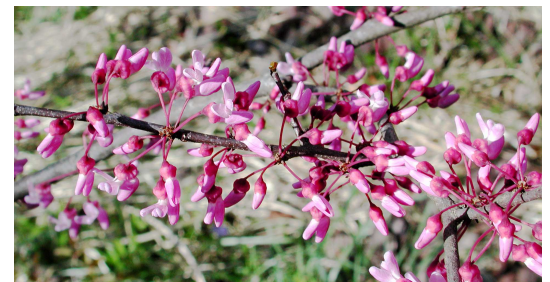
---

### What's Blooming

*Cercis canadensis*, Common Name Eastern redbud

Red bud is a large shrub or small tree growing 20 to 30 feet tall and 25 to 35 feet wide. It is deciduous with a moderately fast growth rate in sun to partial shade and prefers moist well drained soil. It has 3-5 inch alternate heart shaped leaves. The 1/2 inch flowers appear early in the spring, before the leaves and start as reddish purple buds opening to rosy pink pea-like flowers. They appear in clusters all along the stems, including even the older stems. The seeds are produced in 2 to 3 inch brown pods in clusters.

Red bud is a Virginia native plant, is drought tolerant, flowers best in full sun and being a legume produces nitrogen.



**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**

