

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



April 2008

April Meeting

Thursday April 3, 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: Sensuous Native Plants of Virginia by Larry Wilcox

Larry Wilcox is an amateur photographer who became interested in taking pictures of aircraft after he retired and moved back to Virginia Beach, VA. Many of his aircraft photos have been published in specialty newspapers and magazines. He has been particularly honored to have some of them put on display in Ready Rooms and in pilots' personal collections. He has always been an outdoors man but most of his time in the woods was in the fall and winter. His wife has been a wildflower enthusiast since her college days and he became interested in wildflowers through her. He started taking pictures of the flowers and was introduced to a whole new area of photography. "My wife identifies the plants and I take their photo. I love to travel and really enjoy taking pictures of wildflowers wherever we find them."

2008 Event Calendar

- 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 at routes 10 and US 1 & 301 (I95 to Exit 61, Take 10 West towards Chester and go about 1/2 mile to the shopping center on the left **before** the traffic light at route 1) and all leave from there at 10:30. see page 3 for some photos. Contact Daune Poklis (804) 741-7838 or Ernest Wilson (804) 502-6346 for more details.
- April 20 1:00-4:00, the Pocahontas Chapter will have a tent at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden "Spring Fling". We will have a historical interpreter to answer questions about Tidewater Indian life at the time of the founding of Jamestown and crafts and activities for the children who visit our display. Anyone who would like to help with this or the May 24 "Good Green Fun" program. Please contact Daune Poklis at (804) 741-7838 or by e-mail daune@poklis.org for details. We would like to have one or two volunteers to help with the activities.
- April 21 Tuckahoe Area Library Presents: Know Your Environment, Monday, 7:00 - Book Discussion Group: A Plague of Rats and Rubbervines: The Growing Threat of Species Invasions, by Yvonne Baskin. We will discuss the extent and consequences of human rearrangement of the Earth's species, and consider solutions. See the July 18 entry below for more information

Welcome to our New Members

Bland Crowder, Richmond, VA

Nelda and Buz Snyder, Richmond, VA

Diane Butzin, Oak Island, NC

- 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 The Tuckahoe Area Library Presents: Know Your Environment, A series of programs on environmental issues that affect you and your children. Friday, 3:00 - Surviving in Virginia's State Parks. Vickie Shufer, naturalist and founder of Eco Images, is working with Virginia State Parks to enhance the public's appreciation of the outdoors. Her presentation will describe how we can use the knowledge of native Americans to survive in the wilderness. She'll be joined by a State Parks rep. who will show slides of Virginia's award-winning state parks system. For more information contact: Steve Carter-Lovejoy, 270-9578 x234, scarter-lovejoy@henrico.lib.va.us
Held at the Tuckahoe Area Library, 1901 Starling Drive, Richmond, VA.
- 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](http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/Native%20Orchid) Conference. 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

Minutes for the March 6, 2008, Meeting of the Pocahontas Chapter of the VNPS

Daune Poklis, chapter president, began the meeting reminding members to read the event calendar in the newsletter. She announced the wetland and wildflowers program series sponsored by VCU and Maymont for April 3? May 8, which is not listed. If interested go to the Maymont-VCU Discovery Institute website. The VNPS is planning a tall grass prairie program to be announced in the Bulletin. The new date for the annual meeting is September 12-14, to be held at the Key Bridge Marriott in Northern Virginia. Daune announced that a

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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new invasive called wavy basket grass has been found in Maryland and appears to be moving south. The website for more information is: dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/wl_basketgrass. Vice-president Ernest Wilson announced several group events he will lead: gradual removal of Asian bittersweet and English ivy in the James River Park on March 22, wildflower walk in James River Park on March 29, Ferndale Park spring ephemeral walk on April 19, and Forest Hill Park walk on May 3. For further details, check the newsletter, and to sign-up, contact Daune. Daune also reminded us that the Powhatan Indian program, sponsored by our chapter, in the Lewis Ginter Children's Garden begins April 20. Daune introduced the speaker, Garland Hanson, an orchid grower and president-elect of the Virginia Orchid Society. Garland said he became interested in orchids in 1991 and presented an overview on orchid basics stating a number of facts about orchids, growth habit, orchid evolution and structure, and hybridization. The families of orchids he discussed were Cattleya, Phalaenopsis, Dendrobium, Oncidium, and Paphiopedelum. He brought in a number of beautiful potted orchids from his collection as examples, and illustrated his talk with slides. He spoke briefly about native Virginia orchids as that is not his area of expertise. Resource information for growing exotic orchids can be found in orchid publications, the Internet, commercial growers, American Orchid Society, and the VA Orchid

Society. Members enjoyed examining the plants and asking questions about the variety of orchids Garland displayed. Respectfully submitted, Judy Sheldon, Chapter Secretary

The Virginia Native Plant Society has voted Skunk Cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) as the Wildflower of the Year for 2009.

Ferndale Park Field Trip

Our next field trip will be to Ferndale Park on April 19. Below are some pictures taken on the 8th of May in 2005 to give you an idea of what we may see.



Above Left: The Appomattox River from the park.

Lower Left: Skunk Cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) in a wet area along the trail.

Upper Right: Wild azalea, Pinxter-flower (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*).

Lower Right: Eastern bluestar (*Amsonia tabernaemontana*).



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:

Phone - (804) 741-7838 or E-mail - daune@poklis.org

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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Virginia Native Plant Society
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