

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



April 2012

Spiderwort

(Tradescantia virginiana)

April Meeting

Thursday April 5, 2012 at 7:00 PM

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

The room is available at 6:30, come early and Socialize

We will have a three part program this evening

First, *New Native Plant Garden Coming to Lewis Ginter.*

Dr. Frank Robinson, Director of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden will present his exciting plans for the new garden area featuring Virginia's native plants. This newly funded project will fulfill a long-awaited dream of our chapter members and will present further opportunities for cooperative work with the Garden. Come learn where Frank plans to locate it on the Garden grounds!

Second, *Presentation of Books to the Lewis Ginter Library.*

We will present Janet Woody, Librarian at Lewis Ginter, with a Pocahontas Chapter check for our selection of books which will be added to the LGBG Library.

Third, *Volunteers for the Annual Meeting.*

As you know, volunteers are needed to help with various tasks associated with the annual meeting. Please come hear more details about helping with field trips, stuffing registration packets prior to the meetings, and to help with registration activities.

Chapter Events

Saturday May 19, 2012 Chapter Annual Picnic. Come join us for the Pocahontas Chapter Picnic on May 19, 2012 from 11 AM to about 3 PM at Huguenot Hundred Community Association at the end of the lane between 10800 and 10820 Cherokee Road, near the intersection of Cherokee Road and Old Gun Road in Chesterfield County. There will be a pole with a hanging basket at the lane entrance (can't guarantee native plants). Bring a dish to share and a folding chair. There are 8 acres to explore, some wooded, some open, with a fireplace, picnic table, benches scattered about, a portable potty, and trails through the woods.

Directions:

From Chippenham Parkway (VA-150, Willey Bridge), take exit for Huguenot Road (VA -147) and go East. Turn Left on Cherokee Road (fourth street on left). The lane into the parking area will be on the right 3 miles from Huguenot Road.

From Huguenot Bridge, turn right on Cherokee Road (third street) and follow directions above. Be aware of the construction on Huguenot Bridge limiting traffic to one lane.

From VA-288, take exit for Robious Road/Huguenot Trail (VA-711) and turn East. Turn left on Old Gun Road (VA-673) (fourth or fifth traffic). Turn left on Cherokee Road, where Old Gun Rd. takes a sharp turn to the right and starts uphill from river. The lane into the parking lot will be on your left between second and third houses.

Questions about directions? Contact Suzanne Jenkins (804-543-3981)

VNPS Annual Meeting: **HOLD THIS DATE! September 14-15-16, 2012**

Members of the Pocahontas Chapter are hosts for the Virginia Native Plant Society's Annual Meeting scheduled for the weekend of September 14-16 at Wyndham at Virginia Crossing.

As part of the annual meeting program, 20 different field trips have been scheduled. We expect to have a chapter member accompanying each field trip group.

This person will be responsible for doing the following:

- Checking off names on the sign-up list for your trip.
- Making sure everyone keeps up with the group.
- Being sure everyone gets back to their vehicles safely in time to go to the next activity.

The field trip schedule will be posted at our regular meeting on April 5, 2012. Sign up sheets will be available. Many trip leaders will be attending this meeting also to meet and get acquainted with the members. Also, see the new design for the folders to be given out at the Annual Meeting

Please come and take advantage of this opportunity to sign up to assist on one of the field trips. **No botanical knowledge is necessary!** This clerical task is to enable the trip leader, who may not be a member of VNPS, to concentrate on the interpretive presentation.

Spring's Blooming, a Message from our President, Catharine Tucker:

What have you seen blooming lately? It seems like everything is blooming at once here in Hanover County. Forsythia



and japonica are almost gone. Spring beauties, redbud and dogwood are blooming right along with the pawpaws (Right), azaleas (Below: pinkster azalea, *Rhododendron periclymenoides*), and daffodils! May apples are about 7-8 inches high; purple-backed putty-root orchid leaves are scattered around. Highbush huckleberry, mountain honeysuckle, and holly perfume the woods, and the oaks and hickories are leafing out fast.



Do you keep a log of when certain plants bloom in your yard or when you find them in the woods? Comparison of dates over a period of years is really interesting, whether it's bird migrations, butterfly emergences, or flowers, shrubs and trees blooming or leafing out. It's possible to contribute this information to national databases and participate in gathering scientific information. Learn more about this at the April meeting.

Catharine White Tucker

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.

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Pocahontas Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Minutes of the March 1, 2012 meeting

The meeting was opened by the president Catharine Tucker. She welcomed all.

The treasurer's report was read and approved.

Catharine introduced our speaker, Lou Verner. His topic was: "Conservation Restoration in the 21st Century- Why Native Plants Hold the Keys to Success". Lou became interested in native plants via his career as a terrestrial biologist for the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. "There would be no animals without plants". In 2005 the DGIF instituted a wild life action plan designed to evaluate what wildlife in the state is at risk and why it is at risk.

First, there is habitat which is decreasing in quality and quantity. Increased population results in decreased and fragmented habitat. Next, there are the invasives including honeysuckle, bittersweet, privet, autumn olive, tree of heaven and Chinese wisteria to name a few. At this time, these really can't be controlled, but can be kept in check. There are the invasive birds like cow birds, sparrows, Canada geese and pigeons and the mammals: deer, coyotes, opossums, rats, mice, squirrels, etc.

The above are the winners. They are the generalists. Specialists, those plants and animals which require specialized habitats and have special needs are the losers. Think- monarch butterflies, snipe, quail and kestrels.

The impediments to restoration include development associated with population growth. Between 2000 – 2012 VA population has grown by 13%. Land loss has been 2 ½ times population growth. There is the Dillon Rule which declares that no municipality can over ride a state rule.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation has been responsible for a VA Natural Areas Assessment (assessment of areas/regions most in need of restoration) working in conjunction with the DGIF Wildlife Action Plan (identify what is at risk and their needs, take conservation actions and monitor progress); a green infrastructure plan for the future has resulted.

The plan is to identify key plant communities in the critical areas, prioritize and link them. That is to link habitat islands via corridors which results in a larger habitat area. The ultimate goal is to avoid species being listed as endangered.

Lou's presentation was followed by a question and answer period which included gems like "native plants result in wildlife habitat"; "don't develop where there are critical species and habitats" "by inventorying native plants and plant communities, we can determine what we want to preserve"; "phyto-remediation is the use of natives to solve specific environmental problems and restore ecological functions" and perhaps most interesting; "geese will not cross a buffer region which is at least 10 feet wide and with plants greater than 18 inches tall"

There was a brief business meeting following the Q and A. A motion was made, seconded and passed to "support (via a financial donation as suggested by the state board) reprinting of DCR brochures Native Plants for Conservation, Restoration and Landscaping series.

Announcements: April meeting speaker will be Frank Robinson from the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden who will give us an overview of the future plans the garden has for water management and more native plantings in the garden.

Part II of the meeting will focus on the annual meeting and finding volunteers to help with walks, registration, box lunches and other meeting activities. All are encouraged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55.

Respectfully submitted

Daune Poklis

March 31, 2012

**Pocahontas Chapter
Virginia Native Plant Society
12565 Brook Lane**

