

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



April 2013

Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)

Chapter Meeting

Thursday April 4, 2013 at 7:00 PM

**At the Education and Library Complex of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in the Lab
Our speaker Hal Horwitz will give another of his magnificent presentations:
“Wildflowers across America”**

Pocahontas Chapter Programs 2013

NOTICE: The field trip to Buffalo Creek Natural Area on April 20 has had to be canceled due to a change in the ownership of the property.

May 4 Chapter Picnic at Dutch Gap Conservation Area with lunch and exploring walk around the trails led by John Hayden. Details at the April 4 meeting.

Note: The director of the VCU Rice Center, Leonard Smock, Ph.D., e-mails us there will be open houses scheduled for April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11 and Aug. 8 at the VCU Rice Center. for more information contact him at: Email: lsmock@vcu.edu or Phone: (804) 827-5600

President's Message - Spring is coming!

Spring is coming... and coming... and coming! I'll be glad when it finally arrives in my woods instead of just on the calendar. This morning a few more daffodils have sprung open, a few more blossoms opened on the forsythia and japonica, pawpaw buds are a bit larger, but spring seems rather tentative this year.



But our chapter has definitely made a dent in the privet at Lewis Ginter. Nothing tentative about that! Pulling out common privet and other invasive plants, our members, joined by

members of the Riverine Chapter Master Naturalists, have worked at least 34 person-hours. Estimated at \$7 per person-hour, that represents a \$238 contribution. Add to that our support for the library's book request, and we have made significant contributions to the Garden.

Looking ahead, we have our annual picnic at Dutch Gap, the Bioblitz at St. Emma's, and maybe some field trips, if we can find leaders. Our nominating committee will be chaired by Kristi Orcutt and will be



working on filling the slate in anticipation of the election of new officers in October. The Board members are already lining up programs and speakers for next fall. Please volunteer for whatever you can contribute when you're contacted, and help us keep up the chapter's enthusiastic growth. happy Spring!

Catharine White Tucker

Join in the Bioblitz on May 18



A Bioblitz is a survey to locate, identify and record (including GPS data) as many organisms as possible in the time available. This includes identifying and recording everything: birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, butterflies and other insects, and, of course, plants!

The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament along with the James River Master Naturalists are sponsoring a 24-hour Bioblitz beginning at 8:00 AM Saturday, May 18th to 8:00 AM Sunday May 19. The property that will be surveyed or "blitzed" is over 2,000 acres located on the James River in Powhatan County. There are over 90 acres of wetlands, several streams (permanent and seasonal), several vernal pools, very large forested areas, and 2 1/2 miles of river front.

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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pocahontaschapter-vnps.org

Dr. John Hayden is the Team Leader for the botany portion of the Bioblitz.

Pocahontas Chapter members are invited to participate. Many eyes and hands make the job fun and easier. If you can't identify, you can record names and other data!

If you would like to participate in this event on Saturday, May 18, please contact John at jhayden@richmond.edu

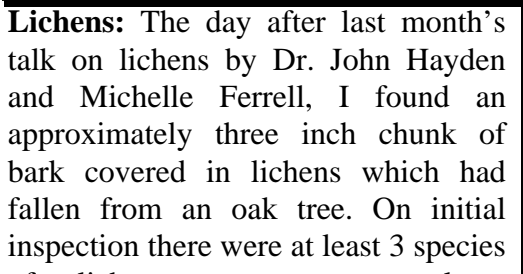


Spring, Spring! Wherefore Art Thou?

The photo below was taken on March 24, 2013, but by the first of April some evidence of Spring was appearing. The following photos were taken in my yard.



1. Winged elm (*Ulmus alata*). 2. Pinxter Azalea (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*), 3. Bluets (*Houstonia caerulea*), 4. Wild Ginger (*Hexastylis virginica*), 5. Pussytoes (*Antennaria plantaginifolia*, just starting to come up), 6. Common blue violet (*Viola sororia*), and 7. Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*),



Lichens: The day after last month's talk on lichens by Dr. John Hayden and Michelle Ferrell, I found an approximately three inch chunk of bark covered in lichens which had fallen from an oak tree. On initial inspection there were at least 3 species of lichens present, on closer inspection, more and more became apparent. Following are some photos:





John identified the one with small black cilia-like rhizines at thallus margins as *Parmotrema hypotropum*, (**A** on the previous page), and the fruticose one as probably *Usnea strigosa* (Marked **B** below)

Richard Moss



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