

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

May 2007



Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)

MAY PICNIC AND PLANT WALK ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Ballot on Page 3)

Saturday, May 19th at 12:00 Noon

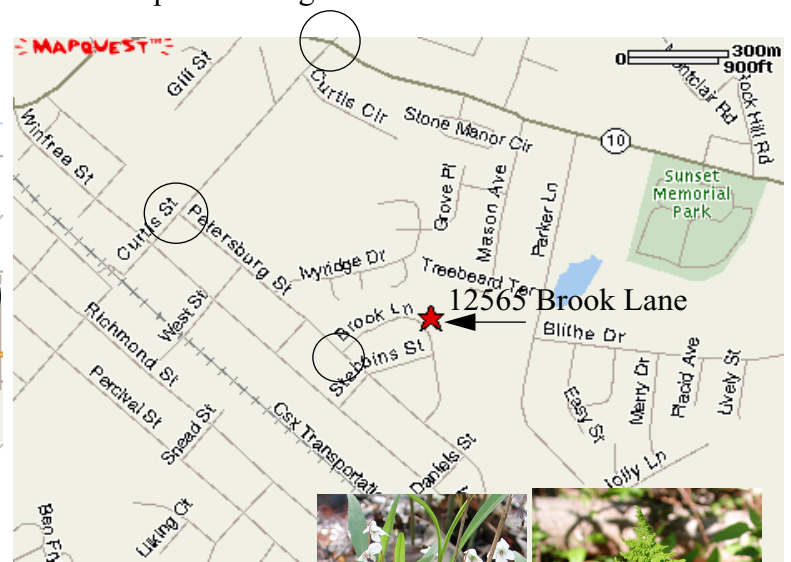
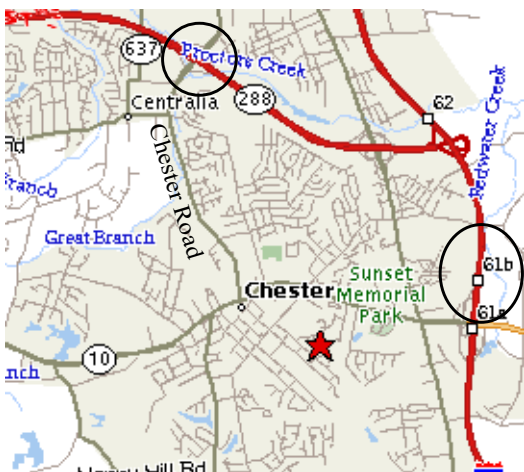
Instead of our regular meeting at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens we will have a picnic at Richard Moss's house at 12565 Brook Lane in Chester, starting at 12:00 noon.

Bring a dish to share, soft drinks will be provided.

Afterwards, there will be a plant walk in the woods in back of his house.

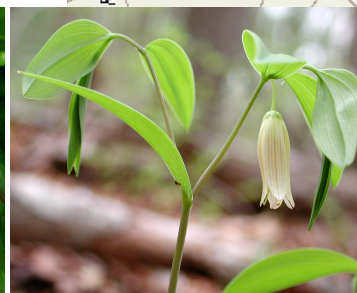
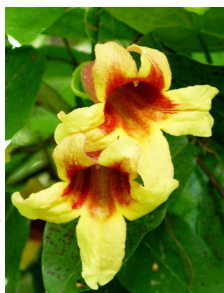
Directions: I 95 south or north, Take **Exit 61B**, Route 10 West to Chester, Go through 2 traffic lights and turn left at the third traffic light on to **Curtis Street**. Turn left from Curtis street on to **Petersburg Street** then turn left on to **Brook Lane**, the second street on the left (The Brook lane turn is hard to see, but it is a little before a 25 MPH speed limit sign.) Richard's house is the 6th house on the left.

From the west you can take Route 10 East to Chester, then turn on to Curtis street and follow the above directions, or take Route 288 to Chester Road (Route 144), then to turn left on Route 10 at Chester and turn right on Curtis street and follow the directions above. See the maps following:



For more information about the Picnic / Walk contact Richard Moss at 748-2940 or mossrd@mindspring.com.

Left and Above: Some native plants we may see on the Walk.



Events

- 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.
- July 16 Field Trip to the Zuni Pine Barrens to see the Grass Pinks orchids** - time to be announced. Contact Peggy Keefe at (804) 285-0579 (H) (804) 675-5000 Ex3676 (W) for more information.
- Oct. 28 Goblins and Gourds at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden:** Volunteers needed in Children's Garden 1- 4 PM

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## Minutes of the Pocahontas Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society Meeting for April 5, 2007

Chapter president, Peggy Keefe, began the meeting reminding members about the field trips to Monticello on April 14 and the National Arboretum on April 21. The Zuni Pine Barrens field trip is scheduled for June 16, to see the grass pinks. She briefly summarized the chapter's participation in the Grasses for the Masses program sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Members met with Dana Wiggins on March 27 for instruction and to get the equipment for growing the grasses. Members were reminded that our chapter has engaged Melanie Wright, who conducts the Eastern Woodland Indian programs at Henricus Park, to provide activities at the LGBG Children's Garden for the Spring Fling on Sunday, April 22. The following Saturday, April 28, we will begin the first of the fourth Saturday of the month (April- October) investigation stations providing an activity for children that teaches about the Powhatan Indians use of native plants.

The May picnic date has been changed to the nineteenth, and will be held at the home of Richard Moss.

Peggy asked if anyone would like to volunteer to fill the position of vice-president, coordinating programs for next year. We will vote on officers either at the picnic or via the newsletter.

The chapter, as an end of the year gift, is donating four books to the LGBG library.

Vickie Shufer, botany chair for the South Hampton Roads VNPS Chapter, presented a program entitled Early Uses of Native Plants by Virginia Indians. The flexible green growth of the black willow, red maple and sweet gum provided the framing material for the homes in the villages. The frames were covered with matting made from cordgrass, beardgrass, and cattails. Hickory staves were used for spears and the peeled bark was one of the resources used for cordage. Native bamboo canes were used as arrows and also bundled for use as fire torches.

Vickie showed slides of the many natural resources used by the Indians, and discussed the plants available for food each season. In the spring, some plants eaten were sassafras blossoms, pokeweed, thistle, serviceberry, red mulberry, and strawberries. Blueberries and Mayapple were available in May through the early summer. Some of the plants were used as medicine as well as for food. Summer fruits included elderberry, black cherry, black berry, and ground cherry (husk tomato). Generally, the fall fruits were not as sweet and

### 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     |

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 VNPS Website - www.vnps.org

juicy as the summer fruit. Muscadine grapes are an exception. Persimmons were ripe in the fall, and red sumac berries were made into a vitamin C drink. Cranberries and viburnum berries were also ripe at this time. Fruits lingering into winter were rose hips, hawthorn, and partridge berry, also used medicinally. The marshes provided edible seeds and grains, such as wild rice, and roots and tubers providing protein and starch in the diet. Arrow arum and Arrowhead were two notable root and tuber food sources. Vicki discussed the different types of nuts available, as well as some of the plants used as medicine, such as the prickly ash known as the toothache tree, and tobacco (*Nicotinana rustica*) used ceremonially. Vicki's presentation was enthusiastically received by the group, and stimulated lots of questions from the audience.

## Books for the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens

The Pocahontas Chapter donated the books listed below to the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens in a brief ceremony on April 27, 2007.

“The Audubon Society Guide to Attracting Birds: Creating Natural Habitats for Properties Large and Small”

Stephen W. Kress

“The Nature-Friendly Garden: Creating a Backyard Haven for Plants, Wildlife, and People”

Marlene A. Condon

“Armitage’s Native Plants for North American Gardens”

Allan M. Armitage

A fourth book, “Rain Gardens” by Dunnett and Clayden was back ordered and will be delivered when it arrives.

## ELECTION! ELECTION! ELECTION!

### Pocahontas Chapter - Election of Officers

#### Ballot for the Election of Officers for the Pocahontas Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

|    |                       |                       |             |
|----|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| 1. | <b>President</b>      | <b>Peggy Keefe</b>    | Other _____ |
| 2. | <b>Vice-President</b> | <b>Open</b>           | Other _____ |
| 3. | <b>Secretary</b>      | <b>Judith Sheldon</b> | Other _____ |
| 4. | <b>Treasurer</b>      | <b>Bucci Zeugner</b>  | Other _____ |

**Please send ballot to:**  
**Judy Sheldon**  
**7602 North Pinehill Dr.**  
**Richmond, VA 23228**

**or e-mail [jsheldon7602@aol.com](mailto:jsheldon7602@aol.com) indicating  
for whom you want to vote.**

**You may also vote at the Annual Picnic on May 19, 2007**

**Note: the position of Vice President is open. Volunteers would be welcome. If you are interested contact Peggy Keefe at (804) 285-0579 (H), (804) 675-5000 Ex3676 (W) for more information.**

**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**

