

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

May 2009

Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



May Picnic

Saturday May 2, 2009 at 11:30 AM

At Huguenot Hundred Community Association

**between 10800 and 10820 Cherokee Road, near the intersection of Cherokee Road and Old Gun Road
in Chesterfield County**

Bring Food for yourself and to share

**There are 8 acres, some wooded, some open, with a fireplace, picnic table, benches scattered about, a
portable potty, and trails through the woods.**

Directions:

1. From Chippenham Parkway (VA-150, Willey Bridge), take exit for Huguenot Road (VA -147) and go East. Turn Left on Cherokee Road (fourth or fifth street). Lane will be on right 3 miles from Huguenot Road.
2. From Huguenot Bridge, turn right on Cherokee Road (third street) and follow directions above.
3. From VA-288, take exit for Robious Road/Huguenot Trail (VA-711) and turn East. Turn left on Old Gun Road (VA-673) (fourth traffic light). Turn left on Cherokee Road, where Old Gun takes a sharp turn to right and starts up hill from river. Lane will be on left between second and third houses.

Calendar of Events

May 1-2 May 1, 4:00 pm – Dark, May 2, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Julie Erickson is having her 9th annual “Backyard Plant Sale” at her house at 203 Howard St., Ashland. The plants are donated by interested people like you and come from our own gardens. Last year, we had over 1200 plants donated and, additionally, over 5000 daffodil bulbs were donated by Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens. Proceeds from the sale benefit The Nature Conservancy’s Chesapeake Rivers Program specifically for land acquisitions in our area. See <http://townhound.com/blog/garden.php> for more information.

Events At Maymont:

BUTTERFLY GARDEN TRAIL and VEGETABLE GARDEN OPENING CELEBRATION

Sunday, May 17th, 12 noon-3 pm, Children’s Farm Lawn

Come celebrate Maymont's new Butterfly Trail in memory of Marie Hardee Spain and Vegetable Garden in memory of Jack Spain. Learn about growing vegetables in a small area or even in a container. Get some pointers on composting from Master Gardeners. Learn how to attract butterflies to your backyard from members of the Virginia Society of Landscape Designers then purchase a plant to get the new garden started. Take home a craft that the kids created.

Pocahontas Chapter Minutes for April 2, 2009

Daune Poklis, chapter president, began the meeting with announcements. The May 2 chapter picnic will be held at Huguenot Hundred Community Association on the James River, from 11 to 4. Directions will be in the newsletter. Vice-president Ernest Wilson listed the upcoming field trips: April 4, ephemerals in James River Park, and April 22, Lee Park and Ferndale Park. Work Days in the James River Park are scheduled for April 7 and 21 in the Butterfly Garden, and April 14, invasive removal project in JR Park. Members may donate time, plants or money toward the Butterfly Garden project. Daune stated that volunteer help will be needed for Good Green Fun Days at LGBG Children's Garden on May 23, June 27, Aug. 22, and Sept. 26. We will focus on native plants and the life cycle of butterflies. The VCU/Maymont sponsored program, Wrapped up in Raptors, will be offered April 2 - May 7.

At the last VNPS Board meeting, it was announced that the annual meeting will be held Sept. 25-27, and will be sponsored by the Blue Ridge Chapter. Douglas Tallamy, author of Bringing Nature Home, will be the keynote speaker. The Board selected wild ginger as the wildflower of the year.

After new members and visitors were introduced, Daune introduced the speaker, Phil Sheridan, director and president of Meadowview Biological Research Station. He said there are openings for individuals who would like to volunteer to serve on the Board of Directors of Meadowview. The title of the presentation was Joseph Pines: Preserving and Restoring a Longleaf Pine/Pitcher Plant Ecosystem. Joseph Pines Preserve is located in Sussex County. Originally, this ecosystem covered over a million acres in Virginia. Currently, there are less than 400 acres of Longleaf Pine, as well as a great decline in the pitcher plant populations. Joseph Pines Preserve includes over 50 acres of restored Longleaf Pine. Eighteen indigenous rare plants associated with the Pine are also being reintroduced in the Preserve. He outlined an overview of the steps in the process of restoration. In response to questions, Phil also speculated about the effects of climate change on the restoration of the Preserve.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Sheldon, chapter secretary

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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Presidents Message

Hello members. I can hardly believe that another year of regular meetings has come to an end and we are approaching the May Picnic. I want to thank each of you for participating in our events, outings and meetings. To those of you who didn't make it this year: I look forward to seeing you next year. This year's board worked especially hard to bring you what we thought would interest and entertain you and we hope you learned something along the way. Our chapter is very fortunate to have so many members who willingly share their time and knowledge with the rest of us. I have learned many things these past 2 years as president, not the least of which has been: what a joy it is to work with people who have the best interests of the chapter and its members at heart! Although I won't be president next year, I am looking forward to helping with some other needs of the Chapter. Membership chair is my initial commitment. (Don't forget when you renew your VNPS membership; you can give a free gift membership to a friend.) Although spring and summer are busy times for us all, the chapter will be sponsoring some walks and we will have a tent at the Good Green Fun days at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. We will be posting information about our activities and events of interest on our website. I urge you to check it regularly and take advantage of it as a place to share your own event information, pictures, links to articles of interest etc. with the other Pocahontas members. Do not forget to enjoy the wonders of native plants wherever you are.
Daune

Recent Field Trips: James River Park on April 4



1. Yellow fumewort (*Corydalis flavula*)
2. Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*)
3. May apple (*Podophyllum peltatum*)
4. Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*)
5. Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)
6. Spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*)
7. Mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*)
8. Sessile leaf bellwort (*Uvularia sessilifolia*)



Photos - Richard Moss



Lee Park & Ferndale Parks, Petersburg, VA

The Highlight of the Lee Park visit was seeing the Birds foot violet (A), our largest native violet, in bloom. At one time there were hundreds here but after the pine trees in the neighborhood grew up and shaded them only a few can be found along the park road. Two other violets, albeit much smaller ones, were also in bloom; the blue Arrow-leaved violet and the small water loving white Primrose-leaved violet.

The under storey shrubs of the heath family, blueberries, huckleberries and wild azaleas were all in bloom. I was happy to see the dwarf iris (*Iris verna*) (B), which I had not seen in the park in recent years, was in bloom at one place along the park road.

Our visit to Ferndale Park was cut short due to rain and wind. Most of the woodland wildflowers had finished or were about to finish blooming. Only a few flowers were left on the Spring Beauties and the yellow Trout Lilies had fruit. The Blue Star (C) (*Amsonia tabernaemontana*)

has started blooming but the Trumpet Honeysuckle and yellow Jasmine were in full bloom as was the Fetter bush (*Leucothoe racemosa*). The Skunk Cabbage foliage was beautiful and graced the wooded swamps. Unfortunately, we didn't see any Prothonotary Warblers.

Photos & text - Ernest Wilson



Chapter president Daune Poklis visited Shenk's Ferry Wildflower Preserve along the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania, earlier this Spring. Shenk's Ferry Preserve has been described as one of the most impressive wildflower areas in the eastern United States. "At least 73 species of flowers bloom from mid-March until the end of May and more than 60 other species of flowers bloom during the summer and fall. Some of the more common flowers include Dutchman's breeches, wild geranium, wild ginger, Virginia bluebells, mayapple, trillium and spring beauty." For more information go to <http://www.pplweb.com/holtwood/> and click on Shenk's Wildflower preserve under "Things to Do".



1. Cut-leaved toothwort (*Dentaria laciniata*) Note the ID tag made from plastic tape.
2. Hillside of Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), 3. White Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*), 4. Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*).

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