

# THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

June 2007



Spiderwort  
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



## June Field Trip Zuni Pine Barrens

**NOTE: Trip has been rescheduled to June 23, 2007  
We hope to see pale grass pink orchids in bloom.**



NOTE: There will be 2 car pool meeting places. For those on the North side of the James River, we will be LEAVING from the **North Park Library** in Henrico county AT 8:00 am. From there we will meet with those on the South side at THE UKROPS GROCERY STORE PARKING LOT at Route 1 and 10 in CHESTER for an 8:30 departure time to the ZUNI. We will be stopping to eat on the return trip. REMEMBER-- Bring, water, bug spray, sun screen, money for the gas and food, and anything else you might need.

*If you have not signed up for this trip and want to attend, please contact, Pat Brodie 266-3070, Peggy Keefe at H 285-0579, W 675-5000 Ex3676, or Daune Poklis 741-7838.*

The more than 1,000-acre Zuni Pine Barrens protected area includes both Antioch Pines Natural Area Preserve and the adjacent Blackwater Ecological Preserve, which is owned by Old Dominion University but managed in partnership with DCR's Natural Heritage Program.

This area is one of the last places in Virginia where long leaf pines are found growing naturally. These trees used to dominate areas of Southern costal plain, but the trees were all but eliminated in Virginia by cutting and tapping of the trees for the production of tar, pitch and turpentine. The few longleaf pines that remained in Virginia were nearly wiped out by the practice of suppressing fires in their habitat. Longleaf pine seeds germinate best on bare

soil, so without periodic fires to clear leaf litter the seeds do not germinate.

The longleaf's thick bark withstands low fires which kill off most undergrowth and leaf litter, creating sandy openings ideal for seed germination. Historically, low-intensity natural fires



swept through the forest, consuming thick undergrowth but sparing taller trees. In fact, the longleaf pine forests that once covered much of the southeastern United States and were home to numerous fire-adapted plants, which relied on wildfire to trigger regeneration and kill off competitors. At Zuni Pine Barrens there is an active program of proscribed burning which clears the underbrush

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and simulates naturally occurring forest fires. Not only are the longleaf pines benefitting from these fires, but other fire resistant plants which were historically found in this area are coming back. The orchid called pale grass-pink (*Calopogon pallidus*) hadn't been seen in Virginia for half a century. But after several years of proscribed burns, a plant appeared, with in a few years there were 39, now there are even more. Other plants rarely found in the Commonwealth have regained a foothold in the preserves as well. The white fringed orchid can now be found in three places, blooming in big, bright clusters. A single, unusually large specimen of southern purple pitcher plant sat idle for years but finally produced seedlings when the surrounding brush was removed.

From DCR Newsletter *Grassroots*, <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/grassroots/index0705.shtml>

## Events

July 21 John Hummer will be leading a summer wetland walk on his property July 21. If you are interested in participating in this field trip, please contact Daune Poklis or Peggy Keefe.

The Pocahontas chapter will be purchasing 50 copies of the booklet listed below. We will be selling it for \$4.00. Please check it out. This is an excellent reference book. It sells quickly when offered at events we attend. If you want to order a copy, before they are sold out, contact Daune Poklis, [Daune@Poklis.org](mailto:Daune@Poklis.org) or 741-7838 to have your name placed on the list. You will be informed as soon as they arrive and a distribution/payment method announced.

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 May 19, 2007 Meeting, Picnic, and Plant Walk

## 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   | Ernest Wilson  |
| Secretary        | Judith Sheldon |
| Treasurer        | Bucci Zeugner  |
| Membership Chair | Pat Brodie     |

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 VNPS Website - [www.vnps.org](http://www.vnps.org)

Richard Moss hosted the end of the year picnic and plant walk at his home in Chester on Saturday, May 19. Prior to the plant walk, chapter president, Peggy Keefe, held a short meeting. The slate of officers for 2007-8 was presented: Peggy Keefe, president; Judy Sheldon, secretary, Bucci Zeugner, treasurer; and Pat Brodie, membership. The office of vice-president has not been filled, and Daune Poklis has indicated she will not be able to continue with this position. A motion was made and seconded to vote on this slate. Approval was unanimous.

Peggy reminded members about the June 16 trip to Zuni Pine Barrens, and where to meet in order to travel together and arrive for the walk at 10:00.

She also reminded the group about the investigation station the Pocahontas Chapter is offering at the Children's Garden at Lewis Ginter each month on the fourth Saturday through October. Chapter members are encouraged to volunteer, and need to contact Peggy, Daune, or Judy.

After an ample and delicious potluck picnic, Richard led us on a walk through his yard and woods. We recorded a list of over 50 plants identified on the walk, including spring ephemerals and a variety of ferns. Richard and Dr. Ernest

Wilson contributed greatly with their skill and knowledge of plant identification. A special treat was happening upon a large twayblade orchid in the leaf litter.

Many thanks to Richard for his outstanding hospitality and the opportunity to tour the woods on his property.

Submitted by,  
Judy Sheldon, chapter secretary

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NOTE: After the May meeting and picnic Ernest Wilson agreed to serve as Vice President.

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## **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” by Stephen W. Kress

“The Nature-Friendly Garden: Creating a Backyard Haven for Plants, Wildlife, and People” by Marlene A. Condon

“Armitage’s Native Plants for North American Gardens” by Allan M. Armitage

The fourth book, “Rain Gardens” by Dunnett and Clayden was back ordered but has now arrived was delivered to the library on June 8th, 2007.

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## **Joint Lewis Ginter Children’s Garden - Pocahontas Chapter Program**

**JOIN THE FUN!** The partnership between the Pocahontas Chapter and the Children’s Garden at Lewis Ginter is underway. On the fourth Saturday of each month, April through October, our chapter volunteers are planning activities and staffing an investigation station in the Children’s Garden. This consists of tent-shaded tables offering activities and information on plants and other natural resources used by the Eastern Woodland Indians, especially the Powhatans.

In April we provided eco-pots for the children to plant corn, beans, and squash, crops the Powhatans cultivated. The activities are designed to give the children an authentic experience with native plant material and educational information about the Powhatans in conjunction with the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown.

In May we introduced children to the craft of making pinch pots in the style of the Pamunkey Indians. Corn cobs, osprey quills, shells, cordage, and pine cones were used to create designs on the clay pots. Children of all ages, including a grandmother, enjoyed this activity. On one of the tables we displayed edible plants gathered by the Indians in the spring before their cultivated crops were ready for harvest: arrow arum, cattail rootstocks, violet and jewel weed leaves, and pine needles for tea. Examples of ripening May apple and red mulberry were included in May. This is also an opportunity to provide VNPS brochures and information on chapter activities to interested adults. In addition, we offer a list of related sites to visit and resources pertaining to the Powhatans. On June 23, we plan to introduce the children to the five seasons of the Powhatans with a drawing and coloring project and an activity centering on the importance of tobacco to the Indians.

**Come join the fun on one of these Saturdays. Call Peggy Keefe H 285-0579, W 675-5000 Ex3676, Daune Poklis 741-7838, or Judy Sheldon 266-0856, and let us know a convenient time for you to participate.**

**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**

