

*THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE
VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY*

September 2006



Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



The September Meeting will be on
Thursday September 7, 2006 at 7:00 PM

Our Speaker will be Dana Wiggins of the The Chesapeake Bay Foundation
her topic will be

Underwater Grasses Program: Overview and Invitation.

Born in Long Island, NY and raised in Chesterfield County, VA, Dana has a Bachelor of Science from James Madison University in Integrated Science and Technology with foci in Environment and Biotechnology. Before joining the Bay Foundation in the fall of 2005, Dana spent over two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guinea, West Africa working on Environmental, Agro-forestry, AIDS, and Nutrition education. She has spent time researching sustainable projects for the Conservation Fund, an environmental non-profit organization in Roslyn, VA and currently works as the Grassroots Coordinator for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in the Richmond, VA office. Her duties include a combination of grassroots outreach and advocacy, volunteer coordination, and the underwater grasses program in Virginia for the Bay Foundation.

Chapter News

NOTICE:

Our president Kristi Orkutt regretfully informed the executive committee at a meeting this summer that she will not be able to finish her term as president due to increased demands on her time from family and work. The executive committee accepted her resignation and thanked her for the excellent job she has done as president. Peggy Keefe, the chapter secretary, volunteered to serve as acting president and this was approved unanimously. This left the position of chapter secretary vacant. Judith Sheldon, a VNPS member since 1996, volunteered, and was appointed temporary secretary. The executive committee would like to suggest the members present at the September meeting elect Peggy Keefe as president to fulfill Kristie's term of office, and elect a member to fulfill Peggy's term as secretary.

The executive committee is composed of the Chapter Officers and past presidents.

Speakers for 2006-2007:

October - Lou Verner: What Makes Sense? Assessing Green Space Management Alternatives.

Lou will describe how green space management guidelines based on simple ecological principles can provide cost-effective, labor-saving alternatives to traditional maintenance practices. Examples will be given of how maintaining/restoring native plant communities not only improves the bottom line, but also provides needed wildlife habitat and increased opportunities for passive recreation and eco-tourism. The important role of community and agency partnerships will also be discussed.

November - Denise Green: Perennials in the Landscape

December- John Hayden: Plants and Ethnobotany of the Oaxaca Valley, Mexico.

Dr. Hayden is Professor of Biology at the University of Richmond, where he teaches botany, curates the herbarium, and oversees greenhouse operations. His research centers on the plant family Euphorbiaceae, and floristics of Yucatan, Mexico. He also serves as Botany Chair for VNPS.

January- Joy Ware: Diseases of Reptiles and Amphibians of Virginia

February- Pat Brodie: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

March and April are still in the planning stage.

Events

Virginia Garden Festival, Saturday, September 16, 2006:

Our Chapter will have a booth at the Festival and we need volunteers - more at the meeting.

The Virginia Green Industry Council will produce its first Virginia Garden Festival at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. This Festival is designed to educate and entertain those attending with the “how to’s” of gardening. There will be plant sales, crafters, equipment displays, food, speakers including Andre Viette doing his radio show from the Garden Fest. Also there will be demonstrations of tree trimming, water gardens, turf installation, the popular VGIC “ask the expert”, and a number of gardening and habitat related organizations with displays.

The VGIC motto is “Go Green”.

The Festival is intended to open the homeowners eyes to the all those things he or she can do to improve their yards, their gardens and our environment.

This is the first annual Virginia Garden Festival to be sponsored by the Virginia Green Industry Council. “It is our hope and intent to provide the general gardening public with an activity that inspires and encourages everyone to learn more about all aspects of gardening. We will show those attending how they can beautify their home with plants and related gardening products, provide simple habitats for wildlife, see ‘how to’ demonstrations, hear speakers on popular gardening topics, talk with gardening organizations about their special interests and activities and just have fun in a casual, beautiful setting at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden.”

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 (Acting)	Peggy Keefe
Vice President	Daune Poklis
Secretary (Acting)	Judith Sheldon
Treasurer	Bucci Zeugner
Membership Chair	Pat Brodie

Address all correspondence to
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VNPS Website - www.vnps.org

Location - The Garden Festival will be located in the west parking lot of LGBG and on the lawn at the front of the Robins Visitor Center.

Set Up - Will take place Friday evening September 15 and Saturday morning September 16.

Exhibits - Each participant will be provided a 10'x10' space (or slightly more if needed). Larger exhibits will require additional fees. The Garden Festival is outside. You must provide your own tent if you want or need one and must provide weight to hold that tent down. Some of you will be on the parking lot and some of you will be on the lawn. The layout will be made available before the show. A limited supply of 6' and 8' tables are available. You are welcome to bring your own tables.

VNPS Annual Meeting - SAVE THIS WEEKEND: September 23-24, 2006

The Shenandoah Chapter is hosting the annual VNPS meeting this fall. It is a weekend event which includes full day and half-day field trips on Saturday, an annual meeting with a speaker and dinner Saturday evening and half-day field trips on Sunday.

The VNPS Website

The VNPS web site has been redesigned. Check it out at www.vnps.org. Changes are still being made but chapters (and perhaps some committee chairs) will be able to post their own events, and as events are put there, the front page will change to show new events, keeping the site more up to date and interesting.

Requests for Volunteers

- Chantal Reed of "Roots and Shoots" is looking for a volunteer or volunteers to provide some instruction and a hands-on activity regarding local trees and native plants. The audience would consist of 9- to 15-year olds and the activity could take place at a local park (e.g., Henricus or Pocahontas), sometime in October or November would be preferred, and the session could be up to three hours in duration. If you can help, contact one of the chapter officers.
- **Refreshments for the Meeting** - We need members to help with refreshments for our Chapter meetings. More details and a sign-up sheet will be at the meeting.

Field Trip

We plan to have a field trip to Point of Rocks Park in eastern Chesterfield County, either Saturday, October 14th or 21st. More information at the meeting.



Interesting fungus(?) infection of Elephantopus plants - Richard Moss

A patch of elephants foot growing in my back yard has developed small rings of what appear to be bright yellow/orange spores often with a central spot. The leaf turns yellow and eventually dies.

The attached picture was taken July 30 and now (August 30) the effected area has grown and the plants in the central part have died. No other types of plants seem to be effected.



Close up view

**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**

