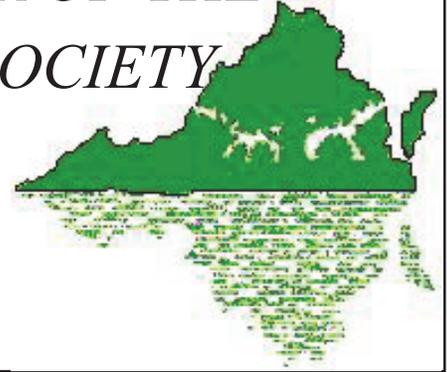


# THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Spiderwort

(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



## September 2012

### Chapter Meeting

Thursday September 6, 2012 at 7:00 PM

at the Education and Library Complex of the Lewis Ginter Botanical  
Garden in the Lab

The room is available at 6:30, come early and Socialize



**Our Speaker is Matthias Leu, PhD**  
Assistant Professor, Department of Biology  
Applied Conservation and Ecological Research Lab  
College of William & Mary



He will discuss the *Construction and the Spread of Japanese Stilt Grass*

Dr. Leu will connect the dots for us between construction and the spread of Japanese stilt grass (*Microstegium vimineum*). This is a plant we all need to be familiar with if we don't already have it growing in our yards or along nearby roadsides.

Dr. Leu is a conservation biologist with a broad interest in how human actions influence ecological processes and biodiversity. His research focuses on large-scale approaches that model the human footprint, the cumulative effects of human actions across landscapes, and how humans affect species distributions. In addition, he is interested in how climate variability and climate change affect the distribution of plant species. In all his research he strives to provide models which can be used in conservation activities.

### Pocahontas Chapter Programs - Fall 2012

October 4 ***Insect Invaders Attacking Virginia's Forests***

James Schroering, ANR Agent, Virginia Agriculture Extension Program, Hanover County

November 1 ***Native Plants and Pollinators***

Grace Chapman, Director of Horticulture, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

December 8 ***Christmas Party***

The exact time and place will be announced later. It will be the traditional party with all of us bringing a dish to share and a bottle of wine or sparkling cider. The chapter will provide soft drinks and cups.

### Pocahontas Chapter Field Trips - Fall 2012

Please call or e-mail the trip leader if you plan to participate in a particular trip. Let him or her know to expect you. Cancel if your plans change, so the group doesn't wait for you.

- September 22 (Saturday) Point of Rocks, Chesterfield County. 10:00 AM Meet trip leader Richard Moss at the parking lot in front of Martin's Grocery at the intersection of Route 10 and Route 1. This is the same trip that Richard is leading for the VNPS annual meeting on September 15-16. Lots of flowers and wild rice should still be in bloom. Contact Richard at (804) 748-2940 or mossrd46@verizon.net.
- September 26 (Wednesday) *Aisle of View*, Hanover County
- September 29 (Saturday) *Aisle of View*, Hanover County  
10:00 AM Meet trip leader Catharine Tucker in the parking lot at the North Park Library, Henrico County for 13-mile trip to the property. This is the same trip twice, repeating the "Upper Coastal Plain Hardwoods" trip planned for the VNPS Annual Meeting on September 16. Bring a bag lunch and a drink or water. We can have lunch on the porch. Contact Catharine at 804-938-6941 or cath.tucker@gmail.com.
- October 11 (Thursday) Three Lakes Park, Henrico County, 10:00 AM. Meet trip leader Catharine Tucker in the parking lot at Three Lakes Park off Wilkinson Road approximately 1 mile East of US 301 (Chamberlayne Ave.) This is a short walk around the lakes and an opportunity to visit the Visitors' Center and aquarium. There are interesting trees, shrubs, vines and unusual colonies of running cedar, running pine and shining clubmoss. Bring a bag lunch and a drink or water so we can picnic on the tables. Contact Catharine at 804-938-6941 or cath.tucker@gmail.com.

Suggestions for future field trips this fall are encouraged. Possibilities are Pocahontas State Park, Deep Run Park, and other small parks in the metro Richmond area that haven't been visited by the chapter recently. Anyone who can act as a trip leader is welcome. Trip leaders only need to be the contact help us find the location, not necessarily know the plants we'll see!

## President's Message

I'm looking forward to the statewide annual meeting in September. We have interesting speakers and field trips planned, and we're celebrating the 30th anniversary of the VNPS and recognizing our charter members. We're also celebrating and looking forward to the publication of the new Flora of Virginia.

**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**

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Planning to host the annual meeting has been both interesting and stressful. It's been fun, with good member participation and lots of laughs, but now we need to turn our attention more to chapter activities. September is the beginning of a new year for the chapter. We have renewed our arrangement with Lewis Botanical Garden to provide library books and volunteer services in return for our meeting place. More about that later.

We've not scheduled field trips for the chapter lately, so that will change beginning in September. A list appears elsewhere in this newsletter. If you have ideas of places you'd like to go, please contact one of the officers or speak up at the next meeting. If you'd be willing to lead a trip - no botanical knowledge necessary -- just to share an interesting place, please speak up!

Speakers on a variety of subjects from invasive plants and insects to native plants and pollinators are already set for the next three months. These are listed elsewhere in this newsletter also. We expect to have programs arranged through April before the end of this year. We look forward to the annual Christmas Party and the picnic in May. If you have suggestions, they are always welcome.

Most importantly, we need to include more members as officers this year. We need to nominate a new slate and elect new officers at the October meeting.

Much has been accomplished during this past year. All of this has been a group effort. I am most grateful for the cheerful support of my dedicated fellow officers and look forward to continuing to help the chapter from retirement.

Catharine White Tucker

## Call for Nominations: It's Election Year!

Have you noticed?! Results of the nominating conventions for both the Democratic and Republic parties won't be any surprise. However, speculation on the results of the national election will continue until the results are in the next day. Now, there's also speculation about who will lead this chapter for the coming year.

Pocahontas Chapter elects officers this fall. But the nominations aren't known yet. All officer positions are open for nominations. Current officers are tired and will be happy to play "second fiddle" for awhile. If you can contribute your service for the coming year, please contact one of the current officers between now and the meeting on September 6. We, the current officers, are not going away and stand ready to help new officers keep the chapter growing.

With programs set for the rest of 2012 and some field trips already scheduled, much of the planning is already done. This is your chance to take these plans and implement them. Together we can come up with ideas for more programs and field trips and help make them a reality for all of us. STEP UP AND HELP!

## Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden Plans Native Plant Gardens

At our April meeting, we heard Shane Tippett present the goals of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden (LGBG) to develop native plant gardens and their current water management and future plans for water recycling and conservation. He referred to Dr. Doug Tallamy's book, "Bringing Nature Home" as description of the importance of planting natives.

For the latest newsletter from the Garden, Mr. Tippett, Executive Director of the Garden, wrote the following editorial which bears directly on these native plant gardens. He refers to a definition of "native" published by VNPS. Our members have long looked forward to and helped encourage more inclusion of Virginia native plants at LGBG.

"In early June the Garden's Board of Directors resolved to pursue, over the next several years, initiatives rising out of our current strategic plan. The first initiative will create two beautiful new gardens: the Native Plant Garden and the Spring Woodland Garden. They are collectively referred to as 'Streams of Stewardship Gardens,' so-called because a major underlying principle in their design and construction will be sustainable water practices. Our planning is under way and as usual, the number of things to consider grows in the considering. Reflect on this, for example: What do we mean by the 'native' in native plant garden?

"That definition depends on who you ask. One very good resource, the Virginia Native Plant Society (VNPS), says, 'Native Plants are species or other distinct genetic forms that have either evolved in the wild settings where they now occur naturally or arrived there from where they originated, whether near or far, by natural forces of dispersal operating over time without the help of humans.' The definition refers to the plant, its setting, its history and a reference to human activity.

"We humans are an active lot. The first nation peoples who inhabited the Americas for thousands of years probably walked here from somewhere else. The vast majority of people now in the Western Hemisphere came from, or are descendants of people who came from, the Eastern Hemisphere in the last 500 years. Cataclysms of nature and periodic sea, air and land migrations aside, other creatures and plants tend not to wander around the globe quite as freely as we do. As suggested by the VNPS definition above, humans might not be "natural forces" but we are nothing if not helpful. So we have kindly loaded up our ships and planes with animals and plants, our pockets and shoes with insects and seeds, our skin and even our blood with microbes. And we have all gone traveling - not always by design, but usually with a lot of energy.

"When Lewis Ginter settles on our 'native' definition, we shall plant, grow and teach a garden that explains the benefits of native plants for our community's future. We shall cast the story in the context of the rich exchange of peoples, plants and animals around the world that is our history and sometimes our challenge. Like you, in your lives, we hope to show that human activity can be helpful."

(Reprinted with permission of Shane Tippett)

## VNPS Named as Sponsor of Two Families in the New "Flora of Virginia"

Because of our fund raising efforts for the new Flora of Virginia, the Virginia Native Plant Society will be listed as a sponsor for two plant families in the first edition of the new Flora of Virginia.

According to Bland Crowder, Flora of Virginia Assistant in the Virginia Natural Heritage Program, *Menyanthaceae* and *Lauraceae* are the two families selected for our sponsorship.

At the VNPS Board meeting on July 21, a short list was distributed of the families that were not yet sponsored and yet were judged to have some interest to VNPS members. Those present were asked to vote by choosing first, second and third choices. The votes were ranked, and the results were the same whether counted by number of votes or points.

The following plant families were the top four choices -- four, in case some families were taken by the time our choices reached Bland Crowder. *Menyanthaceae*, which includes the state rare buckbean or bogbean, *Menyanthes trifoliata* L., was the first choice with 12 votes or 35 points. This plant is found in our second registry site, Mueller's Marsh in Augusta County, and now in Folly Mills Creek Fen, a state Natural Area Preserve.

Lauraceae includes spicebush, *Lindera benzoin* (L.) Blume, our 2006 Wildflower of the Year, as well as Sassafras, *Sassafras albidum* (Nutt.) Nees, receiving 9 votes or 27 points.

Plantaginaceae, which will now include some genera formerly classified in the *Scrophulariaceae* family, such as *Penstemon*, *Chelone*, and *Veronicastrum*, received 8 votes or 23 points.

*Adoxaceae*, which includes the genera *Viburnum* and *Sambucus* received 8 votes or 13 points.

We all look forward to the publication in December of this long-awaited flora to see the results of everyone's hard work and to express our appreciation for their dedication.

## **Pocahontas Chapter Recognizes Its Charter Members**

As the Virginia Native Plant Society celebrates its 30th year in 2012, Pocahontas Chapter calls attention to our chapter's three charter members. They are Lucy Coggin, Nancy Hugo, and Frances Melton. The 43 Charter Members statewide will be recognized at the VNPS Annual Meeting to be held on Saturday evening, September 15 at Wyndham Virginia Crossings.

Founded in 1982 and 1983 as the Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society, the Society changed its name to the Virginia Native Plant Society in the late 1980's in order to clearly reflect the vision of the founders. The theme, "Conserving wild flowers and wild places," emphasizes not only the flowers but the habitats where they grow.

Statewide membership has increased since the 1980's to over 1600 members in 13 chapters as of June 2012. About 40% of current members have joined within the last five years, and about 60% have maintained their membership for five or more years.

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**Pocahontas Chapter**  
**Virginia Native Plant Society**  
**12565 Brook Lane**

