

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

October 2007

Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



October Meeting

Thursday October 4, 2007 at 7:00 PM

at the Education and Library Complex of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
in Classroom 2

Our Presentation will be:

*Evolution, Diversity and Habitat of My Natural Wetland System, Including the Different
Eco-types and How I Manage It*

by John Hummer

John Hummer is a naturalist who maintains a wetlands eco-system near Ruther Glen, Va. He will be having the Fall viewing spectacle of his wetlands on the 20th of October at noon (rain date Oct. 27). Although it has been a dry season, John says the plants are looking spectacular; The pitcher plants are looking superb and the gentians are starting to bloom. John will lead one tour around the wetlands starting about noon. Please try to be on time! There will be refreshments and you are welcome to bring a nic-nac of your desire. The address is 23500 Old C. C. Road, Ruther Glen, VA. For more information call John at (804) 448-5258.

Come to the chapter meeting early and socialize! The classroom is available from 6:00PM on. Try to arrive early to allow for time to visit with each other before the meeting so we can start promptly at 7:00.

Right: John Hummer's wetland last summer.



Notices:

We are desperately seeking a Field Trip Coordinator/field trip contact person! The duties would include being a conduit between the members and the field trip leader; describing field trip information at the meetings and publicizing information in the newsletter, coordinating meeting place, time, particulars of the field trip, providing members information about length, difficulty etc., cancellation policy, number of participants, keeping track of participant information (sign up sheet), be responsible for liability forms, (first aid kit?). This person must be willing to have name, phone number and/or e-address available to the members and published in the newsletter. If you are at all interested in helping, please contact Daune Poklis at 741-7838, E-mail daune@poklis.org.

Sign up to help with the **October 27 Good Green Fun Day** from 10:00-2:00 in the Children's Garden at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Our topic will be the gathering of plants and preparation for winter. Also plan to attend or help with **Goblins and Gourds**, October 28 from 1:00-4:00 in the Children's Garden. The Pocahontas Chapter is sponsoring a Powhatan living history interpreter for our final program of the year. Contact either Judy Sheldon or Daune Poklis for details and to sign up for either day (Judy at 266-0856, e-mail jshel760@aol.com, Daune at 741-7838, daune@poklis.org). We need nuts- hickory, walnut, chinquapin, edible oak, etc. for the program Oct. 27-28 programs at the Children's garden. If any one goes out walking or has any nut trees on their property, please gather some so we show the children what the Powhatans would have collected. No need to remove husks or shells, or to pick the meat. We can do that as a kid activity. Also, any paw-paw fruits or berries that are native and edible. Any collected items can be brought to the meeting Oct. 4, or if collected later in October, contact Daune or Judy Sheldon. Thank you for any help/items you can give. Daune

Event Calendar 2007

- Oct. 11 (Thursday) Ashland Library, 7 to 9 pm. Native **Plants and Planting for Wildlife: A Good Idea But How Do You Begin?** Brian Wagner from Hyla Brook Farm in Louisa will speak on native plants and planting for wildlife. Talk with Brian about how to actually begin in your own yard or acreage. On Saturday, Oct. 13 there will be a field trip to Hyla Brook Farm in Louisa County (Time and logistics to be arranged) Contact Nancy Pecsok, President, Hanover Naturally at (804) 798-1197
- Oct. 20 **John Hummer wetland/ecology day.** Tour of his property. Rain date Oct. 27.
- Oct. 23 - 24 **Northern Limits, Restoring the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem in Virginia.** Hosted by Meadowview Biological Research Station (www.pitcherplant.org). Conference to take place at the 4-H Conference Center in Wakefield, VA. Please see the website <http://www.pitcherplant.org/SpecialEvents.html> or upload the PDF document from this site by going to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/vanativeplantsociety/files> and choose longleafconference3.pdf
- Oct. 27-28 Pocahontas at LGBG children's garden for the **Good Green Fun day.** Gathering food stuffs for the winter. And **Goblins and Gourds** (the end of the summer programs).
- Nov. 1 **November Meeting:** Ralph White - The James River Park System
- Nov. 3 **Field Trip:** James River Park led by Ralph White.
- Nov. 9-11 **Nature Journaling** (with a Twist). Learn new ways to observe and record natural phenomena with veteran teacher, artist, and technology wizard Rhonda Roebuck. Rhonda shares techniques that include transferring old graphics and "cut out" literature onto new pages, manipulating digital photographs (both electronically and using unusual solvents), and "layering" illustrations and text. Just having uninterrupted time to observe what's going on outdoors for an entire weekend is a reason to attend this workshop! Rhonda shares resources particularly helpful to teachers, but this is a workshop for any one who wants to learn new ways to record what they see. Tuition of \$350 includes instruction, most materials, two nights' lodging, and five meals (dinner Friday through brunch Sunday). To register or for more information contact: Nancy Ross Hugo, Director, Flower Camp; 804-798-6364; nancy@flowercamp.org
- Dec. 6 **December Meeting:** Ernest Wilson- Twig Identification (part 1 of tree id).
- Dec. 8 **Tree ID Field Trip**-(Part 2) led by Ernest Wilson.

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	Daune Poklis
Vice President	Ernest Wilson
Secretary	Judith Sheldon
Treasurer	Bucci Zeugner
Membership Chair	Pat Brodie

Address all correspondence to
Richard Moss, Editor
12565 Brook Lane
Chester, VA 23831
mossrd@mindspring.com
VNPS Website - www.vnps.org

Minutes of the September 6, 2007 Meeting of the Pocahontas Chapter

Richard Moss, past president of the chapter and current newsletter editor, opened the meeting stating that Peggy Keefe has moved to Kansas and resigned as current president. The chapter board approved the appointment of vice president Daune Poklis to fill the office of president and Ernest Wilson to be vice president. A motion was made for the membership to approve these two appointments. The motion passed unanimously. Daune, our new president, conducted the rest of the meeting beginning with a tribute to the contributions of Peggy Keefe, who will be greatly missed by all who had the opportunity to work with her.

Daune announced chapter events for September and encouraged members to sign-up: September 8, a field trip to Ferndale Park and practice using Newcomb's Wildflower Guide for plant identification, lead by Ernest Wilson; September 22, chapter booth at Virginia Garden Festival at LGBG; September 22, an activity teaching native plant use by Powhatan Indians in the Children's Garden at LGBG. The VNPS annual meeting will be held Sept. 14 - 16 at Gloucester Point. Daune will attend.

The chapter has a classroom at LGBG from 6 to 9 for meetings. Daune suggested members arrive at 6:30 to socialize so that we can begin the meeting at 7 and promptly leave by 9 o'clock. Pat Brodie reported that she sent a letter to the members requesting updated membership information. She read the names of the members who did not respond in case anyone present had information about them. Visitors and new members were introduced. Ernest Wilson spoke about the Saturday field trip and how participants should prepare.

Richard Moss stated that he would try to get the newsletter out ten days before the meeting. If someone has information for the newsletter, send it to Richard two weeks before the meeting date. If your E-mail has changed or if you want to receive the newsletter electronically, notify Richard. Daune asked members to make suggestions for future field trips. She asked members to sign-up as helpers for several categories: Coordinator for field trips; coordinator for refreshments; helpers for the Powhatan Indian/native plant project in the Children's Garden. Also, members are encouraged to donate plants for the native plant garden next to the Eastern Woodland longhouse in the Children's Garden. Ernest Wilson suggested planting in the fall rather than waiting until spring. Daune will check into this possibility.

The second portion of the meeting was a presentation by Jerry Zaun of the Camera Club of Richmond, titled *Taking Pictures of Flowers Big and Small*. Jerry described himself as a retired amateur photographer who is 100% digital. Goals for the presentation were: 1. Inspire you to learn more about photography; 2. Encourage you to try something different; 3. Convince you to take lots of pictures (if you want to take good pictures, you have to take lots). Tools needed are camera, tripod, light, manual, and patience. Some of the tips he offered were: Hold the camera still using tripod, monopod or leaning against something steady; frame the subject using the rule of thirds; check the background and decide if you want it in the picture; look at the light and shadows; add flash only if needed; check the focus and decide what you want to focus on; learn to use the f stop to control the depth of field; be aware of breeze movements - if the plant is moving, you need a faster shutter speed. Use different angles and take lots of pictures. Add some interest with perched insects or photographing the backside of the flower. Use a close-up macro/micro lens. You may need a tripod with this. The digital zoom can produce some great shots, too. When reviewing pictures, learn from the ones that did not turn out well.

After the informative presentation, Jerry showed two wonderful slide shows with music, one of a friends garden of daylilies, and the other of 3-D pictures of flowers. He even passed out the 3-D glasses for us to wear. He said it is easy to make 3-D pictures using free software found on the Internet called stereo maker.

He was asked about photo shop, which he recommended, but said you need to take a class in order to use it effectively. Jerry passed out cards for the Camera Club with their web site address: www.cameraclubofrichmond.com. He invited interested photographers to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Sheldon, chapter secretary

Some photos from the field trip to Appomattox River Park on September 8, 2007



L to R - Top Row: Grape fern (*Botrychium dissectum*), Blue curls (*Trichostema dichotomum*), Dodder (*Cuscuta gronovii*), Horse Mint (*Monarda punctata*), Gerardia (*Agalinis tenuifolia*).
Second Row: Butterfly Pea (*Centrosema virginianum*), Climbing up the bank from the River after discovering the "short cut" back to the parking lot was blocked by green briars. We identified over 70 plants.



**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**

