



Spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*)

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 2003

The Pocahontas Chapter serves the following counties: Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, King William, New Kent, Powhatan and the cities of Ashland, Hopewell, Petersburg, and Richmond. It meets every first Thursday in the months of September through April at 7 PM in the Education and Library Complex unless otherwise stated.

GENERAL MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, November 6, 2003 at 7 PM** in the Breakout Room in the Education and Library Complex. Phil Sheridan, who does research and runs a nursery of bog plants in Caroline County, will offer an interesting slide program on "Insectivorous Plants". These are fascinating plants which use all sorts of tricks to trap and devour insects. There will be refreshments, so please bring your mugs.

CHAPTER NEWS

If you have changed your name, telephone number, mail or email address, or VNPS status, please forward that information to Patricia Brodie, membership chairman, at **804-266-3070** or email her at owpa03v@aol.com. You may send your membership renewals to the VNPS headquarters in Blandy Farm unless Patricia announces otherwise. She will not send out a notice of your renewal but you will continue to receive one from the VNPS headquarters.

Richard Moss is now Pocahontas Chapter's Newsletter editor. He will published the December issue. If you have anything of interest for the newsletter, please phone him at **804-**

748-2940 or email him at mossrd@mindspring.com.

FUTURE CHAPTER MEETINGS: Call Dean Walton at the Division of Natural Heritage or email him at dwalton@dcr.state.va.us to offer your ideas.

Thursday, December 4: Meeting to be held in the Education and Library Complex.

Thursday, January 8, 2004: This date was made because the first Thursday falls on New Years Day. Meeting to be held in the Education and Library Complex. John Roberts, chapter member, will offer a program: "The *Nature* of the Arctic." John has made several trips to the Arctic.

Thursday, February 5: Meeting to be held in the Education and Library Complex. Does anyone have an idea for a program?

Thursday, March 4: Meeting to be held in the Education and Library Complex. Does anyone have an idea for a program?

Thursday, April 1: Meeting to be held in the Education and Library Complex. Aside from the fact that it is April Fool's Day, does anyone have an idea for a program?

MAYMONT:

ONE GREAT DAY OF RAKING: Saturday, November 22, 9am, Maymont Japanese Garden Maymont's Japanese Garden is a favorite place for many Richmonders. Caring for the garden is quite a task. To help with this endeavor volunteer to help the horticulture staff rake the fallen leaves covering the garden. Please call ahead to let us know you are joining us, and bring your own rake! 358-7166 ext. 326.

MAYMONT'S WREATH WORKSHOPS: Tuesday, Dec. 2, 6-9pm, Wednesday Dec. 3, 9-noon or 6-9pm, Thursday Dec. 4th 9-noon or 6-9pm, Maymont's Stone Barn bring clippers. Sign up early for one of these popular workshops and learn to create spectacular wreaths used for Maymont's holiday celebration. Greens, forms, wire and instructions are all supplied. Create one special wreath to take home; all others made in the workshop are for the benefit of Maymont. \$20 (\$18 for members). Registration required by November 28; call 804-358-7166, ext. 310.

FULL MOON HIKE: January 9, 2004 and February 6, 2004, 7pm- 9pm, Robins Nature and Visitors Center Parking Lot. Dress warmly for this magical hike through Maymont lit by the moon. At special stops, your guide shares selected Arboretum and horticultural facts. During the walk, let your senses come alive as you see with natural light and listen for nighttime sounds. Wear good walking shoes. Canceled in severe weather. No rain date. Registration required by January 6th/ , or February 3rd, 358-7166 ext. 310. \$8.00 for members, \$10.00 for non-members.

MAYMONT FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW: February 19th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd, 2004, 9am-8pm, Greater Richmond Convention Center, 5th and Broad Streets. Festivals in Flower: Wrap yourself in Mardi Gras beads, shake your maracas and tango through the tulips - it's a party in the garden! Starting with a foundation of fun. This light-hearted blend of two global pastimes - gardening and celebrating - will offer playful ideas for

seasoned gardeners and beginners alike to use in outdoor living spaces, containers and arrangements. Adding even more merriment to the event, a bouquet of new activities and displays will include a Victorian fashion show and exhibits by the Richmond Audubon Society and the Mid-Atlantic Bamboo Society. For more information visit www.maymont.org or call 358-7166.

GREAT GARDENING AT MAYMONT: ROSE PRUNING Wednesday, March 10, 2004, 9am, Maymont's Stone Barn & Italian Garden. Maymont's roses bloom from May through late fall, and are often still vibrant with color in December. Peggy Singlemann, Maymont's Manager of Horticulture, reveals the secrets of the incredible Italian Garden roses during this popular annual workshop at Maymont. A brief discussion of proper rose care is followed by lots of hands-on experience pruning some of Richmond's most famous roses. Learn about everything from plant diseases to hybridization along the way, and meet and work with others who are interested in the world's most popular and widely cultivated garden flower. Register by March 5th; call 804-358-7166, ext. 310. \$15.00 for members, \$18.00 for non-members.

Mark your calendars for **Maymont's Herbs Galore**, April 24th from 9-5 and **Maymont's Daylily Sale**, June 13th, at noon. For more information please call 358-7166 ext. 310.

LEWIS GINTER BOTANICAL GARDEN EVENTS

To register for any of these programs, call 804-262-9887, ext. 322 with credit card, or mail check and list of the names of the programs you wish to attend along with starting dates and fees to: Education Department, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, 1800 Lakeside Avenue, Richmond, VA 23228-4700. Call first to find out if space is still available in the courses you wish to take.

Ginter in the Morning: Tuesday, November 4. Tour the late fall garden to see plants with berries and other interesting features. Meet at 10 AM in the Visitor Center. Free for LGBG members and \$10/nonmembers.

Plant Conservation Forum: Teaming With Life: Thursday, November 13 from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. This is another event that you don't want to miss! In the morning, Dr. Frank Lovejoy, founder of PBS series Nature will present "Teaming with Life: Joining Forces to Protect Biological Diversity" followed by "A Multidimensional Approach to Plant Conservation in Virginia" by Chris Ludwig of the Division of Natural Heritage and also chief member of the group developing the Flora of Virginia Project; then "Addressing Biodiversity, One Garden at a Time" by Ian Robertson, noted landscapist.

Following lunch, you will choose one of the following sessions: 1 (Invasive Alien Plants by Dr. Ruth Douglas, VNPS), 2 (Masses of Grasses by Jill Bieri & Nina Luxmoore of the Chesapeake Foundation), and 3 (Saving Local Wildlands by Dr. Charles Kemper Price & Mary Glen Taylor, Friends of Bandy Field, Inc.).

A break follows and then out of the next three sessions you choose one: 4 (Restoring the Diversity of a Meadow by Dr. David E. Carr of the Orland E. White Arboretum and rosemary Wallinger of the Garden Club of Virginia); 5 (The United States of Nature by Judy Dunscomb of the Nature Conservancy and 6 (Protecting Open Spaces with Greenways and

Blueways by Marvin Moss of the Fluvanna Heritage Trail Foundation. Cost: \$35/LGBG member and \$40/nonmember.

Gardenfest of Lights: This is the holiday light extravaganza which LGBG puts on every year starting on November 28 and ending on January 4, 2004. It lasts from 5 to 10 PM. Cost: \$5/members, \$8/groups of 15+ and seniors (55+ yrs.), \$9/nonmember adults, and \$3/child (3-12 yrs.). Child under 3 years is free.

Garden Cart: Winter Bird Feeders: December 7, 14, 1 - 4 PM. Check at Admissions desk for location. Children learn to make bird feeders from cereal boxes and pine cones. More elaborate feeders will be available in the Garden Shop.

An Evening with André Viette: Mr. Viette has offered public talks on the radio and TV on plants for the gardening and owns a famous nursery in western Virginia. He will present a slide program on The Best Plants for Richmond and the Mid-Atlantic States. He will also be selling and autographing his new book "*The Mid-Atlantic Gardener's Guide for Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC.*" Cost: \$20/LGBG members and \$22/nonmembers.

OTHER EVENTS

Bryan Park Celebration Day: Saturday, Oct. 25, 2003 starting at 10 AM. celebrating Bryan Park's history, its designation to the National Historic Register, and the release of An Illustrated History of Bryan Park, the colorful new book published by Friends of Bryan Park. Beginning at the Gatekeepers House (by the Main Entrance), with the unveiling of several historic markers, the event goes until 1 p.m., with lots of entertainment: Park walking tours, and actor playing the part of Gabriel Prosser at Young's Spring (down the hill from the Gatekeepers House), Soccer demonstration games and more. Pack a picnic and bring the whole family for a morning of history and fun! Please, spread the word and invite friends and neighbors. See you there... If you have questions, please call 353-6335. John Zeugner, Friends of Bryan Park.

NATIVE PLANT OF THE MONTH

SWEETBAY MAGNOLIA (*Magnolia virginiana*)



Sweetbay Magnolia is found in Virginia in counties from the coast to eastern piedmont. In the wilds, it is found growing in wet habitats, sometimes right on the edge of bodies of water. Considered a small tree or large shrub, it grows up to thirty feet in height and ten to fifteen feet in width. In May it presents the landscape with flowers which are small replicas of the Southern Magnolia. They emit a delightful scent of lemon and gardenia. In mild winters, the tree may be almost evergreen, while in cold winters, few leaves remain on the tree. Following the flowers, clusters of red berries offer an attractive sight for early fall.

This tree is a good candidate for today's Richmond home which is often located on a small lot with clay soil. Sweetbay will do well in the landscape as a solo attraction or mixed with other large background shrubs. As noted above, it needs moist and acidic soil --- same conditions as azaleas. For full flowering, plant in half shade to full sun.

Edible Uses: None!

Medicinal Uses: Indians used leaf tea to warm blood and cure colds. The tea from bark was used to combat the fevers from malaria and typhoid as well as for indigestion disturbances, rheumatism, toothaches, and worms. Fruit tea was used as a tonic and considered an aid for stomach problems. (source: Peterson Field Guide Eastern/Central Medicinal Plants by Steven Foster and James A. Duke.)

NURSERY SOURCES

2Shoptrees: www.2shoptrees.net

Also check local nurseries!

21ST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE VNPS, SEPTEMBER. 13, 2003, MANASSAS VA

The Prince William Wildflower Society chapter of the VNPS hosted the annual meeting Sept. 12-14, 2003. Friday was a dark and stormy night but the tasty treats, camaraderie and interesting presentation by featured speaker Michael Kieffer made venturing out worthwhile.

Michael is the Exec. Director of the Bull Run Mountain Conservancy. His presentation covered the geology, topography and ecological communities of Bull Run Mountain. Ecological communities are reoccurring patterns in the landscape. His presentation preceded the walk on Sat. with a preview of what we would see. Besides pictures of the eco-communities which would make them recognizable in the field, he include pictures and information about plants which were at the very limits and beyond of their normal distribution or that genetic diversity is harbored and maintained "on the edges".

The Bull Run Mountain field trip was an all day trip. Of the eleven major plant communities on Bull Run Mountain, we saw 9, including the Weaverton quartzite formation complete with table mountain pines. The boulder fields were impressive too. The mountain area designated as a Heritage Natural Area Preserve encompasses 2,846 acres. Before walking the mountain it was advisable get a map of the trails as it is easy to get lost.

(From Louise Richards: Fortunately there were trips also for the mountain- climbing challenged. I took morning and afternoon trips to the Manassas National Battlefield Park where we explored historical, archeological, and botanical sights. Among the latter we were

surprised by how many wild flowers are blooming in early fall. Among them we saw *Bidens polylepsis* (Tickseed sunflower), *Eupatorium coelestinum* (Mistflower), *Dianthus armeria*, *Agrimonia parviflora* (Small flowered agrimony), *Cypripedium acaule* (Pink lady slipper). Not an exhaustive list and well worth our wet feet.)

The Saturday evening banquet was held at the "Candy Factory" in old downtown Manassas. The meal was delicious, the silent auction lucrative and the speaker was Douglas Ogle. His slide presentation of "Rare and Unusual Plant Species and Their Communities in Southwestern Virginia" was just one beautiful picture after another. I was so fascinated by the beautiful plants and landscapes that I took no notes and just journeyed along with Mr. Ogle as my guide. I can only report that I want to see it again!

Sunday morning, I opted for the Northern Virginia Community College Nature Plant Trail walk led by Marion Lobstein. This is her home campus and as she has been intimately involved this trail since its inception, no plant or animal for that matter has escaped identification. Marion was able to bring to us the overview and history of the area, the topography of the trail as well as the smallest detail along the path and under the rotted log. It is always a joy to spend time with someone who has personal charm as well as knowledge.

Last of all I would like to say that once again the VNPS annual meeting provided an opportunity to share ideas, catch up with old friends and acquaintances, learn more about a specific Virginia region and its plants and last but not least to meet and get to know new people.

General Meeting (Outline)

Introductions of the Prince William Wildflower Society Members and VNPS Board
Report of the Treasurer -Our books are in order.

Report of the President:

Increased financial stability at state level

Three new chapters: Fredericksburg Area, Upper James River and Northern Neck

Two chapters in development: Chase City and Mecklenburg County
Blacksburg as a development from the Blue Ridge Wildflower Society
Conservation statement was stated and was printed in the last Bulletin.
Newfoundland and Bruce Peninsula Field trips were announced.

Introduction of candidates for election

Sally Anderson, President

Nicki Staunton ,2nd VP

Rebecca Rice Clay, Treasurer

John Hayden, Botany Chair

Chris French, Conservation Chair

Carol Gardner, Publicity Chair

Carol Nelson, Recording Secretary

Pam Wieringo, Publications Chair

Mary Pockman, Director-at-Large

Daune Poklis, reporting

