

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

November 2009

Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



November Meeting

Thursday November 5, 2009 at 7:00 PM

at the Education and Library Complex of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Classroom 2
The room is available at 6:30, come early and Socialize

This Month's Presentation will be:

Tales of the Dragon

by Teta Kain

Mysterious, Remote, Wild, Wonderful. These are just some of the adjectives used to describe the 40-mile-long waterway known as Dragon Run on Virginia's Middle Peninsula. One would not expect to find this kind of untouched, wild world in eastern Virginia where few natural areas remain. Because it has remained almost inaccessible for centuries, this pristine river is home to a host of unusual plants and animals that make it a special treasure to be explored.

Teta Kain, has been a wildlife photographer for over 30 years and she has spent hundreds of hours on the river capturing the unique beauty of the Dragon and its inhabitants. Her photos of on the river after dark provide a rare glimpse of nighttime animal activity

Teta is a very active member of Friends of Dragon Run, the conservation group dedicated to the protection and preservation of Dragon Run. She has served as president, board of directors member, secretary, and membership chairman in past several years. Currently, she is the organization's paddlemaster and leads kayak trips on Dragon Run each spring, providing an opportunity for many to see this hidden world that is not accessible to the general public.



EVENTS

December 3 Chapter Meeting: J. Christopher Ludwig "Virginia Wildflowers: Diverse in Form, Unified in Function" - pollination strategies for plants.

2010

January 7 Chapter Meeting: Cathy Mayes - The American Chestnut.

March 4 Chapter Meeting: Catherine Tucker - The Oaks

April 1 Chapter Meeting: John Hayden - "Husk Tomatoes From Near and Far."

May Annual Picnic

Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS: October 1, 2009

The meeting was opened at 7:00 by president Daune Poklis.

Announcements: The Pocahontas chapter of the VNPS had a booth at the GoGreen Garden festival held on September 13. Approximately 2000 people passed through the gates and most of them passed by us. There was steady interest all day in our offerings. The president said it was definitely worth our being there and recommended that we participate again in the future.

The president referred the membership to the list of upcoming events in the newsletter and on the white board and mentioned the Butterfly garden work day on October 6 at 10:00

The president relayed the following information from the VNPS board meeting Sept. 27, 2009:

The state website which was the designated special contribution for 2008 is progressing toward completion. The designers gave a brief presentation of their progress and vision for the site.

The 2009 special contribution will be donated to the Natural Heritage division of the Department of Conservation.

There was a discussion about promoting better interface between the state board and the individual chapters. It was suggested that the chapter representative to the board meetings report to the chapters about those meetings.

The Flora of Virginia project now has about 1000 of the 4000 plants finalized. It is still on course for the projected 2012 publication date.

The Piedmont chapter will host the 2010 Annual meeting, field trips will be into the Shenandoah National Park.

The Workshop will be held either March 6 or 13 at the U. or Richmond. The working title is "Flora by the Sea".

December 4, 2009, The Chesapeake Conservation Landscape Counsel will sponsor a one day Conference: "Turning a New Leaf" at George Washington University. Native Plant Society members were encouraged to attend.

New Business

Treasurer's Report: Richard Moss reported we had a balance of over \$4000 and our income was slightly exceeding our expenses.

Election of new officers: The mailed in ballot count was combined with voting by show of hands at meeting of those who had not voted. Results were:

President: Ernest Wilson, Vice President: Vacant, Treasurer: Richard Moss, Secretary: Vacant.

The Daune Poklis introduced the speaker, Larry Wilcox who presented: "Early May in Southwest Virginia". Larry and Linda Wilcox, friends of Pocahontas Chapter from past presentations, again treated us to a beautiful pictorial journey. This time through the southwestern part of Virginia; of course we had a photo introduction which included aircraft and this year their son, an "Everyday Action Hero". The Wilcoxes were members of the VNPS sponsored group tour of Southwest VA May 11-16, 2009. Larry's photos included beautiful views and flowers from The Pinnacle, Big Falls, White Top, High Knob, Buzzard's Rocks and National Tunnel State Park. But Larry's generosity did not end with just sharing his pictures, he also made available to everyone a CD copy of his entire presentation.

**The chapter has one should anyone wish to view the presentation and/or use any of the pictures for personal use. Larry only asks that credit be given him as photographer. After some discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 by the (new) president Ernest Wilson.

Respectively submitted, DSP

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 **Ernest Wilson**
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Vice President **Open**

Secretary **Open**

(Treasurer) **Richard Moss**
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Chapter Website - pocahontaschapter-vnps.org

Pictures from Point of Rocks Park October 21, 2009



Left: An orange and black spider on a dogbane stem waiting for dinner



This copperhead snake (*Agkistrodon contortrix*) was crossing the trail when I passed. It stopped and patiently waited until I left. Best to leave these alone! If they bite, you will shriek with pain, swell up, and turn unpleasant shades of purple.



A field of Little bluestem grass (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) with detail of seeds in photo above.



Strawberry Bush or bursting-heart (*Euonymus americanus*) with fruit. The leaves turn white or pale pink in the fall



Above: Asters in bloom in the wetlands beside the boardwalk.

Far Left: *Botrychium virginianum*, rattlesnake fern.

Left: Dogbane (*Apocynum cannabinum*) seed pod.

West Point, VA - in the wetlands
on the edge of the Pamunkey River.
Photos taken October 2, 2009.



Pluchea odorata, sweetscent



Fine leaved sneezeweed or
yellowdicks (*Helenium amarum*)



Kosteletzkya virginica, Virginia saltmarsh
mallow

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