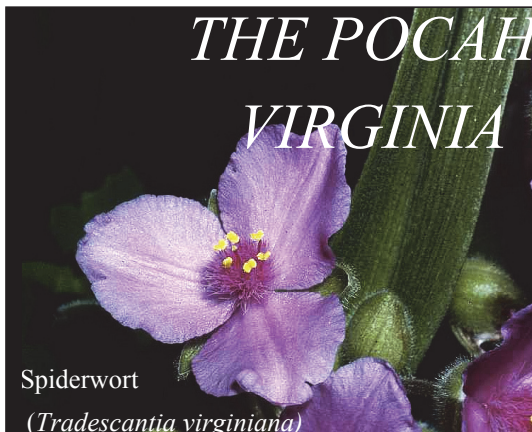
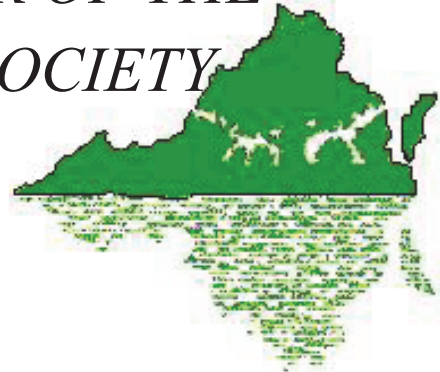


THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Spiderwort

(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



December 2012

Christmas Party

Saturday December 8, 2012 at 1:30 PM

at the home of Suzanne Jenkins

This will be a little more formal than an open house. Plan to arrive at 1:30 to arrange food: potluck lunch with desserts. Bring your own beverage to share, perhaps wine or sparkling cider. The chapter will provide soft drinks, cups, paper plates and utensils. We'll eat at 2:00 and visit until 3:30. Then, we'll clean up and clear out by 4:00! With shorter days in early December and who-knows-what weather, we're allowing for everyone to be home before dark.

Directions to 3910 Victoria Lane, Midlothian (804-330-8787)

1. From Chippenham Parkway (VA-150, Willey Bridge), take exit for Huguenot Road (VA -147) and go East. Turn Left on Cherokee Road (fourth street). Victoria Lane is on left 3 miles from Huguenot Road. It is easy to miss because street sign obscured by trees. Look for post and rail fence on right when close to 3 mile mark and then Victoria will be on left. If you get to Old Gun Road turn around and take first right onto Victoria.

Our house is second on right, yellow, and sits back from street. There is a parking area by the house (4-5 cars), and you can park on grass along driveway or on street past our mailbox.

2. From Huguenot Bridge, turn right on Cherokee Road (third street) and follow directions in # 1.

3. From VA-288, take exit for Robious Road/Huguenot Trail (VA-711) and turn East. Turn left on Old Gun Road (VA-673) (fourth or fifth traffic light). Turn left on Cherokee Road, where Old Gun takes a sharp turn to right and starts up hill from river. Victoria Lane is first street on right.

Pocahontas Chapter Programs 2013

January 3 **Chapter Meeting:** John Roberts will present "Paddling through Beringia: Wilderness, Whitewater, and Wildflowers: Canoeing and rafting the Nahanni, Mountain, and Napo rivers of the Yukon, Northwest Territories and western Alaska's Brooks Range"

February 9 **Chapter Meeting, 10 AM - NOTE CHANGE OF DAY & TIME!** The February meeting is moved from Thursday, Feb 7 to **Saturday, February 9 at 10 AM** in order to encourage everyone to attend the special presentation at LGBG by Jackie Bailey Labovitz. She is a well-known photographer who specializes in Virginia wildflowers. Her web site provides an excellent sample of her beautiful photographs. This is a presentation you won't want to miss. See <http://www.baileylabovitz.com/jblportfolio/home.htm>. PLUS, we will have a short business meeting following Jackie's program. The Garden has arranged for us to meet in one of the nearby rooms in the Education Building to take care of chapter business in a timely manner.

March 7 **Chapter Meeting:** "Lichens of Virginia at the University of Richmond Herbarium" presented by Dr. John Hayden and Michelle Ferrell.

March 16 (Saturday) - **The VNPS Winter Workshop** is usually held at the University of Richmond. Save the date and plan to register. Our chapter will provide the continental breakfast, coffee, tea and morning refreshments. This will be an opportunity to meet, greet and display our activities to members from other chapters.

April 4 **Chapter Meeting:** Hal Horwitz Wildflowers across America

May Watch for the date and place for our annual picnic and for announcement of the 5th annual Invasive Plant Removal Day.

President's Message

Celebrating Thanksgiving and even more holidays to come keeps our focus on families and friends. I hope, while you're busy, you'll include thoughts of Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS.

We look forward to sharing Season's Greetings and a few seasonal snacks and libations at the Christmas "meeting" on December 8 at Suzanne Jenkins' home.

The election of officers brought a new member to our leadership. Check out the minutes of the November 1 meeting elsewhere in this newsletter. Our programs are now confirmed through April, and these are also listed in this newsletter. Many thanks to the members who have volunteered to share their adventures and expertise: John Roberts, John Hayden and Hal Horowitz.

My request at the last meeting for field trip suggestions brought some good ones from Irene Caperton. These will be described in the January newsletter. We'd like to schedule more than one of these, but we need more planners.

More opportunities are coming for us to volunteer to help with projects. Removing common privet along the creek at the east side of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden property is one. Members of the Riverine Chapter, Virginia Master Naturalists have included this with their projects, so we can all help. The Riverine Chapter invites our chapter members to help with their project in Joseph Bryan Park to remove invasive plants and plant native plants in their newly established landscaping.

The VNPS Winter Workshop date is March 16. That's later than announced in the last newsletter. As in past years, our chapter will be host. Volunteers will be needed to help set up and provide the usual continental breakfast with coffee, tea, fruit and assorted pastries and muffins. Watch for the February 15 opening of registration on the state web site if you would also like to attend the seminars.

Keep in mind that we need new officers for 2013-2014. Think about how you might be able to help. We have had a great beginning this year and have much to look forward to in 2013.

Catharine Tucker

Pocahontas Chapter VNPS Minutes November 1, 2012

The meeting was called to order by the president, Catharine Tucker who acknowledged and welcomed visitors.

Ursula Sherrill introduced the evening's speaker, Grace Chapman, Director of Horticulture at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Her topic was Native Plants and Pollinators.

Grace described measures that homeowners can take to help pollinators, including bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and bats. Ms. Chapman said that native plants are those that have evolved and adapted to specific locations and haven't been altered by humans. The benefits of native plants are they support wildlife, such as pollinators, and biodiversity in the landscape, and they are less likely to escape the garden and become invasive in natural areas, a problem that can occur when using non-natives. Also, the modified flowers of non-natives can make it difficult for pollinators to obtain nutrition for themselves and their young.

Ms. Chapman emphasized the importance of the following: Protect existing habitats and create new ones in the backyard by planting diverse native plants that provide nectar and pollen from flowers. Safe habitats are large, rounded, and close to other habitats. Provide connectivity to other, natural areas. Leave some bare ground as pollinators obtain important minerals from these areas. Provide water sources, such as pools, ponds, or small, shallow containers with sloping sides. Reduce pesticide use, especially of broad-spectrum chemicals. Include shelter in the habitat to protect pollinators from predators and inclement weather. Having different canopy layers among the trees in the yard is helpful, as are shrubs and perennials of

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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Chapter Website
pocahontaschapter-vnps.org

different heights with diverse flower forms and colors. Planting in groups is important. Homeowners can accomplish these goals with just 10 plant species or more, planted to extend the bloom period with overlapping bloom succession from early spring to late fall. Ms. Chapman suggested choosing at least three pollinator plants within each blooming period. She said that most pollinators need sun to heat up their flight muscles and many prefer going to flowering plants growing in full sun. The speaker advised to facilitate growth, a soil test before planting can help determine which plants should go where. She said that North Creek Nursery, specializing in native plants, is a good place to get perennial plugs, which will save two years, the time for seeds to germinate and get established. Also, she recommended planting native, bare-root trees because they establish easily.

Some of the native plants that Ms. Chapman recommended were the following: *Acer* spp. Maples, except for Norway Maple; *Amelanchier* spp. - Serviceberry; *Cercis canadensis* redbud tree; *Salix nigra* black willow; *Sassafras albidum* sassafras tree; *Tilia Americana* American basswood; *Aquilegia canadensis* - columbine; *Baptisia australis* false blue indigo; *Salvia* spp. Various species of salvia; *Vaccinium* spp. blueberry.

Ms. Chapman recommended a book published by the Xerces Society, *Attracting Native Pollinators*, by Eric Madder, for more information about how to attract and care for native pollinators.

The business meeting followed the presentation.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Richard Moss reported that there is a total of \$5,210 in the chapter's bank account. All reimbursements from the annual meeting, held September 14-16, have been received, and the chapter maintained its same bank balance as before the meeting. The Virginia Native Plant Society (state level) realized a profit.

Pocahontas Chapter continues to sell lanyards commemorating the annual meeting. \$549.00 was the outlay to purchase 100 lanyards, and about 38 have been sold to date (about \$200 worth). Richard also confirmed that there is a proposal to approve a reduction in the rebate from 40% to 35% for chapter dues.

Election of Officers: Member Sally Chamberlin presided over the election process. She called out the names of those on the slate of officers: Catharine Tucker for president, Pat Brodie for vice-president, Kristi Orcutt for secretary, and Richard Moss for Treasurer. A voice vote was held, and the e-mailed ballots counted, and the slate was accepted unanimously.

Announcements: Ms. Tucker announced that there were 12 volunteer hours contributed to the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in conducting the Meadow plantings. An additional project has been suggested by Jay Austin of the LGBG horticultural staff to remove common privet plants that have invaded the area along the creek on the east side of the Garden's property. Ms. Tucker asked for a volunteer to organize this. One of the members suggested that the privet be dug up so that it won't re-grow. A future project in this area is planting a spring woodland garden, and to remove unwanted plants there before the new plants are installed.

Orders for the *Flora of Virginia*: There are 12 members who have ordered the *Flora* and Ms. Tucker asked for a motion to send in the order and batch the amount of \$82.99 from each individual into a single check that would be sent to Britt Publishers. This will save everyone \$3.00 of shipping and handling. The motion passed. Copies of the *Flora* are anticipated to be delivered before Christmas, perhaps in time for our December 8 meeting.

New business: Ms. Tucker asked for ideas from members for future meeting programs as well as future field trips. She reviewed the dates of upcoming chapter meetings and their programs: **December 8** - The chapter Christmas party will be held, as described in the November 2012 chapter newsletter. **January 3** John Roberts will present Paddling through Beringia: Wilderness, Whitewater, and Wildflowers: Canoeing and rafting the Nahanni, Mountain, and Napo rivers of the Yukon, Northwest Territories and western Alaska's Brooks Range.

The February Chapter meeting will be held on Saturday Feb. 9 at 10:00 a.m. Note change of day and time from Feb. 7 to Feb. 9! This is to encourage everyone to attend the special presentation at LGBG by Jackie Bailey Labovitz, a noted photographer who specializes in Virginia wildflowers. There will be a brief chapter meeting after the presentation. **March 7** Lichens of Virginia at the University of Richmond Herbarium, presented by Dr. John Hayden and Michelle Ferrell. **April 4** - Several invitations to present a program have been extended, but none has been confirmed. Upcoming Field Trip: Thursday, November 8 Tour of Rice Center, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., which is the monthly Open House event. Please let Ms. Tucker know if you wish to attend that trip. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Ursula Sherrill

The Crane-fly Orchid (*Tipularia discolor*) is a perennial terrestrial woodland orchid, a member of the Orchidaceae. It is the only species of the genus *Tipularia* found in North America. This orchid grows a single leaf in September that disappears in the spring. The leaf is green with dark purple spots. The orchid blooms in mid-July to late August. The roots are a connected series of corms. Its roots are edible. They are starchy and almost potato-like. The plant is pollinated by noctuid, or owlet, moths which are attracted to sugar- and nectar-rich flowers. Crane-fly orchid flowers incline slightly to the right or left, so the pollinaria can attach to one of the moth's eyes.

Photos: 1. Cranefly Orchids in bloom in late August. **2.** in fruit with winter leaves. These are a few of the 300+ leaves counted by Catharine Tucker at "Aisle of View" on October 21.

Note how the flowers blend in with the background in photo 1.



Photos 3,4 & 5 taken by Richard Moss in Chester, show the variation in leaf color and texture, from smooth green, to warty, to a dark almost black purple. All of these leaves were purple underneath.

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

