

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

May 2006



Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)

Annual Picnic and Plant Walk

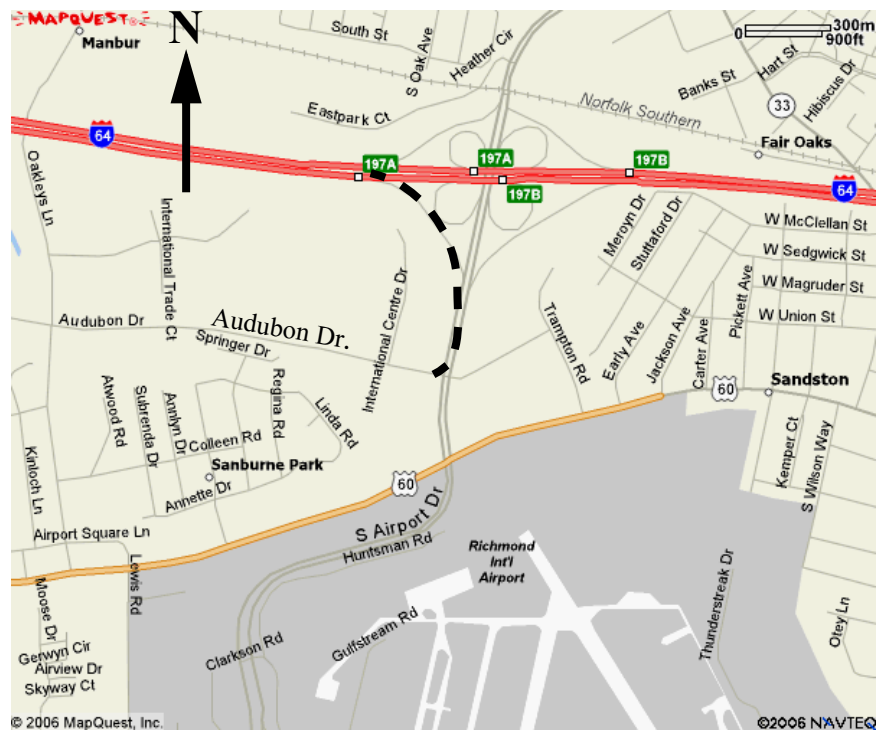
Saturday May 6, 2006, 10:00 AM

There will be no meeting, but we will have our annual picnic at York River State Park. Caroline Will who has been instrumental in planting the native plant garden at the park will lead the walk.

For those who wish to carpool with other VNPS members: Travel down 64 (East from Richmond) to Exit 197 A onto S. Airport Drive toward the RIC airport. Go 0.2 miles and make a right onto Audubon Drive (WaWa on the corner), then make an immediate left into the Park and Ride lot. Park nearest the S. Airport Drive side of the lot. be prompt--we depart promptly at 8:30 am for York River Park. Bring a lunch, drink, wear sturdy walking shoes, sun protection recommended. Contact Kristi Orcutt with questions: home: 790-1295 work 706-2734 cell 687-4431

Those who do not want to car pool should meet at the park at 10:00 a.m. Directions:

From I-64 East, take the Croaker Exit 231B. Go north on Route 607 (Croaker Rd.) for one mile, then right on Route 606 (Riverview Rd.) about one and a half miles to the park entrance. Take a left turn into the park.



Chapter News and Upcoming Events

Field trip to the G. R. Thompson Natural Area in Front Royal, May 11: We will see the trilliums and remove wild garlic. Please bring gloves and a lunch. Leave at 7:00 a.m. at the North Park Library. Members must RSVP by May 9th or the trip will be cancelled. Contact: Kristi Orcutt w. 706-2734 h. 790-1295 c. 687-4431

VNPS Annual Meeting - SAVE THIS WEEKEND: September 23-24, 2006

The Shenandoah Chapter is hosting the annual VNPS meeting this fall. It is a weekend event which includes full day and half-day field trips on Saturday, an annual meeting with a speaker and dinner Saturday evening and half-day field trips on Sunday. More information later.

Minutes for the April 6, 2006 Meeting of the Pocahontas Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Kristie Orcutt opened the meeting and greeted our guests.

Peggy Furqueron talked about the field trip to Monticello on April 8. Reservations were made for 8 people and she sent the sign up sheet around so an accurate count could be made of who was going on the trip. She will call Monticello tomorrow April 7 to confirm the reservations. Members will meet at the North Park Library at 8:30 a.m. to car pool up to the site. Pat Brodie will be driving her van. Monticello said that they would only cancel the trip if it was raining really hard so the weather situation will have to be monitored. If they cancel the trip before 8:00 a.m. Peggy will call the people on the signup sheet. Noreen who works at the library asked everyone to not park in the staff parking near the building but to park near the street, not blocking the book drop.

Kristi will be leading a plant walk for a garden club group from New York who are visiting Virginia during Garden Week. They will be meeting at Ferndale Park on the Appomattox River at 1:00 p.m. on Monday April 24. If anyone would like to attend, please call Kristi at 790-1295. They walk will probably last 3 hours; wear boots because the off road vehicles have rutted up the hiking trails.

On May 13, the John Clayton chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society is having their wildflower sale at the Living Museum in Newport News. Members may want to car pool to the sale. This will be discussed at the annual picnic on May 6.

On May 6, the chapter will have the annual picnic at York River State Park. Carolyn Will is giving the plant walk. She has been instrumental in planting the native plant garden at the park. Members will meet at the GRTC Express parking lot at the airport at 8:30 a.m. to car pool down. Bring a packed lunch and drink to eat after the walk. Those who do not want to car pool should meet at the park at 10:00 a.m.

Peggy Furqueron gave a report on the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Grasses for the Masses program. She attended the workshop on April 4 but they only had a few grass kits left. Dana Wiggins is in charge of this program and she said that if the chapter was interested in participating next year, she will collect more seed in the fall to have enough for our group. She will also hold a special workshop for our chapter to show us how to grow the under water grasses. These are native species of under water grasses and they will be planted in the James River. Participants receive the seeds in April and

grow them in the kits provided by the Foundation. When they have reached a certain height, the Foundation organizes a planting event on the James and people bring their plants to the site and plant them in the river. The cost is \$30.00 per kit. When Peggy asked for a show of hands of those that would be interested in participating next year, at least 6 hands went up, so she will contact Dana and make arrangements for next year. Also the Chesapeake Bay Foundation is sponsoring several workdays to plant vegetation along the stream that runs into Westhampton Lake on the University of Richmond campus. One is scheduled for April 22 and the second one on May 20. They are also in need of volunteers to help at an Arbor Day celebration at Bryant Park. Call 804-780-1392 for more information.

Kristi is working on the kayak fund raising trip to see the sensitive joint vetch. This fund-raiser will be for the Flora of Virginia project. More news will be in upcoming newsletters.

Noreen will be making arrangements for our chapter to attend the Vegetarian Festival at Bryant Park in July. She is going to see if the chapter can get a booth to hand out educational materials.

Noreen said the food at the festival last year was very good. She will be asking for volunteers after she gets the booth. Watch upcoming newsletters for details.

Kristi will be starting a list serve on the Internet using our e-mail list and if you have an announcement, sent it to Richard. Kristi will be sending the messages out but will not be able to accept a lot of messages. Richard will get the announcements to Kristi.

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	Kristi Orcutt
Vice President	Daune Poklis
Secretary	Peggy Furqueron
Treasurer	Bucci Zeugner
Membership Chair	Pat Brodie

Address all correspondence to
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VNPS Website - www.vnps.org

July Shelton announced that on May 5 and 6 there will be a native plant sale in Ashland to benefit the Nature Conservancy. She will be providing information to Richard so he can get it into the newsletter.

Richard Moss made a motion that the chapter renew our membership in the Meadowview Biological Research Station, which does preservation work with pitcher plants, if the dues are less than or equal to \$50.00. Daune seconded the motion. And it passed on a voice vote. Kristi will check with the treasurer to see how much we contributed last year.

Noreen reported that the North Carolina Botanical Garden has a newsletter and they will send subscribers a seed list for the southeast region. They will also send free seeds to subscribers to try out in their gardens. To receive the newsletter, call 919-962-0522.

The chapter is still in need of officers, mainly the president's position. Daune suggested that maybe the president's duties could be divided. Kristi has a lot of resources to use for field trips but maybe someone else could do the paperwork part of the job.

Names for the newsletter contest need to be in to Richard by May 6. The members will vote on the name at the annual picnic

Judy Shelton suggested that for next year, the speaker for the program should present first and then have the business meeting afterwards. It is agreed to try this for next year.

Program: John Roberts gave a fascinating slide program on wolves and their effect on the ecosystems in the United States. He also brought a lot of books and information on wolf habitat and conservation. John talked about 4 different areas of wolf habitat, Yellowstone, North Carolina for the red wolf, Gila Wilderness area for the re-introduced Mexican wolf, and Minnesota. Since the re-introduction of wolves into Yellowstone 10 years ago, the elk population has decreased and is more mobile than before. This change has allowed willows and other vegetation to return to the stream banks thus recreating the stream bank habitat from before the eradication of the wolves. Beavers and birds have returned to areas of the park that they have been absent from for 60 years. John has some beautiful slides from his hiking experiences. We look forward to hearing from him again.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Peggy Furqueron, Secretary

Field Trip to Monticello

Rain was threatening as we left Richmond, and when we got to Monticello it was raining lightly, but we were assured by our guide that we would go unless there was a downpour or thunder. The rain stopped as we left the parking lot and walked up to Jefferson's cemetery. From there we walked along roads and trails Jefferson used, down to the Rivanna River where there were lots of trout lilies, and bluebells in bloom. There was much to see. Redbud trees, sassafras and lots of other plants were also in bloom.



Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*) was found near the Bluebells



Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) were found in large numbers near the river. There was also an occasional white bluebell. See right photo above.



Yellowroot (*Xanthorhiza simplicissima*), an unusual woody member of the buttercup family was growing along the river bank.

**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**

