

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

September 2004

Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



SEPTEMBER MEETING

Thursday, September 2, 2004 at 7:00 PM
Breakout Room in the Education and Library Complex
of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens

We will discuss plans for the upcoming year. We also plan to have a Field Trip to The Cumberland Marsh the following Saturday (September 4, 2004) leaving from Lewis Ginter.

For the field trip we will meet at 9:00 am at the Ginter Gardens, outside the building where we have our chapter meetings and then leave at 9:15 for the marsh. We should be at the marsh by 10:00 am. Expect to spend about 1.5 - 2 hours at the marsh.

NOTE: People could also meet us at the marsh at 10:00 am, however, if you do, call Dean Walton at 233-4508 so he will know you will be there, and can give you directions to the meeting place at the Marsh.

The Cumberland Marsh Preserve consists of 1193 acres of freshwater tidal marsh and upland buffer along the Pamunkey River about 30 miles east of Richmond in New Kent County. Cumberland Marsh supports perhaps the greatest biological diversity on the Pamunkey River, including nesting bald eagles, osprey, great blue herons and egrets as well as perhaps the world's largest population of the rare plant, sensitive joint-vetch (*Aeschynomene virginica*), a federally threatened member of the pea family (<http://endangered.fws.gov/i/q/saq95.html>). Situated along the Atlantic Flyway, the marsh is an important migratory and wintering habitat for waterfowl. At this time of year there should also be a spectacular display of tickseed sunflowers (*bidens cornata* and *bidens aristosa*).

For more information about the Cumberland Marsh see <http://www.dcr.state.va.us/dnh/cumberland.htm> and <http://nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/virginia/preserves/art1232.html>.

CHAPTER NEWS

Following is a letter of thanks from Marie Minor for the watercolor presented to her at the Chapter picnic last May for her service to our chapter. Marie now lives in King and Queen county and is a member of the Northern Neck Chapter.

Dear Members of the Pocahontas Chapter of the VNPS!

Thank you so much for the beautiful watercolor of Spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*). S. M. Kincheloe has been my favorite artist for a good while. I collect a piece of her works every time I attend a flower and garden show. You are kind to think of my involvement in the chapter. I will miss you and the meetings at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, but I can get your interesting newsletters and sometimes will attend your meetings and go on some of your walks.

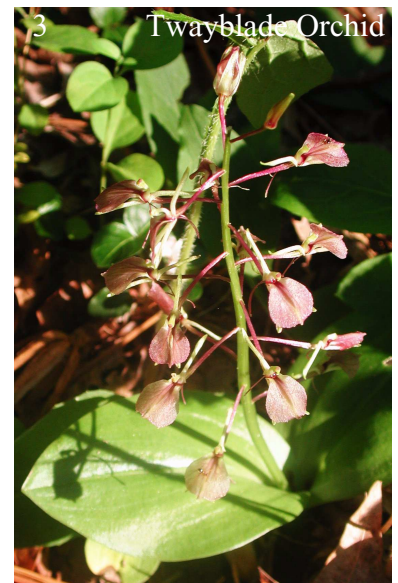
Sincerely,

Marie Minor

Field Trip to Hickory Hollow May 23, 2004

By Richard Moss

Last May I went of a field trip with the Northern Neck Chapter to Hickory Hollow in Lancaster County Virginia. Hickory Hollow is interesting in that it is the only site in Virginia where the rare Kentucky yellow lady's slipper (*Cypripedium kentuckiense*) is found. The site is owned by the Northern Neck Audubon Society and consists of 254 acres of mixed pine-hardwood forest, ravines, and swamp (Cabin Swamp). It is an important habitat for migratory songbirds, wild turkey and rare plants. Cabin swamp is an exceptional quality wetland community that supports a very high diversity - perhaps 500 plant species - including several mountain disjuncts including False Hellebore (*Veratrum viride*) growing with skunk cabbage and the Kentucky yellow lady's slipper. For more information about Hickory Hollow see <http://www.dcr.state.va.us/dnh/hickory.htm>, and for an interesting article on how Hickory hollow was saved from becoming an industrial park see the article by Frank Graham Jr. in the Audubon magazine *Fieldnotes* for August 2004 at (<http://magazine.audubon.org/fieldnotes/fieldnotes0408.html>) Following are pictures from the trip: Pictures 1, 5 and 6 were taken the wetland area, while 2, 3 and 4 were taken along the trail in the upland hardwood/ pine forest area.



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	Dean Walton
Vice President	-
Secretary	Peggy Furqueron
Treasurer	Bucci Zeugner
Membership Chair	Pat Brodie

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The trail at Hickory Hollow goes through a relatively flat hardwood/pine forest, then down a steep ravine filled with ferns to a short boardwalk over a swampy area with a small stream. In the forest we saw lyreleaf sage (*Salvia lyrata*), large areas of running cedar, and patches of partridge berry (*Mitchella repens*) in bloom. There were also several patches of large twayblade orchis (*Liparis lilifolia*). After descending down the ravine to the swampy area we saw the Kentucky yellow lady's slippers along the boardwalk mixed with green false hellebore (*Veratrum viride*), skunk cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*) and jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*).



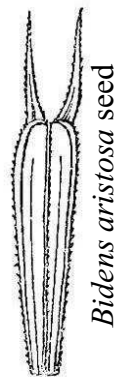
False Hellebore



Jack-in-the-pulpit

NATIVE PLANT OF THE MONTH

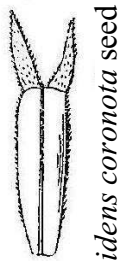
Tickseed Sunflower (*Bidens aristosa* [Michx.] Britt.)



Bidens aristosa seed

Tickseed sunflowers are the bright yellow flowers you see, often forming large stands, along side of roads in ditches and in waste fields during late summer and early fall. The plants are between 1 and 4 feet in height and have leaves divided into a number of dentate leaflets and are found in southeastern Canada and the eastern United States. The seeds are a thin achene with barbs (usually two) about 1/2 inch long that can hang in fur and clothing, thus the name tickseed.

Similar Species: *Bidens aristosa* is difficult to separate from a couple of other closely related species. The leaflets of Crowned Beggar Ticks (*Bidens coronata*) are not as heavily toothed and the apical leaflets are narrow and elongate relative to the two leaflets at its base. The margin of the seed of Crowned Beggar Ticks does not have a winged, papery margin. *Bidens polylepis* is nearly identical to Tickseed Sunflower, but the outer leaf-like bracts of the flower are longer than the inner bracts. In Virginia *Bidens coronata* is found mostly in the eastern 1/3 of the state while *Bidens aristosa* is found over most of the state.



Bidens coronata seed

Reference: <http://www.nearctica.com/flowers/composite/bidens/Barist.htm>

Virginia Native Plant Society Membership Application

Pocahontas Chapter

Make Check payable to VNPS and Mail to:
Membership Chair, Blandly Experimental Farm, 400 Blandly 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
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12565 Brook Lane
Chester, VA 23831

