

# THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

February 2006

Spiderwort  
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



## February Meeting

Thursday February 2, 2006, 7:00 PM

at the Education and Library Complex of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden  
in Classroom 2

### “A Visit to "The Bruce"” By Pat Brodie

Pocahontas Chapter member, Pat Brodie, will show slides of the Virginia Native Plant Society trip to the Bruce Peninsula, Ontario, Canada, in June of 2005. The area is part of the Niagara Escarpment and its wide diversity of habitats provides for a rich botanical heritage and includes over 40 species of native orchids.

Pat traveled there with her retired psychiatrist husband, Owen, in their single engine Cessna Cardinal. They have landed in every continental state and all the provinces and territories of Canada in 30 years of flying. Her interest in native plants grew out of their hiking experiences while traveling. Pat has been a member of VNPS since 2000 when she decided to begin developing a native plant garden at their home.

Pat also enjoys photographing flowers and making note cards. She will have note cards for sale at the meeting.

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## Chapter News and Upcoming Events

### VNPS Annual Workshop

PLANTING THE WILD: LINKS BETWEEN CULTIVATION AND CONSERVATION

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2006

Gottwald Hall, University of Richmond

10am to 3pm (registration and coffee at 9am)

**Program:** Stanwyn Shetler, Botanist Emeritus at the Smithsonian Institution, will open with “What is the Wild”. Rick Myers, Natural Areas Stewardship Program Manager at the DCR Division of Natural Heritage, will speak on “Virginia’s Natural Area Preserves and Their Management”. Bill Brumback, Conservation Director of the New England Wild Flower Society, will present “Evolution of a Conservationist: A Propagator’s Journey”

A complete flyer with directions, schedule and cost will be available soon.

**The Maymont Flower and Garden Show** will be held Feb. 9-12, 2006. That is earlier than usual! We are seeking volunteers again this year to person the VNPS table. The show hours are 9:00-8:00 on Thurs., Fri., and Sat. and 9:00-4:00 on Sunday. Set up will be on Wed. Feb.8 and take down will follow the show closing on Sunday. We need 2 volunteers to fill each of the work shifts. Until we find out exactly how many worker passes we will be allotted, we are planning on work shifts of approximately 3 hours. Please check your calendar and contact Daune

Poklis with a day and general (morning, afternoon or evening) time you would like to work by e-mail at Daune@Poklis.org or phone at 804-741-7838

**American Horticultural Society** Alexandria, VA - From January 11 to March 15, 2006, an art exhibit featuring the works of folk artist Patricia Palermino will be on display at George Washington's River Farm, the headquarters of the American Horticultural Society. Palermino's works will be exhibited on the lower floor of the estate house at River Farm, which is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The public is welcome. There is no admission fee. For more information, please contact Trish Gibson, AHS Events Manager and Curator of Buildings, at (703) 768-5700 ext. 114 or tgibson@ahs.org.

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## Minutes for the Jan. 5, 2006 Meeting of the Pocahontas Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Kristi Orcutt opened the meeting and welcomed our guests. Richard Moss, newsletter editor, said that the newsletter was mailed out later than usual because of the holidays and if your copy had not arrived it should be arriving soon. The annual workshop is scheduled for March 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the University of Richmond. Our chapter is responsible for the morning refreshments. Daune Poklis and Judy Shelton will be in charge of this operation and they will need volunteers. Please call Daune at 741-7838 to help.

The Maymont Flower and Garden Show is February 9-12. Volunteers are needed to help at the Native Plant Society booth. Volunteers will receive free admission to the show and free shuttle service from the parking lot at the Diamond. Daune and Richard will be setting up the display on Wednesday. Please call Daune at 741-7838 to sign up for a work shift.

Kristi reported that the chapter has been receiving a newsletter from the Meadowview Biological Research Station, the organization that Phil Sheridin works with. The newsletter stated that our subscription was expiring. Kristi wanted to know if the chapter wants to make a donation to the Research Station. The chapter probably made a donation to the Research Station when Phil Sheridin gave a program about pitcher plants at a meeting in 2004-2005. It is decided to ask the treasurer how much the donation was and then return to the chapter to propose another donation.

The Audubon Society is watching the legislature for upcoming bills that will impact the society's mission. They will be having a meeting on January 19, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Luke's Lutheran Church. Lisa Guthrie of the League of Virginia Conservation Groups, will be speaking on upcoming legislation in the General Assembly. There is a pre-meeting dinner at the church. Call Linda Warfield at 743-1479 for information.

On January 13, Noreen Cullen will present the books the chapter is donating to the library of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens. There are no field trips planned for January. The Executive Board will meet on Tuesday January 12 and they will be planning field trips for the next four months. Details will be in the newsletter.

**Program:** Dr. John Hayden, of the University of Richmond, gave a lecture/slide program called "Northern Exposures". He covered trips to four northern states: Wisconsin, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Some of these northern native plants can also be found in Virginia up in the mountains. Dr. Hayden had beautiful slides of many species of plants including the skunk cabbage. It is always a pleasure to have Dr. Hayden as our speaker.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Peggy Furqueron, Secretary

### 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

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VNPS Website - www.vnps.org

# Some Native Plants in Winter

by Richard Moss

Skunk Cabbage (*Simplocarpus foetidus*) blooms in winter to early spring. The photo on the left was taken January 8th at the Appomattox Riverside Park by Kristi Orcutt who commented “Great way to ring in the new year--getting muddy witnessing the first bloom of the year!”. The photo to the right was taken in Surry County on January 16th by Richard Moss.



Below are two more photos taken on the 16th in Surry County. The left is of witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) which had been blooming since the first part of December and on the right is rattlesnake plantain (*Goodyera*

*pubescens*) an orchid which remains green throughout winter.



Below: Grape fern (? *Botrychium dissectum*), this one taken on January 27, was in Chesterfield County in my neighbors front yard. The leaves persist through winter but turn maroon-brown in color. In the spring the old leaf dies and is replaced with a new green leaf.



Right: Club moss (? *Lycopodium obscurum*), photo taken January 27 in the woods in Chesterfield County.



**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**

