

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE
VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

January 2007

Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



January Meeting

Thursday January 4, 2007 at 7:00 PM

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

Our Presentation will be:

Diseases of Reptiles and Amphibians of Virginia
by Joy Ware

Joy Ware is a Professor of Pathology at VCU school of Medicine and Director of the Conservation Medicine Program for the VCU Rice Center.

She earned her Ph.D. in microbiology and immunology at UNC-Chapel Hill. Her postdoctoral training and most of her professional career focused on prostate cancer research, but her current focus is on conservation medicine, with emphasis on diseases of reptiles and amphibians.

Joy's presentation will focus on diseases of reptiles and amphibians in wildlife refuges and parks in Virginia, the value of reptiles and amphibians as environmental indicators, and how the health status of these animals influence human health.

Chapter News

Future Speakers:

February- Greg Plunkett, the curator of the VCU Herbarium

March - Michael Foreman: Rain Gardens.

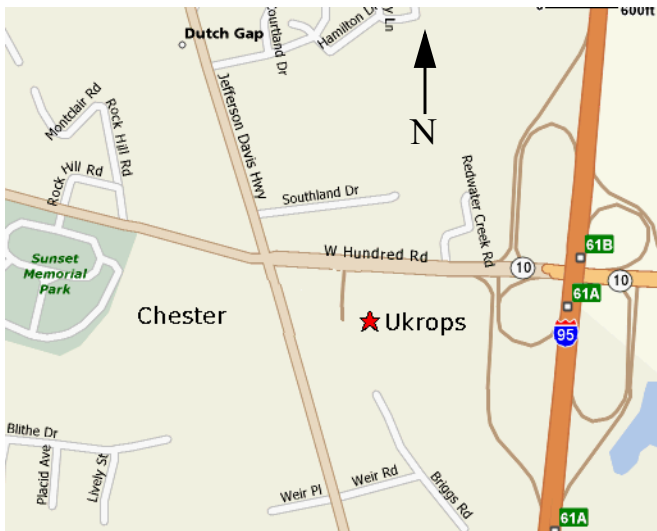
April - Vicki Shufer, Native Plants & Their Uses - a close-up look at native plants and how they were used for food, medicine and crafts by indigenous cultures.

Grasses For The Bay project

Dana Wiggins of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation needs volunteers for the *Grasses For The Bay* project. Dana was our September speaker and presented the project and its importance to us. Volunteers will be asked to grow grasses for replanting in the spring in selected tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay. Volunteers are not required to help with the planting. Initially we had at least 8 volunteers. We need them to step up and confirm their desire to participate in the project and are hoping for even more members to participate in this activity. Interested persons should contact Peggy Keefe at 804-285-0579 H or 804-675-5000 x3676 W, or Daune Poklis at 741-7838 or by e-mail at daune@poklis.org for the details.

Events

January 20 Field Trip to Ferndale Park on the Appomattox River - See Skunk Cabbage in Flower. Meet in the parking lot of the Ukrop's store in Chester at 10:00 AM. The Chester Ukrop's is in the Bermuda Square shopping center at the intersection of US Route 1 & 301 and Route 10 (Hundred Road).



Directions: From Richmond take I 95 South to Exit 61B, (Chester, Hundred Road West). Bermuda Square Shopping Center will be on the left, **before** the traffic light at Route 1. From the West one can take Chippenham Parkway or Route 288 to Iron Bridge Road (Route 10) then go East on Route 10 through Chesterfield Court House to Chester, where Iron Bridge Road changes to Hundred Road, then through Chester across Route 1 & 301, then Right, into the shopping center. For more information contact Richard Moss at 748-2940 or by e-mail at mossrd@mindspring.com

February 24 *Streams of Stewardship* - A Symposium on Water Management. Innovative design approaches and stewardship practices that conserve water in the landscape, bring beauty to our built and natural environments, and contribute to a healthy watershed. **We need volunteers to staff an educational table.** For details and updates, go to www.lewisginter.org. Registration begins January 2, 2007

March 3 Annual Workshop, University of Richmond

March 17 Field Trip to Native Plant Nurseries, Hyla Brooks, and others near Gordonsville, VA

April 14 Field Trip to see wildflowers at Monticello

April 22 Spring Fling at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
Volunteers needed in Children's Garden 1- 4 p.m.

April 28, May 26 June 23, July 28, Aug. 25, Sept. 22, Oct. 27
LGBG program on Indian use of Native Plants.
Volunteers needed at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in the Children's Garden 10 am - 2 pm

May 5 Annual Picnic and Field Trip at Richard Moss's house in Chester

Oct. 28 *Goblins and Gourds* at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
Volunteers needed in Children's Garden 1- 4 PM

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The Virginia Horticultural Foundation is sponsoring the third annual Home Gardener program, ***Home Gardener - Go Native!*** on Thursday, February 1, 2007 at the Holiday Inn Sunspree, 3900 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, Virginia This should be a very interesting program! Contact Daune Poklis, who plans to attend, for the registration form and more information at 741-7838 or by e-mail at [daune@poklis.org](mailto:daune@poklis.org)

## 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        | Peggy Keefe    |
| Vice President   | Daune Poklis   |
| Secretary        | Judith Sheldon |
| Treasurer        | Bucci Zeugner  |
| Membership Chair | Pat Brodie     |

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VNPS Website - [www.vnps.org](http://www.vnps.org)



## Some Native Plants in Winter

Skunk Cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) is a large-leafed plant that grows in wet areas, especially near streams, ponds, marshes, and wet woods. It gets its name from the unpleasant smell of its crushed leaves. In Spring it is easy to recognize, with its huge leaves rising directly from the ground. The flower, shown to the right, is one of the first to bloom in the Spring and can generate enough heat to melt surrounding snow.



**Above:** Crane fly Orchid (*Tipularia discolor*) has oddly pucker-leafed leaves, green above and purple below which first appear in fall and persist throughout the winter. The leaves die back completely before the flower stalk emerges in late spring to summer.



**Left:** Alder (*Alnus serrulata*) A shrub or sometimes small tree occurring in wet soils along streams and rivers. The flowers are catkins with elongate male catkins on the same plant as the shorter female catkins, and appear in mid to late winter. The fruits persist and resemble small pine cones.



**Left:** Rattlesnake-plantain (*Goodyera pubescens*) is an evergreen orchid getting its name from its broad, rounded leaves, which are similar in shape to those of plantain, a common lawn weed.



**Above:** River Birch (*Betula nigra*) One of the most interesting features of this birch is the bark, which, on larger, young branches and stems, is reddish to pinkish brown and peels off in papery strips. The exposed inner bark is gray-brown to cinnamon-brown to reddish brown. The bark of the mature birch is ridged and deepens to dark brown to nearly black.



**Above:** In Winter Devil's walking-stick (*Aralia spinosa*) appears as a giant barbed stick or walking cane with surrounding U-shaped leaf scars. It can form thickets. The fruit is eaten by birds.



**Left:** Spotted Wintergreen (*Chimaphila maculata*) is a perennial evergreen sub-shrub with variegated leaf venation. The stems emerge from creeping rhizomes and can reach a height of 10 inches. Flowers appear in early summer and are fragrant, white or pinkish and nearly round.

**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** \_\_\_\_\_

|                                     |         |                                           |          |
|-------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$30.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining       | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family     | \$40.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life             | \$500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student    | \$15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Groups | \$40.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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** \_\_\_\_\_

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12565 Brook Lane  
Chester, VA 23831**

