

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

February 2008



Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)

February Meeting

Thursday February 7, 2008 at 7:00 PM

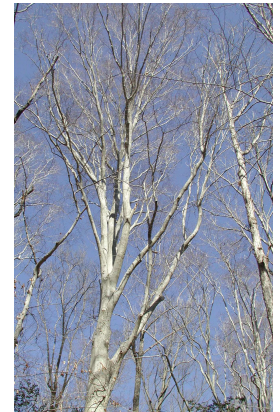
at the Education and Library Complex of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Classroom 2

This Month's Presentation will be:

Winter Botany, the Identification of Plants in Winter.
by Ernest Wilson

Ernest Wilson will speak on identifying trees and other plants in Winter using *Winter Tree Finder, A Manual for Identifying Deciduous Trees in Winter* by May Theilgaard Watts and Tom Watts as his chief source. Copies of the book will be available at the meeting. Ernest had taught Botany at Virginia State University for 25 years before retiring in 1999.

The February Field Trip is in connection with Ernest's presentation, and will be at Catherine Tucker's farm in Hanover County. We will car pool to Catherine's, as she has asked that individuals not try to go to her place because of limited parking and access. The group will meet at 10 AM at the parking lot of the North Park Library off Parham Road between I-95 and 301 on Saturday, February 9, 2008. The field trip will feature identification of plants in winter and we will hone our identification skills using *Winter Tree Finder, A Manual for Identifying Trees in Winter*. Copies of this book will be available. One need not attend the meeting to come on the trip. We will spend approximately 2 hours in the field. Little walking should be involved, but the extent of walking will be determined by individuals who come. A lunch should be packed. Binoculars and cameras would also be advisable as would any field guides you would like to consult. We will not be walking on rough terrain so no special footwear is necessary.



Beech trees at
Catherine's Farm.

New Members

Sarah Babcock, Richmond, VA

Inge Becker, Richmond, VA

John Hummer, Ruther Glen, VA

2008 Event Calendar

- February 9 Catherine Tucker's Farm: Meet 10:00 AM at the parking lot of the North Park Library off Parham Road between I-95 and 301. For more information contact Ernest Wilson at (804) 358-3846 or ernest_3@msn.com.
- February-May *Know Your Environment*, a monthly series of programs on environmental issues that affect you and your children at the Tuckahoe Area Library in Richmond. One book on an environmental issue, and often a film, are featured each month. topics are Foods and Additives (FEB), Invasive Species (MAR), Cradle to Cradle (sustainable economy APR)

and Finding Nature (MAY). For a schedule or other information on the program contact Steve Carter-Lovejoy at 804-270-9578, ext. 234 or scarter-lovejoy@henrico.lib.va.us

- March 6 **March Meeting:** Garland Hanson -- Orchids.
- March 8 Annual Workshop at University of Richmond: Doug Gilll, Prof of Zoology at University of Maryland and Hal Horwitz.
- March 8 Banff Festival of Mountain Films. The Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Department will present Banff's annual film series featuring films on adventure and mountain culture. FREE. Monacan High School, 11501 Smoketree Drive. Saturday, March 8, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Details: Noel Losen, 748-1129 or losenn@chesterfield.gov
- March 10 7:00pm at Tuckahoe Library, Documentary Film - "America's Lost Landscape: The Tallgrass Prairie". The rich and complex story of one of the most astonishing alterations of nature in human history, in which 240 million acres of one of North America's dominant ecosystems was transformed to farmland in the span of a single lifetime.
- March 17 Book discussion - 7:00pm at Tuckahoe Library "A Plague of Rats and Rubbervines: the growing threat of species invasions", by Yvonne Baskin. The extent and consequences of human rearrangement of the Earth's species and possible solutions will be discussed.
- Apr. 3 **April Meeting:** Pat Brodie - The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, TX.
- April 17-19 Celebrate Trilliums! Mt. Cuba Center, Wilmington, Delaware. This two-day conference (and optional third-day field trip) brings together academic and industry professionals, as well as expert gardeners, to address the science, conservation, and horticulture of trilliums of Eastern North America. Attendees will gain an understanding of the biology of trilliums, their ecology, conservation challenges, and issues impacting their propagation and production. Colleagues with a wide range of expertise will join us to share ideas and information to further our understanding of this intriguing genus. Schedule and session descriptions: <http://trilliumsymposium2008.org/>, registration information: <http://trilliumsymposium2008.org/registration.html>
- Apr. 20 LGBG Children's Garden - Spring Fling (#1 of 4 day activities at LGBG) corn/squash/bean seed planting in cups.
- May 10 **Picnic and Tree/Plant ID Field trip--** James River Park, 42nd St. entrance. Eat then walk along the Buttermilk trail.
- May 24 Pocahontas at LGBG children's garden: Good Green fun (#2) - Making clay pots with plant decorations/tools
- July 18-21 The Native Orchid Conference is holding its 7th annual Meeting July 18-21, 2008 at West Virginia university, Morgantown, WV. Registration information will be available at the NOC website ([http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/Native Orchid Conference](http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/Native%20Orchid%20Conference)). Contact Daune Poklis for more information.
- Sept. 27 LGBG Children's Garden-Good Green Fun (#3) - Seasons, cordage, mats

- Sept. 19-21 VNPS Annual meeting held at the Key Bridge Marriott. It is near a metro stop and overlook the Potomac Gorge
- Oct. 26 Goblins and Gourds at LGBG (#4) - Last of the summer activities-gathering, drying etc. foods for winter, hunting and fishing

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 **Daune Poklis**
(804) 741-7838 daune@poklis.org

Vice President **Ernest Wilson**
(804) 502-6346 ernest_3@msn.com

Secretary **Judith Sheldon**
(804) 266-0856 jshel7602@aol.com

Treasurer **Bucci Zeugner**
(804) 288-5005

Membership **Pat Brodie**
(804) 266-3070 owpa03v@aol.com

Address all correspondence to
Richard Moss, Editor
12565 Brook Lane
Chester, VA 23831
mossrd@mindspring.com
VNPS Website - www.vnps.org

Minutes for the Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS, Meeting on January 3, 2008

Chapter president Daune Poklis began the meeting with announcements of upcoming events and field trips of interest to chapter members. (These events are listed in the events calendar section of this newsletter). Daune then introduced the speaker, John Hayden, professor of Biology at the University of Richmond, who has interests in the morphology, anatomy, and systematics of plants. The title of his presentation was Consider the lilies An examination of recent developments in classification of the petaloid monocots (lilies and relatives), focusing on examples native to Virginia, North America at large, and some favorite and familiar cultivated plants. An examination of recent developments in classification of the petaloid monocots (lilies and relatives), focusing on examples native to Virginia, North America at large, and some favorite and familiar cultivated plants.

He began the power point presentation with a summary of past methods used in classification of the petaloid monocots, vascular plants that include plants as seemingly diverse as day lilies, asparagus, onions, hyacinths, tulips, and agave. Characteristics used to classify these plants in the past, such as location of ovaries, have been found to be misleading in many cases. Organization of the chromosomes of the plants provides a basis for classification rather than the characteristics used in the past, and

new organizing characteristics have been defined. The most recent system of classification is APG= II (2003). In the new classification, the liliaceae families went from one to fifty-six. Other families did not change much. An interesting note is that hosta and agave are now classified in the same family. Dr. Hayden said the textbook, *Plant Systematics*, by Michael Simpson, is a good text for becoming familiar with the new classification of plants. He gave out handouts of the newly arranged orders within the petaloid monocots (traditionally referred to as liliaceae and amaryllidaceae) and families. Under the families he listed the Virginia species as in the Digital Atlas and also listed the cultivated genera.

Although the material presented was technical, Dr. Hayden is always an engaging and entertaining speaker. Members asked questions about the future of DNA analysis, and global plant evolution. Dr. Hayden stimulated our thinking by presenting the dynamic aspect of plant classification which most likely will never be finite. Things are always changing. He agreed to give another program on new developments in classification of plants at a chapter meeting, possibly next fall.

Respectfully submitted,
 Judy Sheldon, chapter secretary

Pictures from the Caledon Field Trip on January 12 (photos courtesy Pat Brodie)



1. Our group identifying an unknown plant.
2. Crane fly orchid (*Tipularia discolor*) (broad leaves), and running cedar (*Lycopodium digitatum*) (bottom).
3. Spore cases of the running Cedar.
4. The Forest.
5. Beech drops (*Epifagus virginiana*), parasitic on beech trees.
6. Assorted fungi growing on a log.
7. Putty root orchid (*Aplectrum hyemale*). Both this and Crane fly orchid put out leaves in the fall and die back in the spring.
8. Poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) berries.

Join the Masses

You can help restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia's rivers by participating in CBF's Grasses for the Masses program. Volunteers in the program grow wild celery, a type of underwater grass, in small tubs in their homes for 10 weeks, then help plant the grasses in local rivers to boost the population of this critical Bay resource.

You can help improve the Bay health by volunteering for CBF's Grasses for the Masses program. Combined with efforts to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus pollution and soil runoff, the program helps improve the Bay's health by increasing the amount of grasses in the Bay. It's easy. CBF provides the equipment, instructions and support needed for growing the grasses. Volunteers do the following:

- Attend a Grasses for the Masses workshop to receive a growing kit, seeds and instructions (\$30 fee, which includes a year of CBF membership).
- Plant the seeds within 4 days of receiving them.
- Grow and maintain the plants in their home for a 10 week period.
- Plant grasses with fellow volunteers in a designated local river.
- Return the equipment to CBF at the end of the project.

Participants this year also have the added element of our MyGrass web page where volunteers can post questions, concerns or just connect with CBF staff and other volunteers about their grasses.

Sign up today-- space in upcoming workshops is limited.

Workshop schedule:

- Richmond -- February 13, 23
- Alexandria -- February 19 and 26

To reserve your spot, please sign-up on-line today. For more information please visit our web site. Contact Jess Barton at Jbarton@cbf.org or (804) 780-1392 if you have any questions.

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