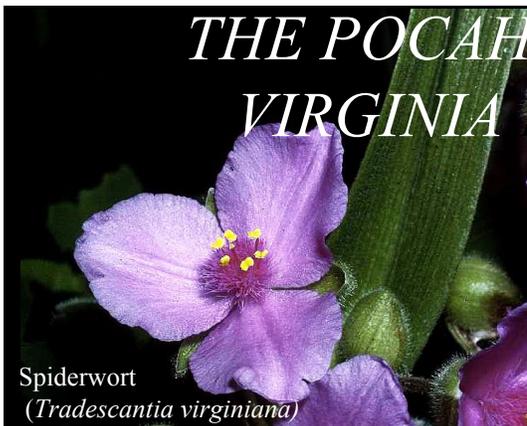


THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



October 2008

October Meeting

Thursday October 2, 2008 at 7:00 PM

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

Room is available at 6:30, come and Socialize

This Month's Presentation will be:

The World of Strange and Wonderful Slime Molds (Myxomycetes)

by Sheila M. Hayden

Sheila has B.A. and M.S. degrees from the University of Richmond and currently is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Richmond where she teaches a five course series of Woody Plants, a certificate program in Landscape Design and is also an adjunct faculty member at John Tyler Community College where she teaches a virtual course - Introduction to Biology.

Sheila will begin her presentation by introducing us to this "other world" of these extraordinary organisms called *myxomycetes*. We will then explore their unique biology and finally, we will look at selected genera of slime molds to experience their varied forms. She will have some microscopes and specimens of *Myxomycetes*, available at the meeting, so everyone can see the actual organisms.

There will be a walk to find some of these fascinating organisms on October 18th at Pocahontas Park.

2008 Calendar of Events

Contact Ernest Wilson at (804) 502-6346 or by e-mail at ernest_3@msn.com for more information about Field Trips.

October

- 2 **Monthly Meeting:** Sheila Hayden "The World of Strange and Wonderful Slime Molds (*Myxomycetes*)"
- 11 Butterfly Garden Work Day, James River Park headquarters
- 15 **Field Trip:** Crabtree Falls - Meet 8:00 AM at the Tuckahoe Library. Bring a lunch; \$5.00/person for gas. More information on page 4.
- 18 **Field Trip:** Pocahontas State Park - Hunting for slime molds. There is a \$5 entrance fee/car. Meet at 9:00AM at North Park Library off Parham Rd. or at 9:30AM at the Ukrops store in Chester (route 10 & Route 1) and we can carpool, or 10AM in the parking lot to Beaver Lake at Pocahontas Park. See directions to the park on page 4.
- 25 **Field Trip:** Cumberland Marsh - Meet at 9:00 AM at the North Park Library off Parham Rd.
- 26 Goblins and Gourds at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, Richmond, VA

November

- 6 **Monthly Meeting:** Friends of James River Park
- 8 **Field Trip:** Newport News Park

December

- 4 **Monthly Meeting:** Pat Brodie "A visit to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center"

Notice:

We will elect new officers at the October Meeting. Ballots were mailed with the last Newsletter and should have been returned by Sept. 26th. If you have not returned your ballot you may still vote by bringing your ballot to the meeting.

Minutes of the Pocahontas Chapter for September 4, 2008, Meeting

Daune Poklis, chapter president, began the meeting reminding members to read the list of upcoming events in the September newsletter. Pat Brodie, membership chair, passed out the update for the membership roster. Pat plans to retire from this position and asked if someone would volunteer to serve as membership chair. Daune stated that Pat has done an excellent job organizing the membership information making the job easy for the next person in that position. Ernest Wilson, vice president, discussed field trips. Due to the approach of tropical storm Hanna, the trip to Point of Rocks Park would take place on Sunday rather than Saturday. Richard said he would e-mail members to this effect. Daune announced that Richard has designed a chapter web site, and that he will take over the position of treasurer. Bucci Zeugner has served admirably in this position for many years, and Daune expressed appreciation for her service. There is need for someone to take over preparation of the monthly newsletter that Richard has edited for years. John Roberts generously offered two wildlife souvenir items to anyone at the meeting who would like to have them.

Daune introduced the evening's speaker, Ruth Burch, who presented a photo/lecture on local butterflies and moths. Ruth is a charter member and past president of the Butterfly Society of Virginia and lives in Virginia Beach. She shared a wealth of information about the butterfly and moth populations and the plants they depend on throughout their life cycle. She highly recommended the quarterly of the Xerxes Society, Wings. The photos were excellent and she gave helpful information for identification as well as listing the native plants needed for creating a habitat for butterflies. She also enthusiastically answered many questions and provided an interesting resource table with related publications.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Sheldon, chapter 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 **Daune Poklis**
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Vice President **Ernest Wilson**
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Secretary **Judith Sheldon**
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Treasurer **Richard Moss**
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Chapter Website - pocahontaschapter-vnps.org

Pocahontas Chapter Web Site

Our chapter website is now up and running at <http://pocahontaschapter-vnps.org>. The current events calendar, including notices of new events which did not arrive in time for the newsletter is there, along with numerous pictures from some of our past field trips.

Pictures from our field trip September 6 to R. Garland Dodd Park at Point of Rocks.

The trail at Point of Rocks park starts in upland woods descends to a boardwalk over wetlands, then ascends back through woods to a meadow then back to the parking area.



some of what we saw includes:

1. Purple gerardia (Gerardia purpurea) blooming along the boardwalk.



2. Tickseed sunflowers (*Bidens coronata*) along the boardwalk



3. Striped wintergreen (*Chimaphila maculata*) in the woods



4. Mistflower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*) in the meadow above the boardwalk



5. Wingstem (*Verbesina alternifolia*) also in the meadow



6. Boardwalk crossing the wetlands



7. Rattlesnake master (*Eryngium aquaticum*) beside the Boardwalk



8. Winterberry Holly (*Ilex verticillata*) at the edge of the wetlands

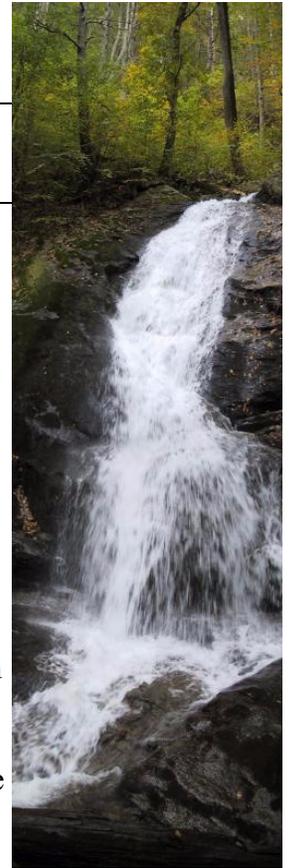


9. Partridge pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*) growing in the wetlands

Field Trip Information

Crabtree Falls is one of the tallest waterfalls on the east coast. The trailhead starts at the parking lot. It is about 1½ miles to the upper falls but there are many good vantage points along the way. The trail is steep but not otherwise difficult. In places where it is wet, it can be very slippery. Bring water and a lunch as there are no places to eat nearby.

A section of Crabtree Falls. *photo*
www.pbase.com/djohndrow/crabtree2004



Pocahontas State Park: The park is in Chesterfield County, about 20 miles SW of Richmond. **Directions:** From Interstate 95, you can take take exit 61 to Chester and go west on Route 10 about 6 miles to Beach Road, (route 655, left at a traffic light in Chesterfield, VA); or take Route 288 (exit 67 on I 95) to Route 10 East and go one mile to Beach Road. then turn right onto Beach Road. Once on Beach Road the park is four miles on right. Turn right at the park entrance and follow State Park Road until you get to the Beaver Lake Parking area.



Cumberland Marsh is a 1,193 acre preserve located in New Kent County, on the Pamunkey River. This preserve, a mixture of freshwater tidal marsh and wooded upland, provides a pristine habitat for wetlands species, migrating waterfowl, and has the world's largest population of the rare plant sensitive joint vetch. There is an observation deck on the marsh and woodland trails from which to view a wide variety of native plants and bird species, including bald eagles.

**Pocahontas Chapter
Virginia Native Plant Society
12565 Brook Lane
Chester, VA 23831**

