



February Meeting

Thursday February 4 at 7:00 PM at the Education and Library Complex of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Classroom 2
The room is available at 6:30, come early and socialize.

This Month's Presentation will be:

"Modern Toxicology and Poisonous Plants"

by Al Poklis

Chapter Events

- Feb. 20 Field Trip to Caledon State Park. Meet at North Park Library Parking lot at 9:30 AM North Park Library is one block off Parham Road between I-95 and U. S. 301. If coming from I-95 it is on your right. There is a sign indicating for the library on Parham. Caledon is an old growth forest parts of which have not been logged in over one hundred years. In the winter it is possible to walk to the Potomac River where Bald Eagles hang out. It is always interesting to see what an old growth forest looks like, it will surprise you. The trip should take about 4 - 4 1/2 hours including driving time. You may want to bring a lunch. In case of rain, high winds or snow and/or freezing temperatures the trip will be cancelled.
- March 4 Chapter Meeting: Catharine Tucker - "Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns Grow"
- March 6 VNPS Annual Workshop - University of Richmond. See page 3 for details
- March 27 Field trip to Catharine Tucker's property. Meet at North Park Library. Details later.
- April 1 Chapter Meeting: John Hayden - "Husk Tomatoes From Near and Far."
- May Annual Picnic.

Other Events of Interest

21st ANNUAL MAYMONT FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW February 18-21; Thursday: 1-9pm, Friday-Saturday: 10am-9pm, Sunday: 11am-5pm. Greater Richmond Convention Center, 400 East Marshall Street

The 21st Annual Maymont Flower & Garden Show Richmond - brightens the Convention Center with full-scale landscape exhibits, a speaker series, the Great Garden Marketplace and home-related floral displays. For show information, call 800-322-3976 or visit www.maymontflowershow.com.

MAYMONT'S FULL MOON HIKE Friday, February 26, 6-9pm, Maymont Grounds and Gardens

Experience Maymont lit by the moon during this magical evening filled with the sights and sounds of the night garden. At special stops along this hike, Peggy Singlemann, Maymont's Director of Horticulture, will share selected arboretum and horticultural facts. Dress warmly and wear good

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Minutes for the regular meeting of the Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS: Jan. 7, 2010

The meeting was opened by the president, Ernest Wilson at 7:05.

Announcements: The Winter Workshop will be held on March 6 at the Gottwald Science building at the University of Richmond from 9:15am-3:15 pm. The topic is: At Water's Edge; Virginia's Wetland Habitats. John Hayden, the UofR Department of Biology and The Pocahontas chapter will be hosting the event again this year. It is important to register early to be assured of getting a seat! Anyone who is interested in helping should contact Daune Poklis.

Pocahontas Chapter will be participating in Good Green Fun, Spring Fling and Gourds and Goblins at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden Children's Garden starting April and ending in October. Our focus will be trees, shrubs and vines that are butterfly host plants.

Consider donating to the Meadowview Biological Research Station and the Joseph Pines Preserve. Information is online.

Field Trips: January 16 at Appomattox State Park. Meet at Ukrops on route 10 in Chester at 9:30a.m.

March 13 or 27 (TBA) Catharine Tucker's property as a follow up to her March presentation. Meet at North Park Library at 12:30.

Welcome: There were 20 attendees, 3 of whom were guests.

President of The American Chestnut Foundation Cathy Mayes presentation titled, "The Chestnut Story: The impact of the chestnut blight on the ecology and economy of Virginia and status of programs to restore the tree to our forest" says it all. Cathy explained that the purpose of TACF is to enhance the biodiversity of the Eastern forest. The chestnut tree was an important food source for people as well as animals. The trees grew as tall as 80 feet and were an important lumber source because there were few lower limbs. It was used for house frames, telegraph poles and railroad ties. The wood was quite versatile because it was lighter than oak and as rot resistant as locust.

Prior to the blight chestnuts were the only significant cash crop in Appalachia for the dwellers and a main income source for the railroad. The nuts were harvested and transported to Philadelphia, New York and other east coast cities. Chestnut blight was identified in 1904. Before that 20-30 percent of the trees in the forest were chestnuts.

The disease does not kill the tree but eventually girdles it. The roots can survive and do, often for many years, but the area of the trunk above the point(s) of infection die. Sometimes sprouts grow up from the still living root system but even these are being destroyed by browsing deer.

The state champion chestnut tree is in Amhurst County, VA
The American Chestnut Foundation is using hybridizing techniques to develop a blight resistant tree which retains the characteristics of the American chestnut. The process is labor intensive and time consuming. It requires hand pollination and hand harvesting and documenting of nuts/trees. There is also the time required for the trees to reach flowering age. The trees are sexually mature at 7-10 years.

The American Chestnut Foundation is committed to the 'long run' and the future reintroduction of a blight resistant tree into the woods. TACF is always seeking volunteers to help with the pollinating and documenting.

After a question and answer period, the meeting was closed.

Respectfully submitted,

Daune Poklis

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.....Ernest Wilson
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Vice President..... Open

Secretary..... Open

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walking shoes. Cancelled in severe weather; no rain date. \$20 per person/\$17 members. Registration required by February 25; call 804-358-7166, ext. 310.

**VNPS Annual Workshop
At Water's Edge, Virginia's Wetland Habitats
March 6, 2010**

The Virginia Native Plant Society's Annual Workshop will take place at the University of Richmond on March 6, 2010. This year's focus will be the fascinating variety of wetland plant habitats found along the coastal plain. There will be a great line-up of speakers, including Dorothy Fields of Virginia's Natural Heritage Program. She will discuss plants of the coastal plain and give an overview of the nine State Natural Area Preserves on the Eastern Shore that she manages. Joe Scalf of The Nature Conservancy is the program coordinator for the Living Shoreline Project and will talk about the initiative to replace seawalls with plant communities. The other two speakers are Dr. Randy Chambers and Dr. James Perry, both professors at the College of William and Mary. Dr. Chambers will discuss the ecology of wetland environments and the spread of Phragmites. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Perry, will address the potential impact of climate change on wetland plant communities in his talk entitled, "Rising Tides". Registration brochures will be sent out to all VNPS members in January. Space is limited so mark your calendars and plan to register early.

NOTE: Pocahontas chapter will be providing the refreshments at annual workshop on March 6 again this year. Our committee is short some members this year and we need volunteers to help with set up and take down also ordering and pick up. Please contact either Daune Poklis or Pat Brodie if you are able to help. Also, anyone who has something they wish to display or sell for the benefit of the chapter or VNPS at the workshop should contact Pat or Daune.

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden Children's Garden

The Pocahontas Chapter will be participating in the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden Children's Garden again this year. Our topic will be butterflies again but with a twist. We are going to focus the trees, shrubs and vines (native of course) which serve as host plants. Our over all goal is to reinforce the importance of native trees, shrubs and vines and educate the visitors about beneficial native alternatives to alien ornamentals they may have now. The times and dates that we will be in the garden are: April 24, April 25, May 22, Sept. 25, all from 10:00-2:00 and Goblins and Gourds Oct. 23, 10:00-2:00 Oct. 24, 1:00-4:00. We need volunteers to help with these programs. If you can help any one of these dates, please contact me. Thank you, Daune Poklis.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation Seeks Volunteers to Grow Underwater Bay Grasses

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) will sponsor workshops to teach volunteers in the how to grow underwater bay grasses at home for later planting in the Potomac River. CBF will provide all necessary materials and instruction; a \$40 materials fee will be charged. Participants need only attend one of the workshops. Later this spring, the grasses grown by volunteers will be planted in appropriate areas of the Potomac River as part of a larger effort to restore underwater grasses in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Space is limited; those interested in participating should register in advance at http://www.cbf.org/grasses_ (<http://www.cbf.org/grasses>)

Date: February 6, 2010 Time: 10:30 am - 12:30 pm at CBF Office 1108 E. Main Street, Second Floor (Capitol Place Building) Richmond, VA 23219 Workshop Leader: James Shelton

The January 16th field trip to Appomattox River Park had 6 members and Ernest's dog Chester. The weather was clear and relatively warm, so we had an enjoyable escape from this January's weather.



Above - our group. Middle: view from the trail, tree with white trunk is a large sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*). Right: young river birch (*Betula nigra*).

Left winged elm twigs (*Ulmus alata*), note flat corky layers. Right Sweet gum twigs (*Liquidambar styraciflua*).



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

