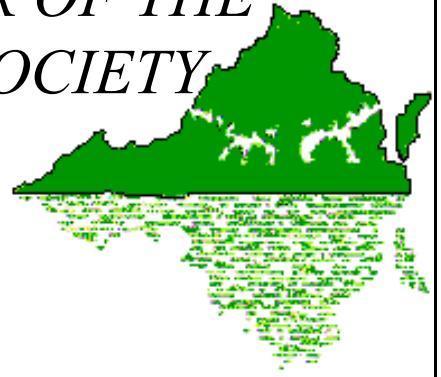


THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)

April 2010



April Meeting

Thursday April 1, 2010 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:
"Husk Tomatoes From Near and Far"**

by John Hayden

Dr. Hayden is professor of Biology at the University of Richmond. He is a botanist with interests in the morphology, anatomy, and systematics of plants. His research concerns plants of the family Euphorbiaceae, Virginia flora, and, most recently, Yucatan ethnobotany and floristics. In addition to his regular duties as a faculty member, he curates the University of Richmond Herbarium (URV) and is a primary care provider for the plants in the Department of Biology greenhouses. His hobbies include gardening, photography, classical guitar, and restoring Bruno, his 1952 International Harvester pick-up truck.

Chapter Events

- April 10 Field trip to the north bank of James River. Meet 10 AM at Pump house Park. The park is accessible from the Boulevard by turning right onto the road just before crossing the Boulevard Bridge if coming from the north. If coming from the south turn left onto the first road to left after crossing the bridge. There are signs at entrance to road pointing to Pump House Park. Continue down this road to the entrance to park marked by gate in the fence next to road. Wear boots or shoes that offer good support because we have to cross railroad gravel. If you want we can extend the trip to another part of park at the end of Texas Court.
- April 17 Trip to Petersburg area. Meet at 10AM at Ukrop's parking lot in Chester off route 10. We will car pool to Lee Park in Petersburg. If you want we can eat lunch at an Italian Restaurant in Petersburg and visit an area in Ferndale Park downstream from the ones we visited in January and March.
- May 1 Ivy removal. Meet at parking lot at entrance to North Branch Park off Texas Court. To reach Texas Court go out Meadow Street towards the river from Main St. At the end of Meadow St. turn left on Kansas Ave. Continue on Kansas until you reach Texas Court one block before end of Kansas Ave. Turn right on Texas Court. Go one block. Turn left into parking lot.
- May 8 Chapter Picnic - 11 AM at Huguenot Hundred Community Association between 10800 and 10820 Cherokee Road, near the intersection of Cherokee Road and Old Gun Road in Chesterfield County. Bring Food for yourself and to share. There will be a short field trip. Directions in the May Newsletter.
- June 5 10 AM Joseph Pines Field trip. Details later.

Minutes of the Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS: March 4, 2010 Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:10 by past president, Daune Poklis in the absence of president Ernest Wilson.

Announcements: The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, March 6. Those intending to help with set up and refreshments should plan to be at the Gottwald Science center on the University of Richmond campus at 8:00am.

March 21-Field trip to Ferndale Park; meet 1:30 at the Ukrops in Chester, VA

March 27- Field trip to member's property; meet 10:00 at North Park Library

April 3-Field trip to Pony Pasture of James River Park-meet 10:00 am at the Pony Pasture parking lot-to see if Bluebells planted last year survived

Week of April 4-10 Field trip (exact date TBA) to North Bank of James River

Week of April 11-17 Field trip (exact date TBA) to Lee Park and Ferndale Park

John Roberts offered information about shade grown coffee: why coffee drinkers should choose to buy it, where to get it, and how "shade grown" benefits the migrating song bird population.

The "Native Orchids of Virginia" display at the Virginia Orchid Society, AOS show won a Blue Ribbon in the Open Education Class. Daune thanked Larry Lynch, Pat Brodie and Richard Moss for their photographs and acknowledged the work Pat and Richard did designing and setting up the display.

Meadowview Biological Research Station is soliciting financial help to buy some "bog" property in Caroline County. The details are available from the director, Phil Sheridan,

Welcome: New members: Kelly Nelson, Farmville, VA; Mary Jane Zander, Midlothian, VA; Agnes Smith, New Freedom, PA; Ron and Sandy Marshall, Chester, VA; Richard Fitzpatrick new family member; were announced. Visitors Susan Cunningham, Judy Lanzilotti, Teri Bennett and Brett Bodine were introduced. There were 18 people in attendance.

Speaker: Catharine Tucker presented "Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns Grow"

She started with facts about oaks in general: there are over 400 species; they are found all around the world;

there have been oak trees since before the last ice age; oaks' center of distribution has been traced to S.E. Asia; the word "Buddha" literally means "the sage of the people of the oak"; the oak and the blue jay evolved simultaneously and it was the jay via land bridges that is primarily responsible for the dispersal rate and pattern of oaks around the world. The oak has been associated with the development of human civilization across Asia and Europe because the wood was easily worked with stone and bronze tools.

From the general, she proceeded to the eastern North American oaks' characteristics. They are deciduous trees of two groups: white and red/black, each with differing characteristics in leaf shape and acorn development. Oak trees are adaptable to a variety of habitats. She concluded with examples, specifics about each and some identifying characteristics of the native Virginia oaks.

After her formal presentation, there was time for questions and an opportunity to examine the leaves, acorns etc. she brought with her.

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

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Ferndale Park Field Trip on Sunday, March 21. Six people enjoyed a pleasant walk in the woods along the Appomattox. Although the canopy had not yet leafed out a number of spring ephemerals were blooming. Especially noteworthy was the fact that almost all of the Yellow Trout Lilies (*Erythronium americanum*) were in bloom. There were thousands of plants with flowers. This is a very unusual occurrence because usually only a few of the biggest plants are in bloom. One explanation is because of the unusually snowy winter that we had, perhaps the bulbs of the plant had been exposed to longer periods of cold than usual. Since most spring flowering bulbs require cold to bloom this is a possible explanation. However, the Trout Lilies in James River Park show fewer blooms than last year even though they were exposed to that same snowy winter. So this is not the complete explanation. Additional plants found in bloom were the toothwort (*Dentaria laciniata*), the Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*), the Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) and the Yellow Corydalis (*Corydalis flavula*), (Left to Right below)



A number of winter annual weeds were also in bloom especially Small-flowered Bittercress (*Cardamine parviflora*). The Beaked-hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*) and its relative the alder (*Alnus serrulata*) were two shrubs with flowers at this early season which would not be picked for bouquets or visited by bees. They are wind pollinated and don't waste energy on flowers with colored petals. Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) was also in bloom

The Red Maple was the only tree in flower and these small red flowers are indeed visited by bees. They even have a little fragrance. Lastly we noticed that Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*) was appearing above ground and that the Skunk Cabbage (*Symphoricarpos foetidus*) had produced its large leaves which appear after it has flowered.



Ernest Wilson

Field Trip to Catharine Tucker's Woods:

This field trip was a follow-up on Catherine's discussion on oak trees at the March Meeting. We compared various oak leaves,

differentiating between the white oaks and the red/black oaks, and attempting to determine the species of some of the red oak leaves. This proved difficult since the red/black oaks hybridize producing leaves with confusing shapes.

We then walked around Catherine's yard and woods looking at the shapes of

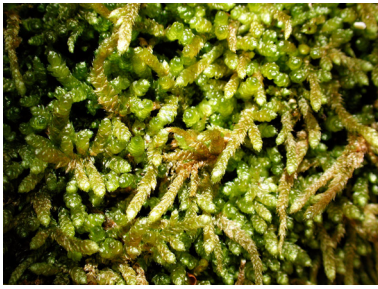


Left: A blueberry in bloom

Top L to R: Young oak leaves, A Lycopodium, Princes pine, Partridge berry

trees which is an aid in determining species. Closer to the ground we found several plants that overwinter and some that come out in early spring.

Richard Moss



Close up of one of the many mosses in Catharine's yard.



Striped wintergreen (*Chimaphila macula*)



The lichen british soldiers (*Cladonia cristatella*)



Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*)



Catharine's woods: An example of a mature hardwood forest. Note the lack of understory plants



A grape fern (*Botrychium dissectum*)

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

