

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

February 2012



Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)

February Meeting

Thursday February 2, 2012 at 7:00 PM

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

The room is available at 6:30, come early and Socialize

Laura Greenleaf will present

Wasted Light, Stolen Night: an Introduction to Light Pollution

Many of us have been bothered by the glare of road side lights as we drive or have had to invest in black-out curtains to get a good night sleep. But did you know that light pollution has the potential to disrupt whole ecosystems, imperiling wildlife, and potentially interfering with the life cycle of trees and other plants? This presentation brings attention to this most neglected, and most fixable, form of environmental degradation. Learn the basic causes and consequences of light pollution, how it affects human health, wildlife, and plant growth, and why improved outdoor lighting is better for us, our communities, and our environment.

Laura Greenleaf is a longtime conservation activist, an occasional freelance writer, and a certified Virginia Master Naturalist. A life long Virginian, she grew up on the Blue Ridge in Clarke County and lived in the northern Piedmont of nearby Fauquier County until moving to Richmond in 2007. She has a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from James Madison University and a Master's degree in Public Administration from George Mason University. From 2005 to 2007 she shifted career course and took on the role of Northern Virginia Coordinator for the Virginia League of Conservation Voters, starting up a brand new program that focused on organizing and supporting local-level political action committees and other citizens' groups in both suburban and rural counties. Prior to her work with VALCV Laura had been active as a volunteer in conservation efforts for many years and served on the Board of Citizens for Fauquier County. In addition to being an active Master Naturalist, she serves on the advisory committee of FrancisEmma, Inc. at Belmead-on-the-James and the policy committee of the Virginia Public Access Project. She lives with her husband and four year old son near the river and the Pony Pasture section of the James River Park System.

Chapter Events

March 1, 2012 Chapter Meeting: Lou Verner presents *Conservation Restoration in the 21st Century – Why Native Plants Hold the Keys to Success*.

Lou Verner is a Region 4 Terrestrial Biologist with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Michigan State University and his Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of Illinois. With over 30 years experience as a university professor, ecologist and wildlife biologist, Lou's major interest is educating the public about the ecological and economic values associated with the conservation and restoration of wildlife habitat.

April 5, 2012 Chapter Meeting: We will discuss and plan the September VNPS Annual Meeting

May 2012 Chapter Annual Picnic. Date and location to be announced.

VNPS ANNUAL MEETING

September 14-16, 2012

SAVE THE DATE! RESERVE A ROOM NOW!

The VNPS 2012 Annual Meeting, hosted by the Pocahontas Chapter, will be held September 14-16, 2012 in Richmond, VA at Wyndham Virginia Crossings, a lovely facility overlooking the site of the Civil War Battle of Yellow Tavern. Rooms are limited; there is no block of rooms saved. You're encouraged to make your reservations as soon as possible directly with Wyndham to receive our special room rates. Rates are per room (plus tax), not per person, and include buffet breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday:

Single \$109.00, Double \$119.00 (including 2 breakfasts), Triple \$129.00, Quad \$149.00.

Please give Wyndham the event name "Virginia Native Plant Society Rate Quote" when making your reservation. Call 1-888-444-6553 (toll free).

Focusing on "Then and Now Along the James," field trips will be planned throughout the surrounding metropolitan area. Watch for registration forms for the VNPS meetings & programs in the spring VNPS newsletter with descriptions of field trips and opportunities to select according to your interests.

Winter Workshop:

The 2012 VNPS Winter Workshop will be held at the University of Richmond, on March 10, 9:15 - 3:15.

Speakers will present an overview of Virginia's Ecosystems. Martin Ogle of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority will be the keynote speaker with retired forester, Tom Dierauf presenting forest ecology, Mike Hayslett of Sweetbrier presenting non-tidal wetland ecology and Ben Tracy of Virginia Tech speaking on ecology of grasslands. The fee for this year has been raised to \$45. Registration will begin the last week of January (details later) and will be due March second. However, having sold out the past three years, folks are advised to register early.

If you make a reservation and find you cannot attend, please cancel. Each year we have several no-shows who do not cancel. Thus, we have a few empty seats. Participants will be asked to include telephone contacts. If we have a wait list and if space becomes available as late as 6 PM on March ninth, we will make every effort to give the seat(s) to wait listed individual(s). Registration will be available online. Details later. The Pocahontas Chapter will provide refreshments etc. as in the past.

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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Chapter Website

pocahontaschapter-vnps.org

Minutes of the Pocahontas Chapter Virginia Native Plant Society Meeting January 5, 2012

The meeting was opened by the president, Catharine Tucker who welcomed all.

Announcements:

For more information about the proposal in the Virginia Legislature to lift the ban on uranium mining go to web site: keeptheban.org

The Winter Workshop will be held at the University of Richmond on March 10. This year's topic is Virginia's Ecosystems.

Pocahontas chapter member, John Hayden, has had a genus named after him. The new genus is *Haydenia*, published by his former student, Mark P. Simmons who is at Colorado State University. *Haydenia* is classified in family *Celastraceae*. The genus consists of three species of trees

that formerly had been classified in the genus *Gymnospora*. In essence, Simmons and collaborators concluded that the New World species of *Gymnospora* were not closely related to the Old World species of that genus, hence a new genus was required for the three species now known as *Haydenia*.

Catharine reviewed the Dec. 3 State Board meeting topics relative to our chapter. (See State Board meeting minutes in this newsletter on page 3.)

New Business:

Upcoming programs:

February 2 . . . Laura Greenleaf & Laura Graham on importance of effects of dark skies & light pollution on plants & animals.

March 1 Lou Verner on the increasing importance of native plants in the future.

April 5 Planning the annual meeting; outlining duties and committees.

May 5 Chapter Picnic

Field Trips:

None planned at this time but suggestions are welcome. Future field trips will double as scouting trips for the annual meeting.

The Flora of Virginia is available for pre-order. The cost is \$79.99. If you are interested in participating in a group order which will minimize shipping/handling costs, contact Catharine.

Annual meeting update:

The title will be *Now and Then Along the James*. The James River is the most disturbed water shed in Virginia. The theme will focus on how it was along the James, the changes over the 400+ years of settlement and considerations for the future.

The speaker Friday evening will be Leonard Adkins and Saturday evening Robert Wright. There will be numerous field trips; each will be limited to 10-12 persons per trip. Each trip will have one chapter member to assist the leader. We will need people to assist with all elements of the meeting. Please start thinking about what you would be interested in helping with or could do. There will be a "help wanted" list soon. That is also why it will be important to attend the April meeting.

Program:

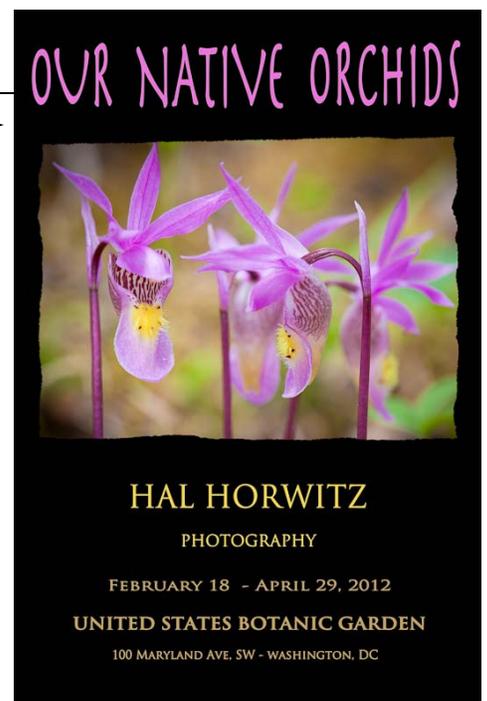
Pat Brodie introduced Leonard Adkins. He is a writer, philosopher and hiker who has hiked the entire Appalachian Trail numerous times. He became interested in the flowers of the AT from his first hike on the trail. The search for the perfect flower identification book resulted in the publication of several books of his own. His presentation was *Wildflowers of the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky Mountains* in multimedia format.

After a question/answer period, the meeting was adjourned.

From Hal Horwitz - An invitation for my friends →

Virginia Native Plant Society Board Meeting Dec. 3, 2011

- An announcement was made that the VNPS is the recipient of a \$42,000.00 bequest from Ann C. Williams. She was a member of the Prince William Chapter. How to best use this gift is yet to be decided. Should any members have suggestions or are interested in participating in the decision making process, please contact an Executive Board member. The Board is seeking persons with financial/money management experience to serve on the state finance committee.
- The Pocahontas chapter reported the following with regards to the annual meeting: **SAVE THE DATE! RESERVE A ROOM NOW!** September 14-16, 2012. The VNPS 2012 Annual Meeting will be held September 14-16, 2012 in Richmond, VA at Wyndham Virginia Crossings, a lovely facility overlooking the site of the Civil War Battle of Yellow Tavern.



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<http://www.wyndham.com/wbe/>

[reservations.wnt?pro=RICVC&grp=09146734NP&cha=WYNDHAMCORP](http://www.wyndham.com/wbe/reservations.wnt?pro=RICVC&grp=09146734NP&cha=WYNDHAMCORP)

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Because this annual meeting will include a celebration of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the VNPS, there will be an acknowledgment of the charter members included in the events.

- The Wild Flower of the Year 2012 is the Partridge Berry.
- Volume 18 of the Flora of North America is dedicated to Stan Shelter.
- Nancy Hugo's newest book "Seeing Trees" has received positive reviews from the New York Times.
- Individuals can receive a complimentary copy of the Flora of Virginia by donating \$1000.00 to the Flora of VA by 5/1/2012. It can be pre-ordered for \$79.99. Visit floraofvirginia.org or call 804-371-6206 for more information.
- The Workshop this year will be held on Saturday March 10 at University of Richmond, Gottwald Center for the Sciences. The topic will be an Overview of Virginia Ecosystems. Registration will open the last week of January/first week of February. Registration will be available online. Pocahontas Chapter will provide refreshments etc. as in the past.
- There will be VNPS field trips to the Pan Handle of Florida the last week of March; a week long Virginia trip and a day trip to the Shale Barrens. Keep watching the VNPS web site (vnps.org) and Bulletin for more information and registration.

**Pocahontas Chapter
Virginia Native Plant Society
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