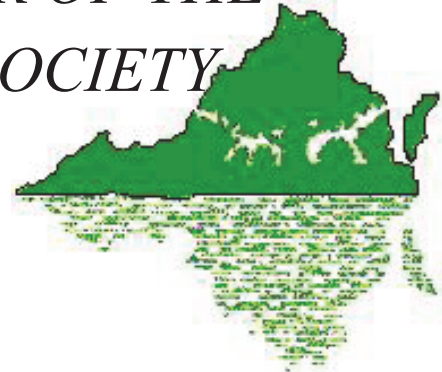
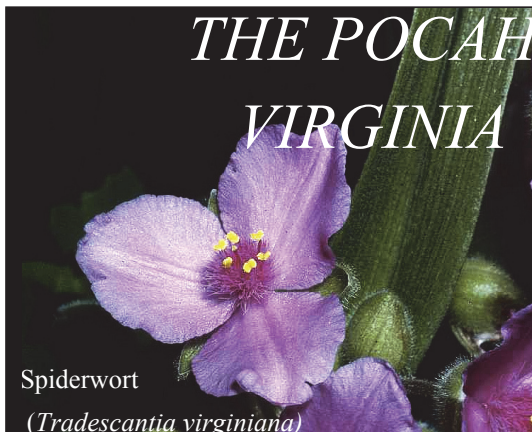


# THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



**October 2012**

## **Chapter Meeting**

**Thursday October 4, 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

**Our Speaker is James Schroering, ANR Agent, Virginia Agriculture Extension  
Program, Hanover County**

**He will discuss *Insect Invaders Attacking Virginia's Forests***

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## **Pocahontas Chapter Programs - Fall 2012**

November 1 ***Native Plants and Pollinators***

Grace Chapman, Director of Horticulture, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

December 8 ***Christmas Party***

The exact time and place will be announced later. It will be the traditional party with all of us bringing a dish to share and a bottle of wine or sparkling cider. The chapter will provide soft drinks and cups.

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## **Pocahontas Chapter Field Trips - Fall 2012**

Please call or e-mail the trip leader if you plan to participate in a particular trip. Let him or her know to expect you. Cancel if your plans change, so the group doesn't wait for you.

October 11 (Thursday) Three Lakes Park, Henrico County, 10:00 AM. Meet trip leader Catharine Tucker in the parking lot at Three Lakes Park off Wilkinson Road approximately 1 mile East of US 301 (Chamberlayne Ave.) This is a short walk around the lakes and an opportunity to visit the Visitors' Center and aquarium. There are interesting trees, shrubs, vines and unusual colonies of running cedar, running pine and shining clubmoss. Bring a bag lunch and a drink or water so we can picnic on the tables. Contact Catharine at 804-938-6941 or [cath.tucker@gmail.com](mailto:cath.tucker@gmail.com).

Suggestions for future field trips this fall are encouraged. Possibilities are Pocahontas State Park, Deep Run Park, and other small parks in the metro Richmond area that haven't been visited by the chapter recently. Anyone who can act as a trip leader is welcome. Trip leaders only need to be the contact help us find the location, not necessarily know the plants we'll see!

## **President's Message**

We did it! Our Pocahontas Chapter hosted the VNPS state annual meeting (photo 1) with 21 field trips, 19 different trip leaders and more than 25 chapter volunteers. Compliments for our chapter have come in from state president Sally Anderson, Nicky Staunton and other members of the VNPS Board, and members of other chapters expressing what an enjoyable experience they had.

We had much to celebrate at the annual meeting on Saturday evening. We recognized the 30th anniversary of VNPS, said a fond farewell to our outgoing president, Sally Anderson, who has led VNPS for the last nine years (photo 2 right,

with Nancy Vehers our new president left), and elected new officers. Especially good news is the publication of the new Flora of Virginia. The galley proofs were sent to the printer the day before the annual meeting (photo 3)! The highlight of the banquet for everyone was meeting “John Clayton” and hearing him describe his latest trip to the mountains (photo 4) and then learning about the flora of the James from Robert Wright (photo 5).

My special thanks go to Pat Brodie, Daune Poklis, Richard Moss, and Ursula Sherrill for their patient and untiring efforts in planning details of



this event over the last year. Our membership is about 75 people now, so a remarkable one-third of our membership was involved in planning and carrying out all the activities of the weekend. Whether you carried boxes, ordered printing, led or assisted field trips, registered participants, set up exhibits, secured lunches, you all made this event possible. Thank you, everyone!



Now, our planning moves toward chapter activities between now and next May: field trips, meeting programs, volunteer projects at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, and other activities that you suggest. A few field trips are planned, but we need suggestions of other places to visit. We need people who would be willing to be a contact person for individual trips. The trip leader doesn't have to be the person who knows all the plants - just someone willing to coordinate getting people to the site and back. Exploring to see what you can find is part of the fun! Program ideas are welcome, whether you have a specific speaker in mind or a topic you would like to know more about.

Building on the enthusiasm generated by the annual meeting, I'm looking forward to the coming year.



**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.

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**Coping with Japanese Stilt**

**Grass:** This invasive grass brought into the US from eastern Asia, *Microstegium vimineum*, is not just a nuisance. It's a threat to native vegetation where it gets a foothold and spreads densely. At our last meeting, Dr. Matthias Leu described his research showing how this grass appears to spread most readily wherever new roads and subdivisions are built. Apparently, heavy shade is its only natural enemy. Follow up discussion on what methods we could use to eradicate Japanese stilt grass, or at least slow its spread, ended with Roundup or glyphosate application as the only alternative to hand-pulling.

The September-October 2012 issue of the Prince William Chapter VNPS newsletter “Wild News” has an extensive article describing Mike Wenger’s experience with Roundup and then glyphosate-only formulations such as Rodeo®. He says, “Roundup, of course, is readily available just about everywhere ... and it is ‘EPA-approved.’ So theoretically, it is safe except in aquatic applications. But we all know that vernal pools and ephemeral puddles are the breeding ground for forest amphibians and these water features do not necessarily make ‘aquatic’ situations or amphibian habitat obvious.... A glyphosate-only formulation thus seemed in the realm of possibility...” Read his entire article to learn more about his experiences obtaining this product and to get

more sources of information. I recommend Mike's article as both informative and amusing. It should be posted soon on the PWWS web site: [www.pwws.vnps.org](http://www.pwws.vnps.org). Meanwhile, I'll be out pulling up stilt grass....

**Flora Authors Honored by DCR:** On September 25, DCR celebrated its annual employee recognition day at Pocahontas State Park. Chris Ludwig, John Townsend, and Bland Crowder were named 2012 Director's Employee of the Year for Administrative Support for our work on the Flora of Virginia. The award was presented by DCR Director David Johnson. Chris and Bland are members of the Pocahontas Chapter. Congratulations!

About this award Bland wrote: "This was an incredibly moving honor, and a symbolic one, because it acknowledges how important the work of all of us on this Flora is to the Virginia's Natural Heritage program, to DCR and, by extension, to the Commonwealth of Virginia. The value, magnitude, and extent of the team effort brought to bear on this project come through loud and clear, and this award is for all of us."

The last Flora of Virginia was published in the 1750's. In 2000, this team of individuals took on the effort to write a new "Flora of Virginia," a task that had been attempted and failed multiple times from the 1920's to the 1980's. Knowing it would be a massive undertaking, and beyond the funding scope of DCR, a non-profit was formed, the Flora of Virginia Project. The Flora Project worked under a Memorandum of Agreement with DCR. This team formed and led an eleven member Board of Directors, a 51 member Flora Advisory Board and raised over \$1 million in private donations and grants to fund the 12 year effort.

The team collected and hand delivered over 1,400 live plant specimens to the Flora's illustrators for the Flora's original illustrations, and quality controlled all illustrations to assure the species key characteristics were highlighted.

They determined what taxa would need to be covered for the Flora to be complete: 103 ferns, 20 gymnosperms, 981 monocots, and 2058 dicots. They developed technical descriptions and keys including technically correct plant descriptions, status and distribution, flowering and fruiting times for every plant species in Virginia. They assembled 50 plus volunteers that read every word and page for typos and errors. They developed word processing procedures and quality control steps to build the Flora's 70 page index.

In the last few months they have worked 7 days a week to meet the deadline of having the complete Flora to the publisher for release in December.

A team that demonstrates the best of DCR in performance, positive and professional attitude, organizational and leadership skills, extensive use of computer programs and amazing botanical expertise and a 1554 page publication that will serve school children to amateur botanists, university students and faculty, and professional natural resources managers for decades to come. This is the team that is so deserving of the 2012 Director's Award for Administrative Support.

Catharine Tucker

## **Pocahontas Chapter VNPS Minutes September 6, 2012**

The meeting was called to order by Catharine Tucker, President. She welcomed the guests from Chesterfield Master Gardeners, Robin Ruth, Mary Clair Thomas and Pat Roble; introduced field trip leaders and co-leaders present; Emily Gianfortoni, Ursela Sherrill, RubyJane Robertson, Beth Helmer, Kristi Orcutt, Caroline Meehan, Frances Melton, Darlene Dragavon, Bucci Zeugner, Pat Brodie, Richard Moss and Russ Dowling and thanked her annual meeting committee members.

The business part of the meeting was postponed until after the speaker's presentation.

Dr. Matthias Leu's topic was Construction and the Spread of Japanese Stilt Grass. He gave a very informative presentation of the process and parameters he and graduate student Chris Tyson used to develop a model to predict Japanese stilt grass invasive movement and a strategy to prevent and control its spread.

Control and eradication was discussed after the presentation.

**Old and New Business:** The MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the Pocahontas Chapter and Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden is in effect from Sept 1, 2012-May 1, 2013. In exchange a reduced rental rate, the Pocahontas Chapter will donate \$150.00 worth of books to the LGBG library, volunteer to help with and participate in various garden events and projects, including John Hayden's survey of the Meadow area and participate in the development of the Native Plant Garden with hours of work, suggestions etc.

Catharine made a plea for members to step up and fill the chapter officer positions. The present officers all are ready to step down and help others move into those positions. Please contact any of the present officers or committee chairs if you are interested.

The reading of the minutes of the last meeting was dispensed with.

We have three Virginia Native Plant Society charter members in our chapter: Lucy DosPassos Coggin, Nancy Hugo and Frances Melton. Their years of participation were lauded. The chapter gave a plaque and an anniversary lanyard to each. Frances (on left in photo) was present to receive hers. She spoke about her years with the chapter, how much she has learned and the good times she has had. The regular meeting was adjourned. Afterwards, field trip details were distributed to the leaders and last minute items were attended to regarding the hosting of the annual meeting on September 14, 2012.

Respectfully submitted, Daune Poklis

### Chapter Field Trips

We had two field trips in September one to Point of Rocks Park in Chesterfield County and the other to Aisle of View, in Hanover County.



Blue Mistflower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*) and a field of Wingstem (*Verbesina alternifolia*) at Point of Rocks Park.

Maryland Goldenaster (*Chrysopsis mariana*) at Aisle of View.

**Pocahontas Chapter**  
**Virginia Native Plant Society**  
**12565 Brook Lane**

