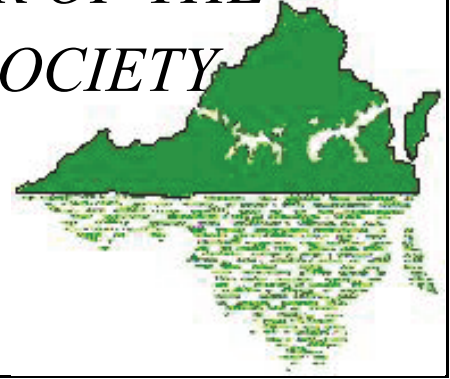


THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



May 2013

Chapter Picnic Saturday May 4, 2013 at 12:00 noon At Dutch Gap Conservation Area.

Meet at 12 noon at the parking lot in front of Henricus Historical Park. Bring a dish to share. The chapter will provide plates, cups, and eating utensils. Following lunch at about 1:30 PM John Hayden will lead the group on a field trip around Dutch Gap Conservation Area.

The Dutch Gap Conservation Area encompasses more than 800 acres on the James River at Henricus, site of the second successful English settlement in Virginia in 1611. Members of the Powhatan Confederacy were living near here before the English arrived. Re-creations of the Citie of Henricus and the associated Native American village sit on a bluff overlooking the James, a freshwater-tidal lagoon, and an old oxbow channel surrounded by lowland forest, shrubs and grassy edges. There are lots of opportunities in the Conservation area to enjoy woodlands and wildlife. Expect pawpaw, cross vine, lizard's tail, and wild rice, among many other species.

Directions to Dutch Gap Conservation Area/ Henricus Park:

1. Take I-95 to Exit 61 or 2. take 288 South to I-95, then south to Exit 61. Exit on to Hundred Road East (toward Hopewell) and go about 1/2 mile to Old Stage Road, Turn left (at the Traffic light) and go north on Old Stage Road 2 miles. Turn right on Coxendale Road (the turn is just before a railroad track - If you cross the railroad track and turn right you will go into the Dominion Power plant and



be converted into electricity. Follow Coxendale Rd. about 1/2 mile to the road to Henricus Park on the Right. Follow this road about 1.5 miles to the Parking area at Henricus Park.

Pocahontas Chapter Programs 2013

May 14 Outing to Blackwater Preserve

Meet at Martin's parking lot in Chester at the junction of Rt 1 and Rt 10 at 9 AM on May 14.

We will then meet Darren Loomis of the DCR at the entrance to the preserve, which is: 24326 Thomas Woods Trail, Zuni, Virginia 23898, at about 10:30am. It will take about an hour and a half to get there from Richmond

Ask people to respond to Trip Leader Andy Wichorek if they plan to go (E-mail: awichorek@msn.com Ph (804) 337-2707. Everyone will obviously want to bring a bag lunch. If anyone would like more information about the site, some good articles can be found at: <http://ww2.odu.edu/~lmusselm/blackwater/>

Announcements:

June 3,10,17 Class on the Flora of Virginia at Lewis Ginter

There was a tremendous response to the May Flora of Virginia class—it's full! John Hayden has agreed to teach another section, and it is scheduled for June 3, 10, 17. Here's the registration link: http://www.lewisginter.org/events/event_detail.php?event_id=1162



June 20 Invitation to Sunday in the Park at Forest Hill Park

The Friends of Forest Hill Park would be pleased if the Native Plant Society of Virginia, Pocahontas Chapter, could be represented at our annual Sunday in the Park Festival which will take place on June 30 from 12 noon to 5:00 P.M. Non-profit groups are offered free vendor space, but you would have to provide your own tent, table, and chair(s.) You might wish to hand out literature, sign up new members, sell your organization's merchandise or answer questions from those who attend. The attendance last years was over 2,000. We do hope that your group will be able to join us this year. Please let us know as soon as you can so that we can reserve space for you.

President's Message

“The more we connect to nature, the smarter, healthier and happier we are. Getting outside even makes us nicer and more likely to clean up the planet.” David Suzuki's words from his latest essay echoed in my head as I tackled very different tasks last week: leading a Master Naturalist field trip in the woods and mowing my lawn.

On the field trip, we found may apples, spring beauty, heartleaf ginger, dogwood, holly, and pawpaw in bloom under the oaks, tulip poplars and beeches. New leaves of bloodroot on the far hillside was a neat discovery. I'd not found them on this site before. Hiking through the woods, over logs, bushwhacking without trails to see what we could find was a treat for me. It made me happier and, I hope, nicer.

But that lawn awaited. That lawn is probably a good example of what not to do in allowing a yard to “go natural” because the birds have contributed all kinds of non-native green things. Henrico County staff will be happy not to need to issue a citation for my standing crop of sweet grass this year! That's my contribution to cleaning up the planet and celebrating Earth Day. Even working to pull out honeysuckle, cut privet and wrangle the mower, I was happier outdoors!

I hope you are able to join other chapter members at the chapter picnic, spend lots of time outdoors and feel smarter, healthier and happier!

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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Minutes of the April 4th Meeting of the Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS

photo Suzanne Jenkins

There were 21 people in attendance. Catharine made a presentation of requested books to library of LGBG (twice the dollar amount as decided in our MOU with the garden) \$282.37 worth of books of a wonderfully varied assortment of natural history topics.

Mark Catesby: *Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahamas*

Thomas Jefferson: *Notes on the State of Virginia*

Lincoln Taiz: *Plant Physiology* 5th ed.

Roy Weil: *The Nature and Properties of Soils*, 14th ed.

Albertus Seba: *Cabinet of Natural Curiosities*

The Wildflower of the year is the Redbud. Brochures are available.

Herbarium of U of R will receive a copy of the Flora from our chapter at a date to be determined per conversations with the Dean.

Pat introduced our speaker: Hal Horowitz, one of our members, a native and resident of Richmond, graduated from MCV specializing in pediatric dentistry. For 30 years he has photographed wildlife, but 15 years ago the wildflowers captured his attention fully. His images have been published worldwide. Hal's program tonight was Wildflowers Across North America.

Hal shared that his main interest is photography even though he never took a course in botany but he has gotten interested in orchids especially. Tonight's presentation is a compilation of some of the flowers (many rare or endangered) he has photographed during journeys across the continent.

Hal reported while there is only one *Aquilegia* in our region, there are 22 species of *Aquilegia* across the continent. We have one species of Indian Paintbrush here, yet 180 species in north America (including Mexico). (shoot first, ask questions later: while some plants are very difficult to identify, Hal will not hesitate to capture the image of a beautiful bloom). Paintbrushes are hemi-parasitic: the plant relies on something else to gain what it needs to survive (often other plants). And while Paintbrushes are green (have their own chlorophyll), produce their own food, but need other plants to provide other needs.

Photos of exceptional flowers included: Steerhorn bleeding heart, *Euphorbia marginata*, a beautiful array of cacti including one species found in Canada, many *Penstemon* species, a selection of fantastically elegant and varied *Mariposa* Lilies, including one quite rare and many others. Hal noted his favorite lens is a 100mm macro lens.

Friday April 12th, in cooperation with the Riverine Chapter of the Master Naturalists, we plan to meet at 1pm in the visitor center at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden and spend about 2 hours removing invasive Privet shrubs. Tools are provided by garden staff. Bring gloves, water & kneepads. Also note April 20th is Earth Day

The Chapter picnic at Dutch Gap will be May 4th. Meet in the parking lot by the visitor center of Henricus Historic Park. We'll eat (potluck) and begin our walk at 1:30, led by John Hayden. The chapter will provide plates, cups, plastic utensils, and drinks.

May 18th is the bio-blitz at Bellmead. If you want to participate, botany surveys will be led by John Hayden. Contact John for details. The purpose is to identify as many organisms as possible in a 24 hour period. Surveys will include bats, fish, birds, lichens, insects, spiders, reptiles, amphibians, etc.

The next VNPS annual meeting will be Sept. 13, 14, 15 in Charlottesville.

Field trip ideas (destinations, dates, etc.) are welcome. Please feel free to suggest ideas and send info to Richard to pass info on to the membership.

Looking ahead to fall, November's speaker will be Chris Ludwig to talk about how to use the Flora of Virginia, Elections for new officers will take place in October; new officers will take their places in November.

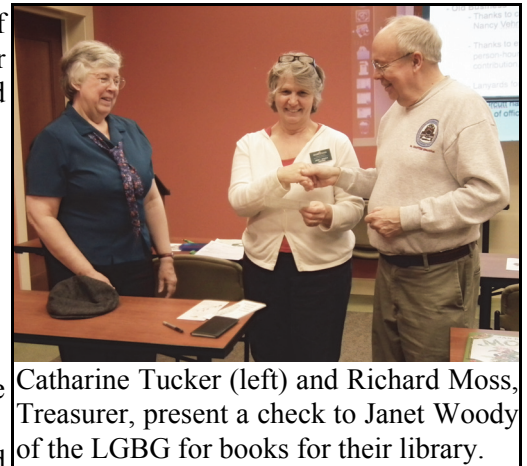
It has recently been learned that Buffalo Creek Nature Area has been sold to a private landowner and may no longer be available to the public for visitation. This brings up the importance of promoting conservation easements, and the importance of communicating with owners of land of interest to VNPS to know in advance of such land sales.

Kristi Orcutt, Secretary

Report of the Great Invasive Privet Pull

The photos show how great a difference there is between the areas where we have pulled out privet, honeysuckle, periwinkle and wisteria and the corner still to be cleared. Only two of us showed up to pull privet, so we just photographed the results of our previous work. What a surprise to see the may apples, white redbud and an apple seedling in bloom! This project will be "on hold" until fall.

Catharine Tucker



Catharine Tucker (left) and Richard Moss, Treasurer, present a check to Janet Woody of the LGBG for books for their library.

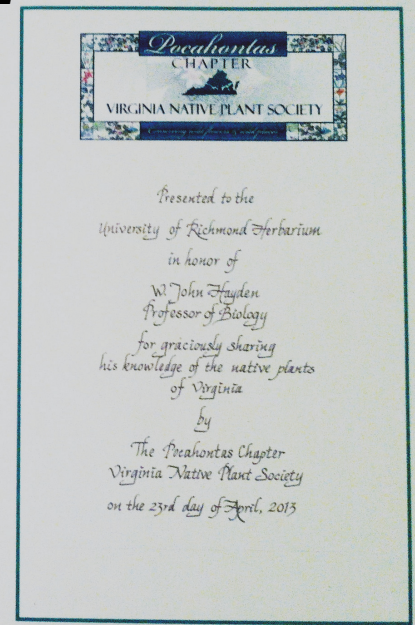


Presentation of the Flora to the University of Richmond Herbarium

On the 23rd of April members of the Pocahontas Chapter presented a copy of *The Flora of Virginia* to the University of Richmond Herbarium in honor of Dr. John Hayden's many contributions to the Pocahontas Chapter. There was a reception in the atrium of the Gottwald Science Center where Gary Radice Chair of the Department of Biology said a few words and Catherine Tucker Chapter President (photo 1) presented the copy of the Flora to John. Photo 2 shows the Faceplate designed for the Herbarium's copy of the Flora.



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A Profusion of Bluets (*Houstonia caerulea*)



These Bluets appeared on a roadside bank on one of my neighbor's yard in Chester. If you have the electronic version in color of the newsletter, you can see several clumps of the flowers are distinctly bluer than the others.

Richard Moss

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