

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Tradescantia virginiana

October 2014



**Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM,
Thursday October 2, 2014**

**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

Emily Herr, Artist, will present “Emily Herr on painting - Secret Garden Sun-room”

Emily is owner of the mural-painting business HerrSuite. She paints custom, hand-painted murals on preexisting surfaces in both homes and businesses. Many of her murals have a story behind them and an education to offer. “She will describe her most recent mural which covers an entire sun-room with delicate strings of flowering plants, all native to the area. It also features many different kinds of native local butterflies. Each species of plant is labeled in calligraphy, similar to an old herbarium illustration. Emily feels it's important for a work of art to have depth behind its concept, and for the artist to be informed about her subject. Come join us to see and hear about her work.”

Chapter Meetings and Events:

November 6 Chapter Meeting: - Catharine Tucker - “American Women Naturalists: 18th to 21st centuries.”

December 13: Holiday Social Gathering. Location to be determined.

Note: the January Chapter Meeting will be January 15, the second Thursday, a week later than usual to avoid GardenFest at Lewis Ginter.

Minutes of the Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS Meeting, September 4, 2014

The first meeting of the new year was attended by 17 members and 2 visitors. There was enthusiasm among the group, sharing greetings after the summer months apart and anticipating an outstanding program. Chapter president, Catharine Tucker, called the meeting to order.

Dr. W. John Hayden, professor at the University of Richmond and chapter member, presented “Pollination and Pollinators.” The well-organized program included: flower structure, the biological significance of pollination, the breadth of knowledge needed in pollination biology, flower form and pollination, pollinator rewards, pollinators (animals, wind, and water), pollinator behavior, pollination’s role in speciation, and interactions between native and introduced plants and pollinators. Despite the vast scope of the presentation, the audience could fully grasp the concepts. This was due to John’s use of layman’s terms, beautiful photographs (many taken by the speaker), and clear visual aids. Member comments made in response to the program indicated a great appreciation for the complex and magnificent interplay of pollination and pollinators.

Chapter business followed the program. There were no minutes to approve since the last chapter function was the annual picnic. Richard Moss, treasurer, reported that there is \$5,059.18 in the treasury.

Membership Chair, RubyJane Robertson, reported that the chapter added three new members during the summer months. The state office has indicated that the chapter’s current membership is 91.

There will be a work day at Ginter Botanical Garden on September 24, 2014, announced Caroline Meehan. Participants will meet Jay Austin in the lobby at 9 a.m. Jay indicated that the work day will include plantings for the meadow and bog areas.

Andy Wichorek will coordinate field trips for the chapter this year. Everyone can be a trip leader, a role that provides organization for an event. The leader need not be a plant identifier. On September 13, 2014, the chapter will have a field trip to Garland Dodd. The trip leader is Richard Moss. An October field trip to the Center for Biodiversity, Joseph Pines Preserve, in Sussex County is a possibility. A trip leader to serve as the contact person is needed.

Old Business: The Memo of Understanding (MOU) with Ginter Botanical Garden was carried out last year and has been renewed. A \$250 check will soon be given to Ginter Botanical Garden as part of the MOU for the use of our meeting

space. In addition, the chapter will provide books for the Ginter library valued at \$150 (or more) and complete 64 hours of service to the garden.

New Business: A slate of chapter officers was presented. The chapter is in great need of a vice president to help with speakers and to conduct the meeting in the absence of the president. Voting on the slate will take place as provided in the newsletter or at the October meeting. The slate is as follows: President - Catharine W. Tucker, Vice-president - Open, Secretary - Irene Caperton, Treasurer - Richard Moss

Committee chairs (not elected):, Membership - RubyJane Robertson, Newsletter - Richard Moss, Publicity and Chapter Representative to the State Board - Suzanne Jenkins, Projects at Ginter - Beth Farmer and Caroline Meehan, Field Trips - Andy Wichorek

The January meeting will be held January 15, 2015, instead of the first Thursday of the month.

Suzanne Jenkins reported on a recent VNPS mailing regarding a Treasure Hunt in support of the Virginia Natural Heritage (VNH) program to raise \$10,000 to update the status of specific plants. Pocahontas Chapter has been assigned the Slim-leaf Tick-trefoil as its plant for the VNH to investigate. It was moved by Pat Brodie that the chapter contribute \$500 towards this effort. The motion was seconded by Irene Caperton and approved by the chapter. Suzanne encouraged members to make additional contributions.

The next meeting will take place October 2, 2014, with a vote on the slate of officers and a program by artist Emily Herr. Irene Caperton, Acting Secretary

President's Message - September 2014

Riding back from a trip to False Cape State Park, I thought about how our chapter members could support and encourage the preservation of the diverse range of habitats in Virginia. What could we do to let more people know about plant communities like the dune forests along the coast and shale barrens in the mountains and their unique groups of plants?

Right now, our activities include programs at our monthly meetings that range from wildflower art to women naturalists to pollination biology. That range of subjects can continue or become more focused on specific native plants or their communities. We have an ongoing project planting native species and removing invasive ones in cooperation with the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. That will continue, but could include many more people

than the dedicated 6 who came on September 24. (By the way, it didn't rain until hours after we finished our assigned plantings!) We have more field trips planned, but only five people participated in the trip to R. Garland Dodd Park for our "annual checkup" of wild rice, wild petunia, partridge pea, rattlesnake master, swamp milkweed and other species in this wetland and in the woods along the bank.

We continue to draw a few new members. Not all our members are active. Could they be or would they be if some other activities were planned? Are there a better ways for us to learn about and share our interest in native plants both within our group and in the community? What would you like to learn?

We will be electing a new group of officers at the October meeting. As we plan for 2015, we invite your suggestions and ideas for activities, programs, native plants or related topics, that you would like to learn more about. We look forward to hearing from you.



Wild Rice at Point of Rocks Park

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

Pocahontas Chapter field Trip to R Garland Dodd Park at Point of Rocks Sept 13, 2014



1. Our Group.
2. Purple gerardia (*Agalinis purpurea*)
3. tickseed sunflower (*Bidens aristosa*).
4. Pink wild bean (*Strophostyles Umbellata*).
5. Strawberry Bush (*Euonymus americanus*).
6. Tailed blue butterfly (*Cupido comyntas*).



7. Hairy wild petunia (*Ruellia humilis*).
8. Wingstem (*Verbesina alternifolia*) with bumblebee.
9. Heal all (*Prunella vulgaris*)

Photo credits: 1,6,8 Charley Brown
2,3,4,5,7,9 Ashley Moulton

THANK YOU to all those who turned out on September 24 to help plant native plants around the lake at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden! Jay had disced the ground, top-dressed the planting area with topsoil, and laid out the individual plant plugs for us. That made it easy for us to dig a hole, drop in a plant plug, fill in soil around the plant, pack it down & move on to the next! We completed the three or four rows of flowers in front of the shrubs around the south edge of the lake in just over an hour! The rain held off until after lunch, perfect timing for our new plantings. Next spring and summer, these flowers against the background of shrubs should be a lovely display around the lake.

Ballot for Election of Officers of the Pocahontas Chapter, VNPS

Please vote by either:

1. Send me an e-mail indicating for whom you wish to vote.
2. Mail me the filled out ballot below.
3. Call me at (804) 748-2940 and indicate for whom you wish to vote.
4. Vote in person at the October 2, 2014 Meeting

Office	Nominee	Write-in
President	☐ Catharine Tucker	_____
Vice President	☐ Open	_____
Secretary	☐ Irene Caperton	_____
Treasurer	☐ Richard Moss	_____

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