

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Tradescantia virginiana

December 2013

Holiday Party December 14th

This year we are doing something different. We will meet in the Hibachi Sushi and Supreme Buffet, 8087 W. Broad St, in the Wetland Shopping Center at 12:30PM on December 14th for our celebration. The buffet cost for lunch should be approximately \$7.00 per person.

We have reserved an area for our use and if we have 30 or more people we can have a private room.

We need to know how many people are coming, so please let Daune Poklis at 804-741-7838 or marydaune@poklis.org know if you plan to attend.



Pocahontas Chapter Programs - Winter 2013

- Jan 9 **Note change of Date and location - 2nd Thurs.** Beth Farmer, chapter member, on growing native plants.
NOTE: Meeting will be at the **Glen Allen Branch Library, 10501 Staples Mill Road Glen Allen, VA.**
- Feb 6 Daune Poklis on the VNPS trip to Smokies
- March 3 VNPS Workshop at U. of R. -Topic Climate Change. Pocahontas Chapter will provide a continental breakfast and be responsible for box lunches for the speakers as in the past. The program will be held in the Jepson Center which is a larger venue but more difficult for us to set up. We will need lots of volunteers to help with set up and take down. **Contact Rubyjane Robertson at rubyjane1@aol.com if you can help.** Don't forget that to attend the workshop, you must register!
- Mar 6 Emily Gianfortoni, chapter member, on identifying invasive plants and dealing with them
- Apr 3 OPEN
- May Picnic at Amelia County Wildlife Management Area

Other events of interest:

Go Orchids Interactive Website Has Launched

More than half of North America's orchids are threatened or endangered somewhere in their native range. The North American Orchid Conservation Center (NAOCC) just launched a new website called "Go Orchids" at <http://goorchids.northamericanorchidcenter.org/>, a searchable database where users can see which ones are in danger, find the orchids nearest them...or just look at lots of pretty pictures. Go Orchids is a tool to explore orchids native to the U.S. and Canada. Go Orchids will initially focus on orchids in New England and the mid-Atlantic region. Orchids of the southeast and Alaska will be added early in 2014. This site will be similar to Go Botany, developed by our partners at the New England Wild Flower Society and will eventually include all of the orchid species in the U.S. and Canada. Go Orchids has been developed to interact across a variety of platforms, including smart phones and tablets. We encourage you to explore the site.

Flora of Virginia Project update from Bland Crowder

1. The completed second printing of the Flora is en route to Dallas, with an ETA of December 17. It will then take a few days I expect for it to be truly available, but I know BRIT will begin filling back orders as soon as they can. The price is \$89.99, with \$6.50 S&H.
2. Check my Flora Project article in the new Bulletin. It's something different, and I think it characterizes where our attention is focused now that we have the Flora in hand.
3. We had five board members step down in August (after 11 years!). Joining us are Sally Anderson, Michelle Prysby (former head of Virginia Master Naturalists, now head of science outreach for the University of Virginia), and Doug DeBerry (of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin and William and Mary Biology). Stay tuned, as we are asking two others to join. Note that our board is becoming more attuned to outreach and education.
4. Work continues toward the exhibition at the Library of Virginia. Dates are March 17–September 13, 2014.
5. A mailer just went out asking for support of the Flora Project at year-end. It features a new schedule of premiums for recognition of leadership gifts. (It also features a beautiful painting that Lara Gastinger did that is the signature image for the exhibition at the Library of Virginia. It features the Cardinal Flower with Joe-pye kibitzing.)

From the VNPS Communications Team - Changes are coming for VNPS in the next few weeks, and we would like to share the good news, and also ask for your help.

We are working on Improved Communications and Interaction Between Members, Chapters, and the Board of Directors

We are excited to let you know that a new VNPS.org website is set to go live before the end of the year. The new website will enable people to join, renew membership, and donate online; give VNPS the ability to send emails to the membership about trips, topics, and environmental warnings; send newsletters electronically to those who wish to receive them that way... AND it will have a new, specially designed, Easy-to-Access site, with clear directions for use for each chapter.

The new site will also have a format that includes a spot for news that is updated frequently. And that's where we need you! Our chapters are the lifeblood of our organization. We want to share with a larger audience what it is that we are doing as we go about fulfilling our mission of 'Conserving Wild Flowers and Wild Places.' Each of our chapters fulfills this mission in unique and important ways. Let's increase our impact and grow our organization by letting people know what it is we are doing - whatever it is!

Your Role: We ask you to give some thought to ways your chapter could record, in words and photographs, the work you are doing: your field trips, programs, invasive pulls, collaborations

with your neighbor, topics that are concerns for your towns. We are not talking about lengthy or onerous reports here, just a couple of lines that summarize the event. Photographs need not be professional, just photographs (preferably with smiling people in them!). We find that it helps if you appoint someone before the event to be the reporter. That person could share any or all of the following as they see fit by contacting the publicity chair or the web master with **a brief summary of what happened, what was learned, where you went, what you saw, comments or reactions from participants, results or outcomes from your efforts.**

Please talk with your members and us about a system that would provide the communications team with **TIMELY** feedback? We will soon provide you with a template for providing information. Once we receive basic information from you, we'll take it from there! We will edit, expand, call for clarifications if we need to, and then weave it into the news fabric of VNPS activities.

The Communications Team will be working with you and your chapter communications chairs over the next few months to establish ways in which we can help VNPS and each chapter increase their exposure to the public through the new and improved VNPS web site, local and state newspapers and publications, homeowners associations, and other similar public media and organizations.

One of our objectives is to help VNPS spread our message of protecting native plants and wild places by offering thoughtful

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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Chapter Website
pocahontaschapter-vnps.org

positions that create respect for our voice and efforts at the town, city, county, state, regional, national, and legislative levels.

There is strength in numbers. As more people see how they can be a part of VNPS, and why they would want to, we will have more impact and influence, locally and state wide. Wouldn't you like to participate in government meetings and have VNPS be recognized as a significant, valuable, and important player?

Thank you for your participation and help,
Your Communications Team,

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Field trip to VCU Rice Center on Nov. 14, 2013

The Virginia Commonwealth University's Inger and Walter Rice Center for Environmental Life Sciences is located on nearly 500 acres along the James River in Charles City County. The center has a variety of fresh water aquatic and terrestrial habitats.

It currently has an education Building with labs and classroom space, and a research pier on the James river with more buildings planned.

Dr. Smock, the Director, led our tour and described what the center is doing and the plans for the future. More information can be seen at <http://www.vcu.edu/rice/>.

Photos:

1. Mistletoe, *Phoradendron leucarpum* in one of the trees in front of the Rice Center building.
2. Water purification ponds next to the Education Building.
3. Fresh water tidal wetland.
4. Education Building.



Pocahontas Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society Minutes of the Meeting on Nov. 7, 2013

The meeting was called to order by interim president Catharine Tucker who welcomed new members and visitors in attendance.

The Business meeting was postponed until after the speakers' presentations.

The first speaker was Barbara Weidekehr. Her presentation, *Wildflowers of Virginia: Native Treasure*, was a pictorial journey through 3 seasons of wildflowers which included facts about the plants and their pollinators, particularly the butterflies to which they are hosts plants.

The second presenters were Anne Wright and Judith Brown who introduced the James River Park Field Guide. The field guide project was funded by a grant from Altria Corporation. It is an electronic field guide on the Friends of the James River Park System site-Science in the Park tab. It features geology, rock pools, flora and fauna which would be seen on the walking tours of north and south side of Belle Island. The plant section is divided into 5 parts: trees and shrubs, vines aquatic flora, wildflowers and grasses. Each of the sections is a down-loadable or immediately visible collection of pictures and descriptions of plant found. This is only the beginning of the future field guide intended to cover

the entire James River Park System. An ambitious project to be sure. It is noteworthy that among the major plant identification contributors/documenters to this project is Catharine Tucker.

Announcements: The Winter workshop will be held on March 1, 2014 at the University of Richmond Jepson center. The topic is Climate Change. The state will be sending more information and registration information in the near future. Once again the Pocahontas Chapter will be responsible for morning refreshments and speaker lunches. Anyone interested in helping please contact Rubyjane Robertson at rubyjane1@aol.com She has agreed to coordinate the refreshments again this year.

The new state VNPS website is almost up and running. The new membership forms are available.

The books for perusal this month are *Bark, a Field Guide to Trees of the Northeast* by Michael Wojtech and Tom Wessels and *Wildflowers & Grasses of Virginia's Coastal Plain* by Helen Hamilton and Gustavus Hall. Both of which we will recommend as additions to the LGBG library.

Catharine made a plea for persons to volunteer for the offices of President, Vice President, and Secretary. We are also seeking someone to organize and keep track of field trips. This is not a field trip leader!

December 14- Party. Time and location to be announced.

Field Trip: Nov. 14- The Rice Center- Meet 12:30 North Park Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Daune Poklis

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