

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

November 2004

Spiderwort
(*Tradescantia virginiana*)



NOVEMBER MEETING

“- James River Watershed -

Virginia’s Native Plants: From the Mountains to the Sea”

by Catharine W. Tucker

Thursday, November 4, 2004 at 7:00 PM

**Breakout Room in the Education and Library Complex
of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens**

The James is a “flashy” river, the longest of all the big eastern rivers to have its watershed contained all in one state. It varies in elevation from nearly 1000 feet down to sea level. Its watershed covers two thirds of the area of Virginia that drains into the Chesapeake Bay and is the river most affected by human activities, both historically and currently. Still, the number of native plants and the extent of native plant communities remaining in the James River watershed is astounding.

A naturalist by training and a teacher by both training and inclination, Catharine Tucker received her Bachelor of Science degree from Duke University and her Master’s from the University of Michigan, both in botany. She has led field trips, taught classes and addressed civic groups on topics as varied as “Natural History for Moms and Tots,” “Wildflowers of a Trout Stream” and “Virginia’s Native Shrubs” for organizations as varied as county recreation departments and the Maymont Flower and Garden Show. Her own photographs of wildflowers and their habitats illustrate her presentations.

She maintains her status as a field botanist listed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as qualified to search for endangered plant species. As long-time activist in conservation, she has served on state-level committees such as the Tier Three Waters Citizens group convened by the Department of Environmental Quality and has the distinction of being appointed by both Governors Wilder and Allen to the Senate Study Committee on Stormwater Control and Regulation. In 1995, she received the Conservationist of the Year award from the Virginia Wildlife Federation. She served as Virginia Council Chairman of Trout Unlimited from 1993 to 1995 and as an elected member of the National Resource Board of Trout Unlimited 1994-2001, one of two women on the 40-member Board. Most recently, from 1995 to 1999, she served as a member of the Administrative Board of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Catharine has been an accomplished fly angler for more than thirty years with a special interest in teaching women and young people, using this skill as a vehicle for outdoor education. She has served as a fly fishing instructor in the “Becoming an Outdoors Woman” program sponsored by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Next month, for the eighth year, she will participate as an instructor at the Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp in Pennsylvania and at the new Rivercourse Camp in North Carolina. She annually conducts three classes at these camps: “Streamside Etiquette and Ethics,” “Reading Water,” and a survey of riparian woody vegetation entitled “What’s That Bush My Backcast’s In?”

CHAPTER NEWS

Sunday November 14, 2004: Walk at Zuni Pine Barrens Conducted by Darren Loomis. Meet at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens at 8:00 AM. It will take about an hour to get to the Barrens and the walk will start at 10:00 AM. Contact Kristi Orcutt via e-mail at Botnizn@aol.com or by cell phone at 539-6836 for more info.

Minutes of the October 7, 2004 meeting of the Pocahontas Chapter of the VNPS

Dean Walton, president, opened the meeting.

Old Business: Duane Poklis is heading up the Maymont Flower and Garden Show booth. She said we will be needing volunteers to man the booth on February 24-27, 2005 at the Greater Richmond Convention Center. Our chapter has paid the entrance fee and we have booth 72. Our chapter is asking other Virginia chapters to help staff the booth during the show. The head office has also scheduled the annual workshop for the same weekend, thinking that members who come for the Maymont Flower and Garden Show can also attend the workshop and also be able to work the booth. This idea was greeted with skepticism. If this date is kept, some members of our chapter will have to miss the workshop to man the booth and we are also responsible for providing refreshments for the workshop. The annual workshop will be held at the University of Richmond. Duane will need volunteers to help set up the refreshments for the annual workshop. She will be going up to Blandy Farm to get the display. Richard Moss has offered to help her set up the display at the Flower Show and provide photos for the display.

New Business: Richard Moss, the editor of the newsletter, has asked members to let him know their e-mail addresses if they want to receive their newsletter electronically. If they also want to receive a paper copy of the newsletter and an electronic copy to contact him. The e-mail version of the newsletter is also on the VNPS website (www.vnps.org).

Dean reminded the members that elections need to be held this year so we need nominations for the chapter's officers. Please consider volunteering in one of these capacities.

Kristi Orcutt presented details on the November 14, 2004 walk at Zuni Pine Barrens. Darren Loomis will be conducting the walk. Members will meet at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens at 8:00 a.m. It will take about 1 hour to get to the Barrens and the walk will start at 10:00 a.m.

Program: Art Evans who writes an insect wildlife column in the Richmond Times-Dispatch gave a program on Insect Pollinators. He had wonderful photos of insects that he had captured on film. He gave a survey of crickets, spiders, wasps, ants, aphids, cicadas, butterflies, etc. that was informative and beautiful to see.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Peggy Furqueron, Secretary

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

President	Dean Walton
Vice President	-
Secretary	Peggy Furqueron
Treasurer	Bucci Zeugner
Membership Chair	Pat Brodie

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VNPS Website - www.vnps.org

Field Trip to Henricus Park October 16, 2004

The day of the Field trip was cold and very windy so only one person made it besides Kristi Orcutt, the trip leader.

However, the sun was out and once we left the parking area, the wind died down and it was very pleasant. Two bald eagles circled over us as we walked along the trail.

There were lots of autumn plants to see including bladderworts flowering in the marsh, and along the road goldenrod in bloom, assorted eupatoriums going to seed which developed interesting purple colors, and a vine, climbing false buckwheat (*Polygonum scandens*), which had unusual winged seeds.

Photographs:

1. Wetlands at the park.
2. *Polygonum scandens*



Native Plant of the Month

Euonymus americana (Strawberry Bush or Hearts a Bursting)

This plant is a bush which usually gets no more than 4-6 ft. tall, and develops a loose, sprawling structure with thin, wiry, spreading branches with distinctive green, four-angled twigs. Older plants usually have several main upright stems arising in a clump. It is found in most of the eastern half of North America in mixed deciduous forest and low woodlands to swampy forests. Small clusters of greenish-pink flowers appear in late spring and continue into early summer. These flowers are occasionally single and sometimes may be purple in color. The outstanding feature of strawberry bush is the fruit which consists of a showy red capsule which splits to reveal shiny orange-red berry-like seeds. In the fall the leaves turn to an unusual mix of white and pinkish purple. The common names Strawberry Bush and Hearts a Bursting derive from the appearance of the capsule and seeds.

Cultivation: Strawberry bush is quite tolerant, but prefers a well drained, slightly acid, humus rich soil. It does well in shady conditions, tolerating even full shade, and thriving in light, dappled shade. The seeds germinate after three months of cold treatment and greenwood cuttings taken in summer root readily. It is browsed heavily by white-tailed deer. The bark and fruit are powerful laxatives and considered poisonous and should never be ingested.

Reference: http://www.floridata.com/ref/e/euon_ame.cfm



Strawberry Bush flowers



Plant with seeds



Close up of seed capsule



Leaves in the Fall

**Virginia Native Plant Society Membership Application
Pocahontas Chapter**

**Make Check payable to VNPS and Mail to:
Membership Chair, Blandy Experimental Farm, 400 Blandy Farm Lane, Unit 2, Boyce, VA 22620**

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail** _____

___ Individual	\$30.00	___ Sustaining	\$100.00
___ Family	\$40.00	___ Life	\$500.00
___ Student	\$15.00	___ Associate Groups	\$40.00
___ Patron	\$50.00	(Garden Clubs, etc.)	

**I wish to make an additional contribution to ___ VNPS or ___ The Pocahontas Chapter,
VNPS in the amount of:**

___ \$10 ___ \$20 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 Other _____

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Chester, VA 23831**

