

# POTOWMACK NEWS

Volume 28. No. 4

Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

July/Aug 2010

## **NATIONAL CHAMPION DWARF HACKBERRY DISCOVERED IN CITY OF ALEXANDRIA**

**By Rod Simmons and Greg Zell**

Dwarf Hackberry (*Celtis tenuifolia*) is a fairly uncommon, small native tree that typically inhabits dry, rocky or gravelly areas throughout much of the eastern U.S. Several old and very large specimens were found in the City of Alexandria during vegetation surveys conducted by natural resource management staff for Dept. RPCA's Flora of Alexandria Project. Champion and notable trees were measured and scored with the assistance of Greg Zell, Arlington County Natural Resource Manager, and the largest of four Dwarf Hackberries submitted was recognized this year as the National Champion ("the largest known of its species") on the National Register of Big Trees:



[www.americanforests.org/resources/bigtrees](http://www.americanforests.org/resources/bigtrees).

**Rod Simmons with dwarf hackberry (Photo by Greg Zell)**

This tree grows next to a virtually identical Dwarf Hackberry at the edge of the Historic Cemetery Complex along Payne Street in Old Town - a grouping of very old cemeteries that includes the Alexandria National Cemetery. Two other comparably-sized Dwarf Hackberry trees grow on a dry, gravelly bank at Patrick Henry School.

The Alexandria Historic Cemetery Complex is also home to two other champion trees that were discovered during surveys within the past three years: the co-National Champion American Holly (*Ilex opaca*) and the State Champion Star Magnolia (*Magnolia stellata*), a non-native tree. The other similar-sized National Champion American Holly was discovered by Greg Zell in Arlington County.

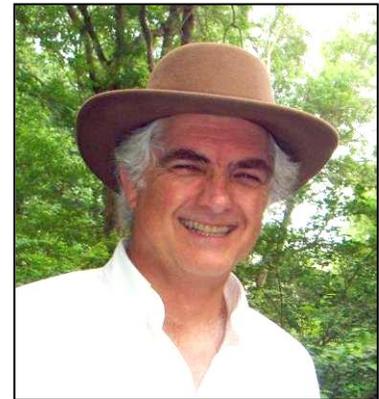
Arlington's and Alexandria's Champion Trees are not only unique ecological resources, but also serve as touchstones to the past. These "senior" trees provide a connection to both a human and natural past. To historians, old trees may link people, places, and past events. To botanists, old-age trees in the forest can provide a visual clue to our natural history and help determine our floral past. In either case, these champion trees represent living treasures that would take more than a human lifetime to replace if lost. Each is worthy of respect and should be appreciated, protected, and cherished.

"Such vegetation is also the habitat of wild bees and other pollinating insects. Man is more dependent on these wild pollinators than he usually realizes. Even the farmer himself seldom understands the value of wild bees and often participates in the very measures that rob him of their services. Some agricultural crops and many wild plants are partly or wholly dependent on the services of the native pollinating insects. Several hundred species of wild bees take part in the pollination of cultivated crops -- 100 species visiting the flowers of alfalfa alone. Without insect pollination, most of the soil-holding and soil-enriching plants of uncultivated areas would die out, with far-reaching consequences to the ecology of the whole region. Many herbs, shrubs, and trees of the forests and range depend on native insects for their reproduction; without these plants many wild animals and range stock would find little food. Now clean cultivation and the chemical destruction of hedgerows and weeds are eliminating the last sanctuaries of these pollinating insects and breaking the threads that bind life to life".

**Rachel Carson, Excerpted from *Silent Spring*, Chapter 10 (1962)**

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

Heat and humidity. The two unavoidable symbols of Summer in our Nation's capitol. I hope you are able to take it easy and keep cool as you read this. The summer does bring some wonderful opportunities for us though. A forest walk will quickly show you the difference a forest canopy makes to the ecosystem. Several degrees cooler and much more pleasant for all species, the forest is dominated by the most majestic of our native flora, the oaks and sycamores, which provide a critical element in the stability and health of our landscape. Drawing moisture from the root zone, creating a constant pressure to move water from deeper in the ground toward the surface, a mature Oak can transpire as much as four thousand liters (1000 gallons) a day. This huge volume of water cools the plant as well as participating in the critical process of photosynthesis.



Much concern has been raised by environmentalists about the Heat Island Effect, the observation that urban areas are much warmer year round than the surrounding natural areas. This is connected to the loss of forest cover in these communities as well as the extensive hardscape of roads and buildings which absorb all the solar radiation and radiate it out as heat.

Fortunately, this concern is being recognized and some efforts taken to address it. For many years the National Arbor Day Foundation has provided trees for planting to communities and individuals. Fairfax ReLeaf is a local non-profit dedicated to planting trees.

(<http://www.fairfaxreleaf.org>) Casey Trees, founded in 2001 to help restore the canopy to Washington, DC, is committed to protecting and growing the tree cover. (<http://www.caseytrees.org>)

Many other organizations and individuals recognize the importance of our canopy and work tirelessly to sustain and expand it. Our local governments support this effort and sponsor Tree Commissions in both Arlington and Fairfax Counties. The Virginia Department of Forestry supports an Urban Forester in our region, Jim McGlone, who is dedicated to the protection and health of trees in urban and suburban locations. Former Chapter board member Jeremy Edwards is the arborist for the City of Falls Church and among his many duties, helps run the Neighborhood Tree Program there.

These friends and organizations are making a difference in our landscape and deserve our thanks and support. So take a walk in the forest and hug a tree today. **Alan Ford**

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**A mobile version of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's website is now available for web-enabled smart phones. NPIN mobile is a slimmed down version of key features of the Native Plant Information Network (NPIN) including the Native Plant Database, Image Gallery and Mr. Smarty Plants. To access NPIN Mobile, simply point your phone's web browser to <http://www.wildflower.org/mobile/>**

## **POLLINATORS AND ROADSIDES**

New guidelines can help highway departments, county road managers, and others provide habitat for pollinators.

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation is pleased to announce the release of *Pollinators and Roadsides: Managing Roadsides for Bees and Butterflies*. These guidelines provide a concise overview of the conservation potential of roadside habitat and offer practical information on how to maximize the value of these areas for pollinators while meeting basic traffic safety requirements.

With more than 10 million acres of land in roadsides in the United States alone, transportation rights-of-way are a significant, yet often overlooked, resource for pollinator conservation. In landscapes denuded of natural areas by large scale agriculture or urbanization, roadsides are an increasingly important component of regional habitat networks. They frequently support native vegetation, providing refuge for wildlife and connecting fragmented habitat. The wildlife living on roadsides touches communities in every state, province, and county of North America.

*Pollinators and Roadsides*, synthesizes the previous study of native bees in roadside rights-of-way conducted by Jennifer Hopwood, the Xerces Society's Midwest pollinator outreach coordinator. Jennifer's research demonstrated that bees were twice as abundant on roadsides with native prairie vegetation, than on those dominated by nonnative plants, and that native roadsides supported a third more bee species than roadsides with nonnative plants.

These findings are reinforced by studies from North America and Europe that consistently show that roadsides have a role to play in conserving bees, butterflies, and other pollinating insects. *Pollinators and Roadsides* draws on these studies, as well as the experience of roadside managers, to identify ways in which current maintenance practices can be adapted to benefit pollinators.

*Pollinators and Roadsides* is available from the Xerces Society's website, [www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org).

## **CONSERVING NATIVE POLLINATORS by Mary Ann Lawler**

*(adapted from a similar article published in our newsletter in 2003.)*

The conservation of flowering plant life requires that we protect the pollinators of plants. Bees, butterflies, flies, beetles and other insects pollinate nearly seventy percent of all flowering plants. While we think of bees and butterflies as the major pollinators, flies and beetles were the most prominent pollinators of the first flowering plants on earth. Flies, including flower flies, bee flies, dance flies, small-



Common milkweed (*Aesclepias syriaca*)

headed flies, and tangle-veined flies, still perform a major role in the pollination of over 1,000 species. Bees are important of course. The U.S. has over 5,000 species of native bees. And birds, butterflies, and moths, which pollinate more recently evolved plants, are also essential to plant conservation.

But our pollinators are in trouble. Twenty-two butterflies, seventeen beetles, fourteen flies and two moths are on the Federal endangered and threatened species list. Scientists and conservationists have reported on the decline of native bees, butterflies and other pollinators. It is pesticides, habitat fragmentation, and development, which take a toll on most pollinators. (Continued on p. 4)

(Continued from page 3)

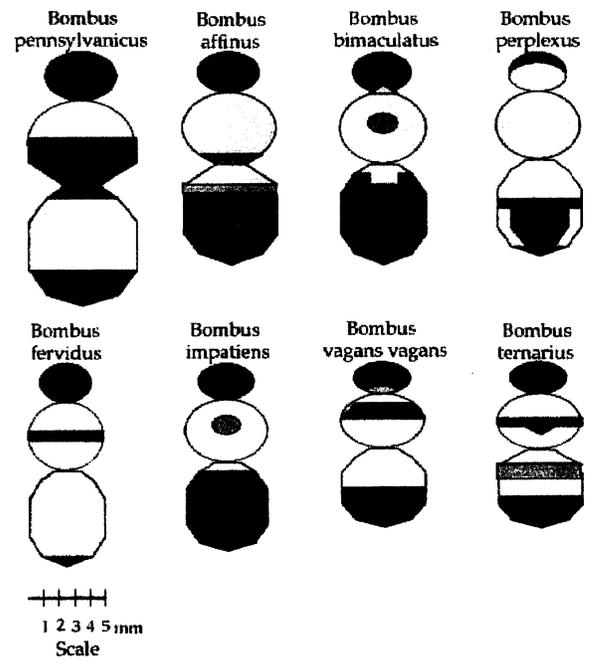
Climate change will add to the dilemma. According to Professor David Inouye in an article in the Xerces Society publication Wings: “A danger for pollinators comes from the loss of synchrony between their life cycles and those of the plants upon which they depend, either as host plants or nectar and pollen plants....The kinds of changes predicted in phenology or range due to climate change present a challenge for the goal of protecting habitat for pollinator species.”

One example of a threatened species is the regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria idalia*). It is a “species of concern” for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and is rapidly vanishing in much of its former range, which includes our area of northern Virginia. The caterpillar hosts for this butterfly include violets, like bird’s foot violet (*Viola pedata*). Adults obtain nectar from milkweeds, thistles, red clover, and mountain mint. (For information on the regal fritillary and a color photo see: <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/distr/lepid/bflyusa/va/80.htm>)

While we do know the status of some pollinators, information on the status of native flies, bees, and beetles is scarce. In a presentation before the Botanical Society of Washington, Dr. Taj Holden of the University of Virginia said that baseline data from which to measure pollinator decline in Virginia and other places in the East is simply not available. Dramatic fluctuations in populations seem to occur naturally from year to year. More scientific research on plant/pollinator relationships is needed and should be funded.

We do know that humans can make a difference. First of all, know our pollinators. Buy some field guides and learn to identify flies, beetles, butterflies, and native bees. Keep an eye out for what attracts different insects to nectar flowers. It is amazing the variety and abundance of little bees and flies visiting a single plant of white snakeroot (*Eupatorium rugosum*, common milkweed (*Aesclepias syriaca*) or of Golden ragwort (*Senecio aureus*). Also learn to identify and enjoy caterpillars and other larvae. They can grow up to be pollinators.

Secondly, support those organizations helping to protect pollinators. For example, the Xerces Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of invertebrates. Visit its website at: <http://www.xerces.org/>. A local organization is the Washington Area Butterfly Club, whose website is <http://leplog.wordpress.com/washington-area-butterfly-club/>. A good website on butterflies and moths is <http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/>. And any organization that helps save habitat anywhere is important.



Virginia’s bumblebees

Thirdly, plant a pollinator garden on your property, and create habitat for both adult insects and their larvae, using native plants. Both the Xerxes Society and the Washington Area Butterfly Club websites have a wealth of information on pollinator gardening with lists of nectar plants and host plants for larvae. The VNPS Prince William Chapter has an excellent brochure on Butterfly Gardening with Native Plants. Pick up a copy at one of our programs.

Finally, and most importantly, let's try to get people to stop decimating our pollinators. Don't use pesticides. Try to buy organic food. And oppose the growing of crops genetically altered to kills insects. The earth is not one giant farm field for human use. It is an intricate and rich but delicate tapestry of millions of living things, all of which depend upon one another for life.

### **PLANT BLINDNESS (from the American Institute of Biological Sciences) by William Allen**

Plants fuel life on Earth by tapping the sun's energy. But if plants are the main mediators between the physical and biological worlds, why do most people tend to appreciate animals so much more than plants? That question is at the center of a new campaign whose rallying cry is "Prevent Plant Blindness." The aim of the campaign is to liberate students from the many traps that lead to a lack of appreciation for and understanding of plants, say its leaders, botanist-educators James Wandersee of Louisiana State University, in Baton Rouge, and Elizabeth Schussler of the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center, in Aiken, South Carolina. Wandersee runs LSU's 15° Laboratory ([www.15degreelab.com](http://www.15degreelab.com)), which takes its name from the observation that people prefer to view objects that are between 0 and 15 degrees below eye level.

In 1998, Wandersee and Schussler introduced the term plant blindness after years of discussion, literature searching, investigation, and "a fair amount of trepidation," says Wandersee. They define plant blindness broadly, including "the inability to see or notice the plants in one's own environment, leading to the inability to recognize the importance of plants in the biosphere and in human affairs." Plant blindness also comprises an "inability to appreciate the aesthetic and unique biological features" of plants and "the misguided, anthropocentric ranking of plants as inferior to animals, leading to the erroneous conclusion that they are unworthy of human consideration."

The problem is, if most people don't pay attention to plants and the fundamental role they play in maintaining life, society isn't likely to agree that plant conservation is among humanity's most crucial issues, much less support plant science research and education. All this while, by some estimates, one in eight plant species is threatened with extinction and the (plant-dependent) human population continues to climb.

What causes plant blindness? Some researchers have long concluded that various social and educational biases are responsible. For example, "zoo-chauvinistic" educators at all levels tend to use animal examples to teach basic biological concepts, whether in the classroom, lab, or field.

While not discounting those biases, Wandersee and Schussler argue in an article published in *Plant Science Bulletin* that the primary contributor to plant blindness is the nature of the human visual information-processing system ([www.botany.org/bsa/psb/2001/psb47-1.pdf](http://www.botany.org/bsa/psb/2001/psb47-1.pdf)). They cite evidence showing that humans don't see all their surroundings by just opening their eyes. Other researchers have calculated that each second, the eyes generate more than 10 million bits of data for visual processing, but the brain extracts only about 40 bits and fully processes only the 16 bits that reach our conscious attention.

How, in confronting this tremendous bottleneck, does the brain decide which 16 bits of visual information to focus on? Put simply, it searches for movement, conspicuous colors and patterns, objects that are known, and objects that are potential threats. Since plants are static, blend in with the background, and don't eat humans, they generally don't get visual attention.

"There is a kaleidoscopic array of visual information bombarding our retinas every waking second, and plants are so easy to ignore unless they are in bloom," Wandersee says. "Plant blindness is the human default condition."

Their research and that of other biology educators has shown not only that most students prefer to study animals more than plants, but that early experience growing plants with a knowledgeable, friendly plant mentor is a good predictor of a student's later interest in plants.

To help the nation overcome plant blindness, Wandersee and Schussler have taken a self-described "activist" approach to appeal to teachers and students. They developed a classroom poster that says "Prevent Plant Blindness" as part of a national campaign to raise awareness. The 20-by-30-inch poster shows a pair of red-tinted glasses hanging over a tree-lined river valley. This symbolizes how looking through such a visual filter blinds someone to seeing the plant world. The back of the poster contains the definition and symptoms of plant blindness and 20 plant-related activities. The poster, endorsed by the Botanical Society of America, has been distributed to more than 20,000 teachers in the United States.

Wandersee and Schussler also spread their message at botanical gardens and meetings of science teachers. In 1999 they published an illustrated, 40-page children's picture book, "Lost Plant!" which tells the story of a plant mystery. They established the annual Giverny Award in 1998 for the best science picture book.

Perhaps most important, they advocate more plant mentors to give young people experience in growing plants, and they praise the role of botanical gardens in public education about the role of the plant world. "Our research has shown that

having a plant mentor in one's life makes a pivotal difference in whether one notices, appreciates, seeks to understand, and cultivates plants," Wandersee says. "Without informal and formal horticultural and botanical education-such as mentors and botanical gardens provide-one is not likely to care about plants or to realize that all life depends on plants."

**For more on this topic see <http://www.botany.org/bsa/psb/2001/psb47-1.pdf>**

**INVASIVES CONTROL WORK PARTIES AT  
TURKEY RUN PARK ALONG THE POTOMAC**

Join with The Nature Conservancy to help control invasive plant species on National Park Service lands in the Potomac Gorge at Turkey Run Park off the GW Memorial Parkway. Wear work gloves and boots or sturdy shoes, and bring water, snacks, and hand saws or loppers if you have them. Time is 10-1 on each workday. Dates are: **July 1, Aug. 5, Sep. 9, Oct. 7, Nov. 4.** Contact Alan Ford: 703.732.5291 or [amford@acm.org](mailto:amford@acm.org) or Mary or Jamie at [volunteermd@tnc.org](mailto:volunteermd@tnc.org).

**ARLINGTON COUNTY RiP PROGRAM.** Free. For ages 9 to adult. Not all plants are good for the environment. Invasive plants crowd native ones out for space and light and some can even grow a "mile-a-minute"! Come learn what these troublesome beasts look like and help rescue our parks from these alien invaders! We meet monthly at the locations listed below. If you have your own garden gloves and tools, please bring them along. Some supplies will be provided. Be sure to come dressed for work, wear sturdy shoes, long pants, long sleeves, and perhaps a hat. You may want to bring along a reusable water bottle. Register at [mpierce@arlingtonva.us](mailto:mpierce@arlingtonva.us) or 702-228-1862

Second Saturdays @ Lacey Woods 1200 N. George Mason Dr., Arlington, VA 22205 July 10, Aug 14 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM Meet at the N. Frederick St. & 11th St. N. entrance.	Third Saturdays @ Tuckahoe Park 2400 N. Sycamore St., Arlington, VA 22213 July 17, Aug. 21, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Meet in front of Tuckahoe Elementary
Second Sundays @ Gulf Branch Nature Center 3608 Military Road, Arlington, VA 22205 July 11, Aug. 8, 1:00 – 3:00 PM	Third Sundays @ Long Branch Nature Center 625 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington, VA 22204 July 18, Aug 15, 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
First Tuesdays @ Zachary Taylor Park Meet at 2533 N. Utah St., Arlington, VA 22207 July 6, Aug 3, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Fourth Saturdays @ Benjamin Banneker Park 1500 N. Sycamore St., Arlington, VA 22205 July 24, Aug 28, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**FAIRFAX COUNTY’S INVASIVE MANAGEMENT AREA (IMA) PROGRAM**

The IMA program is a volunteer-based project that is working towards habitat restoration. Help us remove invasive plants, learn new species of invasive plants, and work outdoors during the following workdays:

Wed. Jul 7, 2:30-5:30pm, Lake Accotink  
 Sat. Jul 10, 8:00am-11:00am, White Oaks  
 Wed. Jul 14, 2:30-5:30pm, Americana  
 Wed. Jul 21, 2:30-5:30pm, Lake Accotink  
 Sat. Jul 24, 10:00am –noon, Pohick Stream Valley  
 Wed. Jul 28, 2:30-5:30pm, Lake Accotink  
 Sat. Jul 31, 10:00am–noon, Ellanor C. Lawrence

Wed. Aug 4, 2:30-5:30pm, Lake Accotink  
 Wed. Aug 11, 2:30-5:30pm, Americana  
 Sat. Aug 14, 10:00am–noon, Ellanor C. Lawrence  
 Wed. Aug 18, 2:30-5:30pm, Lake Accotink  
 Wed. Aug 25, 2:30-5:30pm, Lake Accotink  
 Sat. Aug 28, 10:00am-noon, Pohick Stream Valley

For more information contact: [Katherine.Frederick@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Katherine.Frederick@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703 324 8681. Check out the IMA schedule of events and activities at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/nrp-ima.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/nrp-ima.htm).

**FALLS CHURCH HABITAT RESTORATION TEAM**

Look for information on the City of Falls Church Habitat Restoration in our September/October newsletter. They are taking July and August off. *For more information: contact Melissa Teates, 703-538-6961 or [melanite@verizon.net](mailto:melanite@verizon.net).*

**LOCAL EVENTS AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:**

**Wed. June 30 to Sept 1. Insect Life** Learn to identify insects and discover their roles in the balance of nature. Study their life histories, the ecologies of important insect forms, the necessity of insects in biotic communities and principal insect families of the Central Atlantic region. Class night and time: Wednesdays, 7 - 9 pm. Field Trip Dates: July 17, August 14, August 28 Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD Tuition: \$355 Instructor: Don Messersmith To Register: [http://www.graduateschool.edu/course\\_details.php?cid=NATH1130E](http://www.graduateschool.edu/course_details.php?cid=NATH1130E)

**Sundays July through September. Butterfly Walks** 3pm. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens. Walk into the winged world of butterflies and tour the garden with this introductory guided stroll with hobbyist/butterfly enthusiast Mona Miller. Learn how the gardens attract these enticing, magical creatures. Participants may get to help release butterflies, when available. Meet in the visitors center at 3 PM. Reservations not required. Members free, non-members: adults \$4, seniors and children (7-17) \$1.50 per person, 6 and under free, this helps Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in its butterfly habitat restoration projects. Rental binoculars are available at the Visitor Center. Weather dependent: Call (703) 255-3631, Ext. 0, to confirm walk. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens website: [http://www.nvrpa.org/park/meadowlark\\_botanical\\_gardens](http://www.nvrpa.org/park/meadowlark_botanical_gardens) Member: Washington Area Butterfly Club: <http://leplog.wordpress.com/washington-area-butterfly-club/>

**Wed. Jul 7 and Sat. Jul. 11 Sex, Lies, and . . . Pollination Ecology?** Sex, deception, competition, danger, violence! Who knew pollination ecology was so exciting . . . and so vitally important to our own well-being, as well as to that of other animals and even whole ecosystems? Join ASNV naturalist Cliff Fairweather for a class and field trip to explore the seemingly familiar but, in many ways, little known world of plants and their pollinators . . . if you dare! Class: 7 to 9:30 p.m. Packard Center, 4022 Hummer Rd., Annandale, VA Field trip: Saturday, July 11 from 9 a.m. to noon at Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship, 11661 Harpers Ferry Road, Purcellville, VA 20132-1944 -- Directions: <http://www.blueridgecenter.org/Default.aspx?pageId=534982>

Instructor: **Cliff Fairweather** is ASNV's very own naturalist and has been involved in natural history interpretation in the region for over 13 years. Insects and their ecological roles, including pollination, have been a major focus of his interpretive work. Cost: \$35 members; \$40 non-members Limit: 16 To register or for more information, please email us at [info@audubonva.org](mailto:info@audubonva.org)

**Wed. July 7 thru July 28 Summer wildflower Identification.** From milkweeds and morning glories to orchids and asters, summer presents a diverse array of wildflowers for study of plant family characteristics and ways to identify different species. Field trips to two scenic locations for summer wildflowers provide an opportunity for practice in the use of identification guides. Previous Spring Flower Identification class or similar course is recommended but not required. Class night and time: Wednesdays, 7 - 9 pm Field Trip Dates: July 17 and 24 Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD Tuition: \$259 Instructor: Melanie Choukas-Bradley To Register Online: [http://www.graduateschool.edu/course\\_details.php?cid=NATH1149E](http://www.graduateschool.edu/course_details.php?cid=NATH1149E)

**Sat. Jul. 10: Botany for Gardeners** 9:30-11:30am Green Spring Gardens. Enhance your ability to identify plants. Under Mary Olien's guidance, we will use lectures and live samples explore basic concepts of plant classification and plant anatomy, key elements in plant identification. \$18 Registration and non-refundable prepayment to FCPA required for all programs. Call 703-642-5173.

**Sat. Jul. 10: Walk with a Naturalist** 10:30am-noon Pohick Bay Regional Park Join our naturalist for a leisurely walk on the trails at Pohick Bay Regional Park. Learn about the current natural happenings in the park as we search for any signs of flora and fauna. Meet at the Pohick Bay camp store. This is a free program. **Contact Info:** Pohick Bay Regional Park 6501 Pohick Bay Drive Lorton, VA 22079 703-339-6104.



**Monarch on *Aesclepias purpurascens*  
photo by Marianne Mooney**

**Mon. July 12 thru Aug 9. Mushroom Identification** Woodend Sanctuary, MD, Learn identification, ecological relationships and life histories of mushrooms, as well as techniques of collecting and preserving fleshy fungi. Discover edible and poisonous species of the Central Atlantic region and characteristics used to classify mushrooms into families. Home or library Internet service is strongly recommended for access to course materials. Class night and time: Mondays, 7 - 9 pm Field Trip Dates: July 17, July 31, August 7 Tuition: \$259

Instructor: David Farr To Register [http://www.graduateschool.edu/course\\_details.php?cid=NATH2230E](http://www.graduateschool.edu/course_details.php?cid=NATH2230E)

**Fri. Jul. 16: Poisonous Plants and Animals** 7:30-8:30pm Come to the Algonkian Meeting Center Arlington Room for an informative program on the poisonous plants and animals in the area. Poison Ivy, venomous snakes, and inedible plants will be covered. This is a free program. Contact Algonkian Regional Park for reservations. **Contact Info:** Algonkian Regional Park 47001 Fairway Drive Sterling, VA 20165 703-450-4655.

**Sat. Jul. 17: Ferns in the Field 9:30-11am** Riverbend Nature Center. Join fern enthusiast and Master Naturalist Kit in search of ferns. On the walk, we'll learn about their unusual life cycle, the changing taxonomy and identification tips. \$5/person. Call 703-759-9018 for more information.

**Sun. Jul. 18: Beyond the Old Oak Loop Trail: Walk with a Naturalist** 1-2:30pm. Hidden Oaks Nature Center. Explore the less traveled trails of Annandale District Park. You will see evidence of pre-Civil War activity by the stream, clues to the land use of yesteryear and reasons why wildlife uses this stream valley as a natural highway today. Reservations and advanced payment required. \$5/person or \$10/family. Call 703-941-1065 for more information.

**Sat. Jul 31: Cub Run Creek Walk** 11am-Noon at Bull Run Regional Park. Join our naturalist for a look at the life that inhabits the Cub Run stream. Use dip nets as we walk into the creek in search of fish, crayfish, and anything else we can find! Bring shoes that can get wet. Meet at the Bull Run camp store. Reservations required. This is a free program. **Contact Info:** Bull Run Regional Park 7700 Bull Run Drive Centreville, VA 20211 703-631-0550.

**Sat. Aug. 14: Park Manager Walk and Talk** 5-7pm at Huntley Meadows Park. Join Park Manager Kevin Munroe on these monthly walks. Find out about the wetland restoration project and learn about the wildlife for which the park is known. Canceled if rain. Call 703-768-2525 for more information.

**Chapter Events Calendar**



**We're off  
for the  
Summer.**

**See us in  
September!**

**Potowmack Chapter  
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