

# POTOWMACK NEWS

Volume 24, No. 2

Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

March/April 2006

## **NOTABLE NATURAL AREAS AND NATIVE PLANTS OF THE D.C. REGION, MARCH 9, GREEN SPRING, 7:30**

The D.C. area is perhaps the most floristically and geologically diverse place in the eastern U.S. and is a great place to see incredible wildflower displays in beautiful settings. On Thursday, March 9 at 7:30pm, **Cris Fleming** and **Rod Simmons** will give an overview of significant areas that are rich in wildflowers and other native plant species. Plant communities that will be featured include serpentine barrens, pine barrens, terraced gravel forests, magnolia bogs, shell-marl ravine forests, diabase communities and the diverse Potomac Gorge area. Learn where to go and when the best times are for seeing native plants in bloom in these fascinating places. Cris Fleming is a field botanist and co-author of *Finding Wildflowers in the Washington/Baltimore Area*. Rod Simmons is a field ecologist and registry chair of VNPS. We will have copies of "Finding Wildflowers in the Washington/Baltimore Area" available for sale.

*Directions to Green Spring Gardens Park: From Interstate 395, exit at Route 236 West (Little River Turnpike); turn right at Braddock Road and go 1 block north to park entrance.*

## **TURKEY RUN PARK WALK, SATURDAY MARCH 18**

Botany Chair **Cris Fleming** will lead an early spring walk on March 18 from 9:30 to 11:00am at Turkey Run Park to thank the participants in our chapter's invasives removal project at the park. This scenic park harbors many native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers in the rocky slopes, steep ravines, and floodplain forest along the Potomac River. Many of the large trees at Turkey Run Park are considered "old growth"; individual specimens of Sugar Maple, Beech, White Oak, and Basswood are the largest found in the Potomac Gorge. The park is also famous for the grand display of Virginia Bluebells in mid-April. In mid-March, we may be able to spot the tips of bluebells and trillium leaves and possibly find the tiny flowers of Harbinger-of-Spring and early blooms of Spicebush and Leatherwood. We'll also see several evergreen ferns and buds bursting open on maples and elms. Meet at Parking Area C1 at 9:30. The walk will last until 11:00 when the invasives removal will begin. To register, please call Shirley Gay at 703-920-1913.

## **ALL ABOUT TREES APRIL 13, GREEN SPRING, 7:30**

Trees are a valuable part of our gardens and of natural areas and deserve the best care to keep them healthy. Consulting arborist **Ed Milhous** will tell us, "All about Trees" on Thursday, April 13 at Green Spring Gardens. Ed will recommend native trees for planting in this area and give tips on how to care for them. Whether your interests are trees in natural areas and forests or trees in the landscape, this program promises to be a learning opportunity.

Ed Milhous has a diverse background in horticulture and natural resource conservation. A charter member of VNPS, he was an Extension Agent for eight years before starting a business in the mid-1980s. His company was the first in the region to employ Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques for controlling pests in landscapes. His business now is TreesPlease, a consulting firm that provides information about lawns, landscapes, and trees in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area.

*Directions to Green Spring Gardens: From Interstate 395, exit at Route 236 West (Little River Turnpike); turn right at Braddock Road and go 1 block north to park entrance.*



*Quercus prinus* Chestnut Oak  
W&OD Trail

## **BALLS BLUFF WALK, SATURDAY APRIL 15**

Join **Stan Shetler**, Botanist Emeritus of The Smithsonian Institution, for a chapter field trip on Sunday, **April 10**, from 1:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. to **Ball's Bluff Regional Park**. At Ball's Bluff, we hope to see sessile trillium (*Trillium sessile*), trout lily (*Erythronium americanum*), shooting star (*Dodecatheon meadia*), birdfoot violet (*Viola pedata*), Virginia bluebell (*Mertensia virginica*), and many other spring ephemerals. The trip will be canceled in the event of heavy rain. To reserve, call Shirley Gay at 703-920-1913.

*Direction to Balls Bluffs: From the Capital Beltway, take VA-7 or the toll road west to Leesburg. Take US-15 north (Leesburg by-pass) for about a mile and a half. At a large housing development, turn right on Battlefield Parkway and then left on Ball's Bluff Road for one mile to the parking lot.*

"It would seem as if the day was not wholly profane in which we have given heed to some natural object ...the mimic waving of acres of houstonia, whose innumerable florets whiten and ripple before the eye; the reflections of trees and flowers in glassy lakes; the musical steaming odorous south wind, which converts all trees to wind-harps....these are the music and pictures of the most ancient religion."

*Ralph Waldo Emerson's Essay on Nature*

**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:** Hearing a cardinal sing this morning assured me that spring is right around the corner. To help our members best enjoy this floriferous season, our chapter board has been busy planning spring walks and programs. We are happy to announce a partnership with Fairfax County to remove invasives in its parks (see last page). And we will be continuing our restoration work at Turkey Run Park; it's been so rewarding (and fun) clearing these beautiful woods of Linden viburnum. I hope more of you will consider helping out on either or both of our two monthly workdays. Having volunteers who know plants is a real gift for those who coordinate this work---our plant knowledge is truly valued. If you aren't too familiar with our local flora, check out the native plant hikes that will precede two of the work sessions and plan on joining us then. Enjoy the spring! **Marianne Mooney**

**Invasives Control Work Parties at Turkey Run Park along the Potomac!**

The VNPS Potowmack chapter will continue to work 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. You are always welcome to bring friends.

**March 2:** 1-4pm Viburnum or garlic mustard, if it is too early for Viburnum. Meeting place to be announced on the listserv or call Mary Travaglini at: (301) 897-8570

**March 18:** Cris Fleming walk 9:30-11:00, then lunch break, then work until 3pm. Meet at Parking Lot C1.

**April 6:** 1-4 pm Viburnum meet at Parking Lot C2



use some new volunteers to help out in the beds this year. It's an opportunity to help the chapter (plant sales earn money for us) and learn about native plants by working with them. Join us on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. You need not be an expert--none of us was when we began our work. Call me if you have questions or just come on out. Our beds are behind the Horticulture Center at Green Spring Gardens. **Laura Beaty** (703 534-8746)

**Mark your calendar for the Chapter's Native Plant Sale, May 20<sup>th</sup> at Green Spring Gardens from 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. We'll have ferns, perennials for sun and shade, shrubs and trees. If you have plants to donate, please bring them to our beds by May 10th. If you need help getting them out of your garden, give a call to Laura Beaty at 703 534 8746.**

**INVASIVE PLANT GUIDE**

C.D. Huebner, et al., have prepared a U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Forest Service document, INVASIVE PLANTS FIELD AND REFERENCE GUIDE: AN ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE OF PLANT INVADERS OF FORESTS AND WOODLANDS. The intent was to compile a referenced source for information about the behavior of key plant invaders (in the U.S.) in managed, disturbed, and pristine forested systems. The 2004 work examines 15 main species in four plant categories and presents extensive information about each plus, in a separate section, citations for numerous supporting references. Full color photos appear throughout. The publication is NA-TP-05-04; it can be freely downloaded from: [http://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/misc/ip/ip\\_field\\_guide.pdf](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/misc/ip/ip_field_guide.pdf).

C.D. Huebner, USDA FS, Northeastern Research Station, Morgantown, WV 26505, USA. Mailto:CHuebner@fs.fed.us.

**BOARD OFFICERS**

President	Marianne Mooney	534-8179
Vice President	Bob Yacovissi	641-8914
Secretary	Lee Ann Kinzer	768-4048
Treasurer	Vivian "Dusty" Dukes	938-7912

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Botany	Cris Fleming	301-657-9289
Conservation	Open	526-0535
Membership	Geoff Seymour	658-2289
Newsletter	Mary Ann Lawler	684-8622
Programs/Education	Shirley Gay	920-1913
Propagation/Plant Sales	Laura Beaty	534-8746
Publications	Sue Jewell	913-0139
Publicity	Roberta Day	560-5528
Site Registry	Rod Simmons	256-7671
Garden Tours	Vacant	

(All numbers should include the 703 area code, unless otherwise noted.) *Potowmack News* is published 6 times per year, in Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, and Nov. The deadline for submissions is the 15th day of the month prior to publication. Call Mary Ann Lawler for more information or e-mail her at [malawler@aol.com](mailto:malawler@aol.com).

**LEARN ABOUT NATIVE PLANTS FIRSTHAND BY HELPING IN THE PROPAGATION BEDS**

Want to learn about gardening with natives? Or maybe you want practice potting up plants? Or you're looking for fun and camaraderie with like-minded people? How about good snacks and the opportunity to take home orphan plants? We've got it all on Wednesday mornings. Starting on April 5<sup>th</sup>, the chapter's propagation committee swings into action in preparation for our native plant sale in May. We could really

**THE BEAUTY OF NATIVE SHRUBS by Joan Feely, U.S. National Arboretum**

The wild shrubs of northern Virginia are as beautiful and interesting as any in the world. They grow in many habitats from the inundated waters of the Potomac River to the dry soils of our upland oak forests, providing an integral link in the ecology of this region. Traditionally, only few shrubs native to the eastern U.S. are well represented in local gardens. For example, inkberry and creeping juniper are practically ubiquitous, used widely as screening and a ground cover. Unfortunately, our locally indigenous shrubs are only poorly represented in our gardens and landscapes, despite the fact that anyone who wants to include native shrubs in their garden has a large palette from which to choose.

To complicate matters, a number of the more familiar native shrubs available at nurseries are not indigenous to Northern Virginia. The inkberry and creeping juniper mentioned above don't actually grow wild in metropolitan Washington. The extremely popular oakleaf hydrangea and fothergilla both grow wild in the southeastern states, but only grow this far north when we plant them. However, large numbers of fantastic locally indigenous species are appropriate for horticulture. From experience working at the National Arboretum's Fern Valley, I would like to mention five favorites that can be grown just for beauty and multi-season interest — Red chokeberry, pinxterbloom azalea, smooth witherod, mountain laurel, and fall blooming witch-hazel. These are only a fraction of the shrubs that you can grow, but they show the wide range of soil and sun conditions under which our natives can thrive. With just these five shrubs you can have beauty and a bit of our native flora in your landscape.

**Chokeberry** *Aronia arbutifolia* (recently renamed *Photinia pyrifolia*) has pleasing clusters of white flowers in spring, and spectacular fall foliage in the red/burgundy range off set by brilliant red fruits. The fruits are available as a long lasting wildlife food source in winter, as they are too astringent to eat until they have frozen a few times. Chokeberry grows on a variety of soil types, from moderately dry forest edges to wet shrub bogs.

**Pinxterbloom azalea** *Rhododendron periclymenoides* is native to dry woodlands. When it grows along a woodland edge and has good sun exposure it is a glorious bloomer, full of lightly fragrant pink blossoms in April and early May. Its yellowish fall color is not striking, but the architecture of its branches with their prominent floral buds creates a sublime winter silhouette. This tough shrub is remarkably drought tolerant once it is well established.

**Smooth witherod** *Viburnum nudum* has remarkably handsome shiny dark green leaves. It blooms in spring, with clusters of small creamy white flowers. It hails from the moist soils of low woods and thickets, but blooms best when it receives some direct sunlight. In the fall, the clean summer foliage turns a very attractive color in the red to purple range. The fruits of smooth witherod can be spectacular, ripening through the colors green, white, to pink, and finally blue. To produce good fruits, however, at least two plants of separate parents must be grown. Clones of the same sort will not successfully set fruit on their own.

**Mountain laurel** *Kalmia latifolia* typically is found on well drained acidic soils. If it weren't so hard to establish it would be the perfect shrub: evergreen, spectacular pink or white flowers, with a compact habit, drought tolerance and hardiness. Unfortunately it does have a very fine root system that must be teased out of its nursery potting soil so the roots have direct contact with the actual soils of your landscape. If the potting soils aren't gently removed, the roots won't establish in the ground soil. Mountain laurels must not be allowed to dry out or be over watered in the first of years after planting. Once established, however, they are gorgeous and tough shrubs.

My final you-can't-garden-without-it shrub is **fall blooming witch-hazel** *Hamamelis virginiana*. This largish shrub, growing to 20 feet in as many years if allowed, spreads as wide creating a beautifully rounded specimen. Witch-hazels are found scattered in deciduous woodlands, blooming best where an opening allows abundant sunlight. This large shrub is tolerant of a wide range of soil conditions, and makes a spectacular show in fall of both brilliant yellow leaves and flowers.

This is the tip of the iceberg – with many ecologically important and beautiful shrubs not detailed. Spicebush, paw-paw, buttonbush and winterberry holly to name a few of our local shrubs not considered in this article. Many of our local public gardens and nature centers have labeled plants where you can learn more about our wonderful native shrubs. A visit to Fern Valley, Green Spring Garden Park, or Meadowlark Gardens is well worth the trip when you are considering native shrubs for your garden. **See the list of shrubs inserted in this newsletter.**

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*Joan Feely is Curator of the Fern Valley Native Plant Collection, U.S. National Arboretum, Agricultural Research Service. USDA*

**FRIENDS OF RUNNYMEDE ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 12**

The Friends of Runnymede will hold its Annual Meeting at the new Police Station on Herndon Parkway on March 12 from 7 - 9 pm; all are welcome. After some award recognition, the Town Forester and Town Naturalist will speak. The evening will end with a slide presentation entitled, "Runnymede: A Year Through the Lens."

**ARLINGTON COUNTY'S NATURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE INVENTORY**

The Nature Centers' staffs are developing Arlington County's first comprehensive natural resources inventory, which will catalog native species of trees, shrubs, wildflowers, ferns, grasses, and sedges, as well as native fauna, including mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and three kinds of insects (butterflies, moths, and dragonflies). Ecologically significant natural resources will be included in the county's GIS mapping system. If you are interested in joining a new volunteer organization called Project Wildlife Watch, contact Greg Zell, Natural Resource Specialist, at [gzell@arlingtonva.us](mailto:gzell@arlingtonva.us) (type Project Wildlife Watch in the subject line).

## **BEWARE OF FALSE GREEN DRAGONS!** By Margaret Chatham

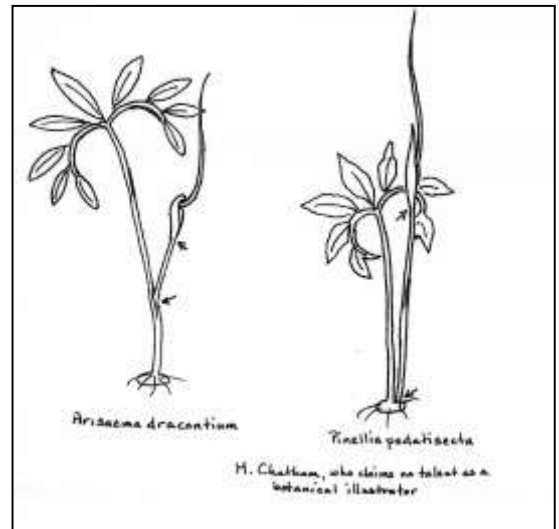
Some of you may remember the story: Our propagation committee received a gift of green dragon, the rarely-seen relative of jack-in-the-pulpit with the many-times-segmented leaf and the long dragon's tongue sticking up out of its smaller spathe. We gave it its own bed at Green Spring Garden Park, and watched with delight as it quickly settled in and started blooming. Soon, we were potting up healthy plants to sell and setting aside especially good-looking specimens for door prizes at the VNPS annual meeting. But someone at that annual meeting knew more than we did, and pointed out that what we were spreading around was not *Arisaema dracontium* but an Asian look-alike, *Pinellia pedatisecta*. We did our web searches, figured out how to tell which ones we had, pulled them all out of the bed, tried to contact as many people who'd bought them as we could, to offer a replacement plant, and spent the next year periodically pulling up more seedlings. Then we mostly forgot about it.

But we weren't the only ones who were fooled. *Pinellia pedatisecta* isn't listed in the standard reference books about area plants, so anyone who depends on existing books for ID will conclude (as we did) that they have *Arisaema dracontium* on their hands, and rejoice in its vigor. I recently purchased a "green dragon," which I was told was propagated from wild seed from Delaware, but as it grew, I recognized the Asian plant.

So how can you tell the difference? The surest way is to look at the flower stalk and position. If the flower stalk comes out of the ground separately from the leaf stalk, if the two are about the same height or the flower stalk is taller, and especially if the plant reblooms in a single season, you're looking at *Pinellia pedatisecta*. The flower stalk of *A. dracontium* emerges from the side of the leaf stalk, visibly above ground level, and is shorter than the leaf stalk, so that while the tip of the dragon's tongue may reach above the leaf, the flower as a whole does not.

Too young a plant for flowers? Leaf differences are not as sure a way to distinguish, but *P. pedatisecta* is more likely to have somewhat ruffled leaf edges on somewhat wider leaflets and for the smallest leaflets to be fused at the base. Or just wait a while. *P. pedatisecta* has been known to bloom in its first season, or if it got a late start, surely in its second.

For photographs, you can check out this website: <http://2bnthewild.com/plants/H160.htm>, and compare the photographs to those on <http://www.pacificbulbsociety.org/pbswiki/index.php/Pinellia>. Or ask Google.com for *Pinellia pedatisecta*. And then spread the word to watch out for false green dragons.



### **Eco-travel: Northern Vermont: Natural History & Sustainable Development May 27-June 3, 2006**

Enjoy the vibrancy of spring in northern Vermont and learn about how residents of this scenic region are pioneering an economy based on sustainable use of natural resources. Based at the charming Highland Lodge in Greensboro, on beautiful Caspian Lake. Each day the group heads off in another direction, visiting bogs, forests, and mountains to search for wildflowers, birds, and other wildlife. Interwoven with these nature field trips are visits to education centers, farms and other local businesses, and museums. Several local naturalists will spend time with the group, sharing their love and knowledge of the "Northeast Kingdom" of Vermont. Biking options also available. \$1,790 for ANS members, \$1890 for non-ANS. **Leaders: Naturalist Cliff Fairweather and Writer/Activist Steve Dryden.**

A full itinerary and registration packet are available. Call 301-652-9188 x11. (<http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/>)

## **ARLINGTON'S RiP PROJECT**

**Sat. Mar. 4. Windy Run Park Volunteer Day** 9am to 11am. Organized by some 6th grade students at HB Woodlawn as a student project. Windy Run Park is located at 2420 Kenmore Street in North Arlington. Meet at the cul-de-sac at the end of Kenmore St.

**Sat. Mar. 11 - Second Saturdays at Bluemont Park** 9am - Noon. Neighbors and RiP volunteers will continue to meet at Bluemont Junction Park on second Saturdays. Come help out for an hour or two. Park near bike trail at the bottom of Illinois St. Enter Illinois St. from Wilson Blvd. Meet at "the rocks" next to the bike trail. Contact John Huennekens at 524-3853, or [jhuenn@gwu.edu](mailto:jhuenn@gwu.edu).

**Sat., Mar. 18 Hands-On EnviroYard Workshop** 9:30am to 1:30pm at Arlington Central Library, 1015 North Quincy Street. Join us for in-class sessions on controlling invasive plants, landscaping with native plants, and creating rain gardens and wildlife habitats. Then practice your newly learned skills by helping remove English Ivy from landscaping beds at Arlington's Central library and replanting the beds with native plants. **Free!** Pizza lunch included. Come dressed to work. Pre-registration required. Please call (703)228-7636 to register.

**Sat. Apr. 8 - Second Saturdays at Bluemont Park** 9am - Noon. pm (See above for details)

**Note: Some training and tools provided. If you have your own gloves, clippers, loppers or dull flat screwdrivers, please bring them along to removal events. Long pants and long sleeves recommended. For information, please contact Jan Ferrigan, Invasive Species Program Coordinator at (703) 228 7636 or [iferriga@vt.edu](mailto:iferriga@vt.edu).**

## **LOCAL EVENTS AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:**

**Sat. Mar. 4 Springs of Barcroft Park 1-2:30pm** Adults. Tour the Barcroft Bog, a globally rare wetland, and observe the dozens of woodland springs that feed this unique plant community. We will discuss wetlands, spring wildflowers, geology and hydrology. Don't worry about poison ivy, but do wear clothing appropriate for the weather and footwear that can get wet. Free. Registration required, register on-line <https://registration.co.arlington.va.us/> or call 703-228-4747. Refer to [Program #634441A](#) Meet at Barcroft Park, 4200 S Four Mile Run, Arlington, VA 22204, at the entrance to the indoor parking garage adjacent to the Fitness Center.

**Sat. Mar. 4. Winter Tree Identification** 9am -3pm. Cris Fleming. Woodend Sanctuary in Chevy Chase. Sponsored by Audubon Naturalist Society \$39 for non-members. For Information call: 301-652-9188 x16

**Wed. Mar. 8 Moth Gardening** 7- 8pm. Adults. Learn how to attract these subtle, yet lovely visitors to your garden. We'll also look at some night-blooming plants. Ideal for those with more time at home in the evening, butterfly gardeners looking to expand their knowledge, or anyone interested in these fascinating fliers. Free. Registration required, register on-line <https://registration.co.arlington.va.us/> or call 703-228-4747. Refer to [Program #634310A](#) Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Rd., Arlington, VA 22207.

**Sat. Mar. 11. Dyke Marsh Invasives removal** Alexandria, 10am to noon Call Brynna Cox, of the Northern Virginia Senior Environment Corps at 703 -549-1607 Ext. 141 for information. Register near the bathrooms in Belle Haven Park (left of the parking lot). The National Park Service will provide all trash bags and gloves. Wear long pants, sturdy shoes, bug spray, and bring sunscreen. If working with invasive plants, wear a long-sleeve shirt

**Sat. Mar. 18. Winged Things in the Garden.** Learn to identify butterflies and winged insect visitors to your garden. 1pm Free. Behnke's Nursery. 11300 Baltimore Ave. (Rte. 1) Beltsville, MD. Call 301-397-1100 to reserve your seat.

**Sat. Apr. 1 Early Spring Wildflowers at Great Falls and Difficult Run** 9am -3pm. Cris Fleming. Sponsored by Audubon Naturalist Society \$39 for non-members. For Information call: 301-652-9188 x16

**Thurs. Apr. 3 (class) and Sat. Apr. 8 (field trip) Intro to Wildflower Identification** 7:30pm – 9:30pm. Stephanie Mason. Woodend with field trip along the C&O canal. Sponsored by Audubon Naturalist Society \$49 for non-members. For Information call: 301-652-9188 x16

**Wed. Apr. 5 and 12 Spring Wildflowers Workshop** 6:30-9:30 pm. Packard Center, 4022 Hummer Road, Annandale. Field trip 4/15 to Balls Bluff. Instructor: Marian Lobstein. \$60 for non-members. Audubon Society of Northern Virginia. Call 703-256-6895 to register.

**Sat. Apr. 8 Dyke Marsh Invasives removal** Alexandria, 9am to noon Call Brynna Cox, of the Northern Virginia Senior Environment Corps at 703 -549-1607 Ext. 141 for information. See 3/1 event above.

**Sat. Apr. 8 Wildflower Sale 1-3pm** Annual native plant sale at Long Branch Nature Center. All plants are freshly dug and propagated at the site. We will have a nice mix of both spring and summer bloomers, a few fall plants, ferns, and shrubs. Cardboard boxes will be provided for transporting your new purchases. Cash or check (sorry, no credit cards). In the event of inclement weather, Sunday, April 9 is the rain date. Fee per plant as marked. 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd., Arlington, VA 22204.

**Sat. April 8. Thurs. Apr. 13-June 15 Spring Wildflower Identification** 7pm – 9:15 pm with field trips, Audubon Naturalist Society, Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase \$335. For Information call: 301-652-9188 x16

**Fri. Apr. 14 Spring Wildflowers of the Potomac River Gorge.** Turkey Run 10 am to 12:30pm with Cris Fleming, Audubon Naturalist Society, \$22 for non-members. Call: 301-652-9188 x16 (\*Note: discount for more than one walk)

**Fri. Apr. 21 Growing Wildflowers.** 10-11:30 am. Green Spring Gardens. \$11. To register call: 703-642-5173

**Fri. Apr. 21 Wildflower folklore at Riverbend Park 9:30am-3pm** Adults. Riverbend Park is a certified registry site of the Virginia Native Plant Society and has one of the best local displays of Virginia Bluebells. We'll discuss plant folklore, ethnobotany, medicinal/edible plant uses, and the myriad of wildlife we are sure to see! Dress for the weather and bring a bag lunch. \$10 fee. Registration required, register on-line <https://registration.co.arlington.va.us/> or call 703-228-4747. Refer to [Program #634444B](#) Van leaves from Lubber Run Recreation Center parking lot, 300 N. Park Dr., Arlington, VA 22203.

**Fri. Apr. 21. Birds and Blooms on Roosevelt Island.** 10 am to 12:30pm with Stan Shetler. An easy walk from the Rosslyn Metro. Audubon Naturalist Society, \$29 for non-members. Call: 301-652-9188 x16

**Sun. Apr. 23. Spring Wildflower Walk.** Guided tour of the Native Plant Trail at Green Spring. 1-3pm \$24 Historic Green Spring Programs. Call 703-941-7987

**Fri. Apr. 28 Fri. Spring Wildflowers of the Potomac River Gorge.** Carderock Recreation Area. 10 am to 12:30pm with Cris Fleming, Audubon Naturalist Society, \$22 for non-members. Call: 301-652-9188 x16 (\*Note: discount for more than one walk)

**Sun. Apr. 30 Trillium Trek** 8:30am-4pm. Adults. Travel to Linden, VA, to see one of the largest Great White Trillium displays in the world. This area is resplendent with other wildflowers, trees, and a variety of wildlife to observe as well. On the trail we'll discuss ethnobotany and plant folklore. Dress for hiking and bring a bag lunch to eat on the trail. \$20 fee. Registration required, register on-line <https://registration.co.arlington.va.us/> or call 703-228-4747. Refer to [Program #634444C](#) Van leaves from the Lubber Run Recreation Center parking lot, 300 N. Park Dr., Arlington, VA 22203.

**Apr. and May Weed Warrior Training with The Nature Conservancy for Potomac Gorge** Invasives work on parkland between Great Falls and Georgetown along the Potomac River (includes the George Washington Memorial Parkway, C&O Canal National Historical Park, and Scotts and Riverbend Parks) Details at [www.nature.org/maryland](http://www.nature.org/maryland) or call Mary Travaglini at (301) 897-8570 or email her at [PotomacGorgeVol@tnc.org](mailto:PotomacGorgeVol@tnc.org)

**Fri. May 12 Spring Wildflowers of the Potomac River Gorge.** Bear Island, MD. 10 am to 12:30pm with Cris Fleming, Audubon Naturalist Society, \$22 for non-members. Call: 301-652-9188 x16 (\*Note: discount for more than one walk)

## **HELP WITH THE JUNE POTOMAC GORGE BIOBLITZ**

From: **Arthur V. Evans**, D.Sc., Research Associate, Dept. of Entomology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, and Dept. of Recent Invertebrates, Virginia Museum of Natural History, Richmond.

The **2006 Virginia BioBlitz** will be held on 23-25 June 2006 in the **Potomac Gorge**. The BioBlitz is a cooperative project between the National Park Service and the Maryland/District of Columbia Nature Conservancy. In the next few weeks I will send out a call for specialists of selected taxonomic groups to serve as survey team leaders. Team leaders are needed to help build teams to conduct intensive 30-hour surveys of algae, fungi, and invertebrates. Surveys will take place at sites along both the Virginia and Maryland sides of the river, including Great Falls Park, C&O Ohio Canal National Historic Park, Plimmers Island, Turkey Run Park, and other areas in the George Washington Memorial Parkway. A base camp will be set up at Glen Echo Park, Maryland. If anyone would like to receive future notices, or take part in the BioBlitz, either as a survey team leader or volunteer, please contact me at <[arthurevans@verizon.net](mailto:arthurevans@verizon.net)>. I hope to attract folks from BOTH sides of the Potomac and beyond!

**Reminder: *The Virginia Native Plant Society's Annual Workshop, Planting the Wild: Links between Cultivation and Conservation*, will be on March 11<sup>th</sup> at the University of Richmond. The fee is \$35 and details are online at [www.vnps.org](http://www.vnps.org). You will be able to register at the door. For info, call 540 837 1600.**

**FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY LAUNCHES INVASIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

The Fairfax County Park Authority is seeking volunteers in its new Invasive Management Area (IMA) program. The program is a volunteer-led project designed to reduce invasive plants on Fairfax County parklands and continue its Stewardship Outreach efforts. Watershed stewardship training (called the Neighborhood Ecological Stewardship Training <http://mason.gmu.edu/~jcornell/NEST/>) at the beginning of the program will ‘certify’ volunteer leaders to restore parkland. The Park Authority is looking for 20 leaders who will commit to four work-days over the next 8 months. Please nominate a site (they are looking for sites that have English ivy, Mile-a-minute, Kudzu, Winged Euonymus, Japanese Barberry and/or Stiltgrass) or nominate yourself to be an IMA Leader. The park authority is also looking for project volunteers who can put their efforts into pulling invasives and planting native plants. The program begins late March and ends in October. Please leave a message on the Naturalist line 703-324-8580 for information. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/resources-nrp.htm>

IMA Nomination Forms Available online at the Park Authority  
Parks (available March 1)  
People (available March 10)

IMA Information Session  
March 20 7:30  
April 5 7:30  
Location: Fairfax County Government Center

NEST Training Kick-Off  
March 25 4:00 – 8:00 pm  
Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center (Ellmore Farm)  
or Meadowlark Gardens (TBD)

IMA Leader Training  
These are required trainings for anyone interested in being an IMA volunteer.  
You are only required to attend one of each session (one Soils and Invasive Species and one Paperwork, etc.).

Soils and Invasive Species (in conjunction with NEST)  
April 2 8:00-11:30 TBD  
April 22 8:00-11:30 TBD

Paperwork, Monitoring and Volunteer Management  
April 25 10:00-12:00 Huntley Meadows Park  
April 26 7:30-9:30 TBD

**“Number of years the United States could meet its energy needs by burning all its trees: 1”  
“Harpers Index” December 2005 from Harpers Research**



**Potowmack Chapter  
Virginia Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 5311  
Arlington, VA 22205**

**Chapter Events Calendar**

- Mar 9 Board meeting 6:45pm  
**Notable Natural Areas and Native Plants** 7:30pm  
Green Spring
- Mar 18 **Turkey Run Walk**  
with Cris Fleming
- Apr. 13 Board meeting 6:45pm  
**All About Trees**  
7:30pm Green Spring
- Apr 15 **Balls Bluff Walk**  
With Stan Shetler

*Please verify your address information and your renewal date on the mailing label.*

*Printed on recycled paper*