

POTOWMACK NEWS

Volume 14, No.1&2

Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Winter-Spring 1996

Jessie Harris to Speak at April Meeting

Thursday, April 25
7:30 - 8:30 pm
Green Spring Gardens Park,
Annandale, VA

EVERY ONE IS INVITED TO COME to our April meeting to hear photographer Jessie Harris, who has photographed many of our area's little known native plants. Ms. Harris will treat us to tales of her adventures as we enjoy her exquisite slides and learn why some local plants are so rare. Please call Alonso Abugattas (703)528-8529 to reserve a space and to get directions. The program will be preceded by a short board meeting at 7:00, which members are welcome to attend.

Winter Tree Identification

MANY THANKS TO CRIS Fleming for providing us with such an informative and enjoyable program on winter tree identification at our January meeting! The winter months are particularly difficult for some of us who miss being able to go out and enjoy our native plants, but Cris' talk provided the knowledge and inspiration to get out in the cold and continue to learn. Thanks also to Joan VanRyzin for providing such a bountiful refreshment table.

Spring Plant Survey at Teddy Roosevelt Island

Saturday, April 27 9 am - 12 pm
Rain or Shine!

ANY ONE INTERESTED IN PLANT identification is encouraged to come out and help conduct our annual plant survey at the island. We're looking for a group of around 12 individuals to work together in teams to conduct sample surveys to help measure our progress toward ridding the island of exotic invasives. Every one is welcome, no matter what your level of plant identification skills. Those with less experience will be teamed with those who can offer guidance. Come out and see the results of our english ivy pulls!

The island itself fared better than expected during the recent floods, and we're expecting an abundance and variety of spring wildflowers.

Plan to bring plant identification books or field guides, hand lens, and dress according to the weather (it may be muddy). Note that the island parking lot is only accessible from the northbound George Washington Parkway, before Key Bridge. Please call Abbie Duchon to RSVP and to get directions. (301)320-0358.

Successful Fall Sale Ends the 1995 Season

OUR SEPTEMBER SALE BROKE all previous records for fall sales. Although the drought discouraged many gardeners and the visitors to Green Spring Gardens Day were less in number than those attending in previous years, our sale was very successful.

We have been working on offering a greater variety of native plant seeds. Thanks to the effort of Edith Bradbury who set up our first effort to offer seeds and to the effort this year of Gale Minnich-Blewis, we more than doubled the number of seed packages bought by the public. We hope to work on making the sale of seeds an even more attractive option in the future with better "merchandising" and assistance to our customers.

We on the Propagation and Sale Committee thank our membership for their continued support of our activities. Each sale we are offered prized plant donations and offers to help on the day of the sale. Our crew works very hard during the entire growing season to maintain the beds, weed, and pot up plants for the sale and it is gratifying to get so much support from our members.

I want to recognize those members

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Newsletter Editor Needed

THE POTOWMACK CHAPTER IS SEEKING A VOLUNTEER TO take over responsibility for producing our newsletter. This is because our current editor is also our current president. Unfortunately I am unable to perform both functions. Any one interested in helping the Chapter out should call Mark Etheridge (301)293-2659.

We publish four issues of the newsletter annually, with each issue usually containing six to eight pages. The editor compiles each issue, has it printed, and mails them out. Mailing labels are provided by the Membership Chairperson. Content is supplied by other Chapter members. Currently I put each issue together on a Macintosh Computer running Quark Express. The newsletter editor is a member of the board and attends the monthly board meetings.

Other duties include creating and having copies made of special event fliers, such as for the plant sales each spring and fall.

This is a great opportunity for some one to become involved in the Chapter. To function as a Chapter, we must have a newsletter to keep the membership informed. If you think you might be interested, please give me a call and we can talk about it.

Potowmack Chapter
Virginia Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 161
McLean, VA 22101

Board Officers

President	Mark Etheridge	(301)293-2659
Vice President	Abbie Duchon	(301)320-0358
Secretary	Sally Sieracki	(703)978-5865
Treasurer	Dustinn Pratt	(703)323-1094

Committee Chairs

Botany	Cris Fleming	(301)657-9289
Conservation	Abbie Duchon	(301)320-0358
Education	Nancy Luria	(703)351-9723
Hospitality	Joan van Ryzin	(703)799-4520
Membership	Anne Crocker	(703)437-0355
Native Plant Trail	Edith Bradbury	(703)971-8878
Newsletter	Mark Etheridge	(703)503-5975
Programs	Alonso Abugattas	(703)528-8529
Propagation and Sales	Gerry Pratt	(703)323-1094
Publications	Liz Smith	(703)768-1697
Publicity	Norma Vermillion	(703)451-0572
Site Registry	Jane Collins	(703)525-1304
Tours	Edith Bradbury	(703)971-8878

Mail articles for the newsletter to:
Mark Etheridge
P.O. Box 164
Myersville, MD 21773

President's Message

By Mark Etheridge

IF YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD MISSED A NEWSLETTER, you haven't. It's just that things haven't been running as smoothly lately as they did while Nancy Luria was president, and I've not gotten a newsletter out. Hopefully we'll be able to find some one to take over that responsibility soon, and every one will be kept aware of our Chapter's activities. And our Chapter continues to be very active.

We've got our annual spring and fall plant sales, wonderful program events, the Native Plant Trail, a project to work with local teachers, the Teddy Roosevelt Island plant survey, several plant walks, and we're trying to increase our slide collection...just to name a few things. And the common thread that runs through all our activities is the desire to educate and make more people aware of the value of our native plants. That's really the key to having an impact on how our environment is managed. People have to KNOW about native plants in order to care about them.

I don't remember how I found out about VNPS...I think I saw an ad for a butterfly talk somewhere and went to Greenspring to hear it. That's how I got pulled in. The point is that once I found out about it, I wanted to learn more, and VNPS was there to offer me ways to do that. I hope that we can continue to make others aware of what we do and of the importance of safeguarding out native plants and natural habitats. We all know how wonderful native plants are...the challenge is to get others involved and make them aware.



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who together donated almost 500 plants to the fall sale. They are:

Beth Smith, Edith Bradbury, Billy Trump, Tiana Camfiord, Gerry & Dust Pratt, Walker Newman, Margaret Chatham, Mary Pockman, Ginny McNair, and Laura Beaty.

Those who helped by labeling, pricing, potting and/or selling plants at the sale are:

Alonso Abugattas, Vivian Attermeyer, Laura Beaty, Edith Bradbury, Tiana Camfiord, Margaret Chatham, Jane Collins, Anne Crocker, Abbie Duchon, Sherri Finley, Ben FitzGerald, Ginny McNair, Gale Minnich-Blewis, Marianne Mooney, Dust Pratt, Gladys Quintero, Pat Sanborn, Sally Sieracki, Beth Smith, and Billy Trump. (Those whose names are underlined are members of the Propagation and Sales Committee who faithfully work in the beds before, during and after the plant sales).

A long desired goal of the Committee was realized this year. We purchased sturdy galvanized steel plant labels and all of our beds are labeled with both the botanical and common name. We invite you to visit the beds in the spring (after we've had a chance to remove the weeds that we have come to expect!).

This year we have also added several new native plants to our beds. They are: *Phlox paniculata*, *Veronicastrum virginicum*, *Hibiscus coccineus*, *Antennaria plantaginifolia*, and *Rudbeckia fulgida*.

In addition to our new plants, we have also added some very active new members to our group. We are always looking for additional members who would like to join us in learning about maintaining the plants we grow. If you are interested in working in the propagation beds, please feel free to call me at (703) 323-1094.

And please remember to mark **MAY 18** and **SEPTEMBER 14** on your 1996 calendar. Those are the dates for this year's plant sales!

Gerry Pratt, Chairperson
Propagation and Sales

PS - Don't forget to save your plastic pots for us. We can always use more...no market packs, please. Just bring them to the VNPS propagation beds at Green Spring Gardens Park.



Plummer's Island

Saturday, April 13, 10am-12pm

JOIN US FOR A TRIP TO THE MOST studied island in North America-Plummer's Island. This floral treasure trove is only accessible when the water level is low enough to allow passage over the rocks. Nature will hopefully provide low water. If not, we'll have a delightful walk along the C & O Canal. Our expert leader will be Pam Newitt, a knowledgeable naturalist with Arlington County's Long Branch Nature Center. For more information and reservations call Alonso at 358-6535 during the day or 528-8808 at night.

Making Headway

by Alonso Abugattas

FOR YEARS THE VIRGINIA NATIVE Plant Society has extolled the virtues of our native flora while warning of the dangers posed by invasive (often exotic) plants. That effort to inform the public is finally paying off as many different groups and organizations are also taking up the call. The following should serve as examples:

The Congress had its Office of Technology Assessment conduct a study in 1991 entitled "Harmful Non-Indigenous Species in the United States." This study, though it does not set forth many ways to control invasive plants and animals, recognizes the threat. Let's hope today's Congress heeds these findings.

Bee-Keepers are realizing that they lose millions of dollars yearly in unusable honey produced when *Ailanthus* is in bloom.

Many Park Systems (including most of our local ones) are trying to control invasives as part of their resource management despite shrinking budgets.

Waterfowl hunters and duck clubs are realizing the threats of purple loose-strife and phragmites to wetland habitat and are actively trying to eliminate them.

Boaters support efforts to control hydrilla and other aquatic vegetation that block waterways and ruin motors.

Many nurseries are starting to give in to public pressure and demand by selling more native plants and refusing to sell invasives.

Butterfly enthusiasts, such as local expert Mr Harry Pavulaan, are confirming observations about garlic

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mustard. Seems that a certain native butterfly called the West Virginia White is slowly breeding itself into extinction. How is that? Well, its normal host plants are various species of Toothwort, but now it prefers to lay its eggs on garlic mustard. Unfortunately, this invasive plant is toxic to the caterpillars who are then poisoned off.

These are just a few of the many examples of how people are realizing the very real threat posed by invasive plants. As more people become aware, we can all pool our resources to help restore and protect our native flora and all the animal life that depends on them. That is why our efforts, through groups like the VNPS, are so important. We have a long way to go but we're making headway.



Guided Tour of Winkler Preserve

Saturday, May 4, 10-11:30am

THE WINKLER BOTANICAL Preserve is Alexandria City's largest and most beautiful woodland wildlife sanctuary with over 500 species of native plants. Those of you who got rained out on the day of our annual meeting have another chance to tour the preserve and hear about some of the work that is carried out there. Call Alonso for reservations: 358-6535 at work or 528-8808 at home. If you have questions concerning any of the walks or programs on the calendar of events (particularly the joint activities planned with the Md. Native Plant Society), please feel free to give me a call.

POTOWMACK CHAPTER 1996 CALENDAR

Mar. 9	Saturday	VNPS Winter Workshop Propagation Techniques 10-4 at Richmond.
Mar. 9	Saturday	Scott's Run w/ Md. Nat. Plant Society - 10:00am lower lot.
Mar. 28	Thursday	Board Meeting 7:00 pm GSGP
Apr. 13	Saturday	Plummer's Island or C&O Canal (if accessible) w/ Pam Newitt
Apr. 21	Sunday	Goose Creek Res. w/ MNPS Gary Hopper to see shooting stars.
Apr. 25	Thursday	Jesse Harris - Md. rarities. Board Meeting.
Apr. 27	Saturday	Teddy Roosevelt Island plant survey
May 2	Thursday	Trillium Trek to Linden
May 4	Saturday	Winkler Preserve Tour 10-11am.
May 5	Sunday	Potomac Overlook Open House
May 18	Saturday	Chapter Spring Plant Sale
May 23	Thursday	Board Meeting 7:00pm GSGP
June ?		Suitland Bog
June 23	Sunday	Potluck Picnic. Watch for further info.
July 25	Thursday	Grasses w/ Cris Flemming Prog Meeting 7:00 pm at GSGP
Aug. ?		Grasses w/ Cris Flemming Field Trip
Aug. 22	Thursday	Program Meeting, 7:00 pm GSGP
Sept 14	Saturday	Fall Plant Sale at GSGP
Sept 19	Thursday	Budget Board Meeting 7:00
Sept 20-22	weekend	State Annual Meeting
Sept 26	Thursday	Board Meeting
Oct. 5	Saturday	Chapter Annual Meeting
Nov. 21	Thursday	Board Meeting (3rd Thursday time!)
Jan. 23	Thursday	Board Meeting only!

SPRING CALENDAR

(The Most Complete Plant Events Calendar in the Area!)

Compiled by Alonso Abugattas

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------|---|
| Mar. 9 | Saturday | Old Grove Hemlocks at Scotts Run Preserve w/ Md. Native Plant Soc. 10am. Page Richard Falcone: (301) 935-1523. |
| Mar. 9 | Saturday | VNPS Plant Propagation Workshops 10-4:00 at Richmond. Free to VNPS Members! Call Effie Fox: (540) 347-4090. |
| Mar. 9 | Saturday | Spring Plant I.D. Walk. 2-4:30pm. Volunteer led. Call Long Branch Nature Center: 358-6535. |
| Mar. 16-17 | Weekend | Native Orchids Propagation Conference at National Arboretum. \$90. Call Carol Allen: (301) 258-0313. |
| Mar. 17 | Sunday | Great Falls Wildflower Walk w/ Marion Lobstein. 10am-12:30pm. For info. call Ms. Lobstein: 536-7150. |
| Mar. 22 | Friday | Introduction to Spring Wildflowers. 7:30-9pm. Call Hidden Pond Nature Center: 451-9588. |
| Mar. 23 | Saturday | Woodland Wildflower Gardening w/ Marie Davis of Prince William Wildflower Soc. 2-3pm. Call Ellanor C. Lawrence Park: 631-0013. |
| Mar. 23 | Saturday | Spring Plant I.D. Walk. 2-4:30pm. Volunteer led. Call Long Branch Nature Center: 358-6535. |
| Mar. 24 | Sunday | Roosevelt Island Plant I.D. w/ Marion Lobstein. 9:30am-3pm. Call Smithsonian Resident Assoc. Prog.: (202) 357-3030. |
| Mar. 24 | Sunday | Spring Signs Walk. 2-4pm. For families. Call Gulf Branch Nature Center: 358-3403 |
| Mar. 30 | Saturday | Horticulture for a Better Environment Seminar. 8:30am-4pm. \$15. Call Green Spring Gardens Park:(703)642-5173. |
| Mar. 30 | Saturday | Wildflower Propagation w/ Denise Gibbs of Audubon Naturalist Society. 9:30am-12:30pm. \$15 - \$20. Call ANS: (301) 652-9188. |
| Apr. 2 | Tuesday | Wildflowers at Scotts Run Nature Preserve. 9-11am. Call Riverbend Park: 759-9018. |
| Apr. 3 - May 29 | | Wildflower I.D. Course w/ Cris Flemming. Weds. evenings 7-9pm. \$159. Call USDA Graduate School: (202) 690-4280. |
| Apr. 3 & 10 | Wed. | Wildflower I.D. Lectures w/ Marion Lobstein. 7-9:30pm. Field trip to Riverbend Park on Apr. 13, 9am-3pm. \$25. Call Green Spring Gardens Park: 642-5173 |
| Apr. 6 | Saturday | Wildflowers at Turkey Run & Great Falls w/ Cris Flemming. 9am-4pm. \$24/\$36. Call Audubon Naturalist Soc.: (301) 652-9188. |
| Apr. 9 | Tuesday | Wildflowers at Roundtree Park. 10:30-11:30am. Call Hidden Oaks Nature Center 941-1065. |
| Apr. 9 | Tuesday | Wildflowers at Riverbend Park. 9:00-10:30am. Call Riverbend: 759-9018. |
| Apr. 9 | Tuesday | Birds & Blooms along C & O Canal. 9am-12:30pm. Call Long Branch Nature Center: 358-6535. |
| Apr. 13 | Saturday | Plummer's Island or C & O Canal (if accessible) w/ Pam Newitt. 10am-12pm. Call Alonso: 358-6535 or 528-8808. |

- Apr. 13 Saturday Accotink Wildflower Walk. 10-11:30am. Call Hidden Pond Nature Center: 451-9588.
- Apr. 13 Saturday Wildflowers at Ft. Washington National Park. 10:00am-2:30pm. \$5.
Call Ramsay Nature Center: 838-4829.
- Apr. 13 Saturday Spring Plant I.D. Walk. 2-4:30pm. Volunteer led. Call Long Branch Nature Center: 358-6535.
- Apr. 20 Saturday Plant I.D. Seminar at UVa's Blandy Experimental Farm w\ Marion Lobstein. 9:30am-3pm.
Call Blandy: (540) 837-1758.
- Apr. 20 Saturday Wildflowers Along C & O w\ Cris Flemming. 10am-12pm & 1-3pm. \$11/\$15. Call Smithsonian
Resident Assoc. Prog.: (202) 357-3030.
- Apr. 21 Sunday Goose Creek Reservoir w\ Gary Hopper of Md. Native Plant Soc.
Page Richard Falcone: (301) 935-1523.
- Apr. 21 Sunday Wildflowers at Great Falls w\ Marion Lobstein. 10am-12:30pm. Call Ms. Lobstein: 536-7150.
- Apr. 21 Sunday Wildflowers at Balls Bluff w\ Marion Lobstein. 2:30-4:30pm. Call Ms. Lobstein: 536-7150.
- Apr. 21 Sunday Bluebells at Bull Run. 2-3pm. Call Potomac Overlook Regional Park: 528-5406.
- Apr. 25 Thursday Slide Program on Maryland Rarities by Jesse Harris! 7:30pm at Green Spring Gardens Park.
Board Meeting at 7:00 open to all VNPS members. Call Green Spring: 642-5173.
- Apr. 27 Saturday Virginia Native Plant Trail Tour. 10-11am. Call Green Spring Gardens Park: 642-5173.
- Apr. 27 Saturday Pohick Wildflower Walk. 10:30am-noon. Call Hidden Pond Nature Center: 451-9588.
- Apr. 27 Saturday Balls Bluff & Red Rock Overlook w\ Cris Flemming. 9am-4pm (Lecture Thurs Apr. 25, 7:30-
9:30pm). \$30/\$42. Call Audubon Naturalist Society: (301) 652-9188.
- Apr. 27 Saturday Wildflowers at Blandy Experimental Farms & Thompson Wildlife Mgt. Area w\ Marion
Lobstein. 9:30am-3pm. Call Blandy: (540) 837-1758.
- Apr. 27 Saturday Plant I.D. Walk. 2-4:30pm. Volunteer led. Call Long Branch Nature Center: 358-6535.
- Apr. 28 Sunday National Arboretum Tour w\ Marion Lobstein. 9:30am-2:30pm.
Call Smithsonian Associates: (202) 357-3030.
- Apr. 28 Sunday Pink Lady's Slipper Walk. 2-3pm. Call Hidden Oaks Nature Center: 941-1065
- Apr. 30 Tuesday Spring Wildflower Walk. 9-11am. Call Long Branch Nature Center: 358-6535.
- May 2 Thursday VNPS Trip - Trilliums at Linden! Call Anne Crocker at 437-0355.
- May 4 Saturday Guided Tour of Winkler Preserve! 10:00am (To make up for the VNPS chapter annual meeting
tour that was rained out). Call Alonso at 358-6535 or 528-8808.
- May 4 Sunday Thompson Wildlife Mngt. Area and State Arboretum of Va. (Blandy Experimental Farm) w\
Marion Lobstein. 8:30am-6:30pm. Call Smithsonian Resident Assoc. Prog.: (202) 357-3030.
- May 4 Saturday Pink Lady's Slipper Walk. 2-3pm. Call Hidden Oaks Nature Center: 941-1065.
- May 5 Sunday Potomac Overlook Open House - featuring Circle of Life Garden. 1-4pm. Call Potomac Overlook
Regional Park: 528-5406

Potowmack Chapter
Virginia Native Plant Society
Membership/Renewal Form

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

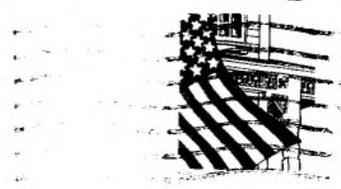
Individual \$15 Family \$25 Student \$10
 Patron \$50 Sustaining \$100 Life \$400
 Associate (group) \$40: delegate _____

To give a gift membership: Enclose dues, name and address.

I wish to make an additional contribution to Potowmack Chapter
in the amount of \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$ _____

Check here if you do not wish your name
to be exchanged with similar organizations. Check here if you do not wish
to be listed in a chapter directory

Make check payable to VNPS and mail to:
VNPS Membership Chair, 3924 Cobbler Mountain Road, Delaplane, VA 22025



Potowmack Chapter
Virginia Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 161
McLean, Virginia 22101

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

