

POTOWMACK NEWS

Volume 14, No.4

Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Fall 1996

POTOWMACK CHAPTER'S ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, October 5, 10:00 am - 1:30 pm
Potomac Overlook Regional Park

Mark your calendars!! This year's Potowmack Chapter Annual Meeting promises to be a great one! The date is October 5 at Potomac Overlook Regional Park from 10am-1:30pm. Our feature speaker is Dr. Robert Whitcomb.

Dr. Whitcomb is an ecologist with the Agriculture Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He has studied the plant/insect interface between prairie insects and grasses for many years. In 1993, the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center initiated a program in which more than 70 acres of lawn were converted into sustainable meadows. Dr. Whitcomb has coordinated this program, in which many species of native plants have been used to construct meadows, using various rationales. In his presentation, he will describe the plants used, the techniques needed for meadow establishment, and he will provide an overview of the feasibility of sustainable meadows in the Central Atlantic States.

After Dr. Whitcomb's presentation, some of our friends from across the river (members of the Maryland Native Plant Society) will speak about Mid-Atlantic grasslands and ways to incorporate meadow plants in our own yards. Learn a bit of meadow history, find out about some of our local "meadow" parks, and how to establish grassland plants in your landscape.

In addition, the staff at Potomac Overlook Regional Park has generously agreed to give us a tour of the park. Don't miss this opportunity to discover or revisit one of the areas wonderful parks.

So join your fellow chapter members for some socializing, election of officers, door prizes, a great series of presentations and some other surprises. Call Alonso :: (703) 528-8808 (H) or (703) 358-6535 (O) for details and reservations. Call Potomac Overlook at (703) 528-5406 for directions. See you there!! ■

VNPS Fall Plant Sale Set For September 14, 1996

The Propagation Committee has been busy potting many plants for the fall sale. Mother Nature has been very cooperative, providing moderate summer temperatures and rainfall. The plants have been thriving and we feel all of you will be very pleased with the quality and quantity of the plants we will offer. Among the plants offered are many summer and fall meadow plants, as well as a wide variety of plants which are shade tolerant.

As usual, we would greatly appreciate donations from our members, especially needed are native, woody plants and ferns. All donations, however, are welcome. In addition, we are always in need of help from our members with setting up for the sale, the sale itself and the post sale clean-up.

I want to apologize to all the wonderful people who volunteered for the spring sale and for those who donated plants. We usually acknowledge your efforts in the summer newsletter. Unfortunately, we have been without an editor for most of this year. Please know that we on the Propagation and Sales Committee, truly appreciate your help and hope you will join us again this fall.

Call Gerry Pratt at 323-1094 to donate plants and/or volunteer for this fall sale. We will be setting up beginning at 8am. The hours for the sale itself are from 10am to 3pm. See you at Garden Day! ■

Next VNPS Potowmack Chapter Board Meeting

All interested members are invited to get involved with their chapter by attending the next open board meeting. You'll have an opportunity to meet some of the members of the board and the chair persons. It is scheduled for September 26, 1996 from 7-9pm. The meeting will be held at Green Spring Garden Park. Call Alonso Abugattas for information and directions. 358-6535 (w) or 528-8808 (h). ■

IT IS FINALLY OUT!!

The fall newsletter has finally made it to our members. My apologies for having it arrive late, but I had quite a task to endure to get it to you. Hopefully, from now on, I will be able to get on more of a regular schedule. I hope to have our newsletter back on a quarterly schedule, so the next one to come out will be sometime in late November, early December.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite any member to send me announcements, articles, events etc. that they would like included in the next newsletter. You can send stuff to me by fax at (703) 845-2654, by E-Mail at <pnewitt@erols.com> or by regular mail to Pam Newitt Long Branch Nature Center 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd. Arlington, Va. 22204.

Since I'm just beginning to learn the ins and outs of this newsletter and my computer, the sooner you can get me your information, the better. I'd say a deadline is somewhat premature, but no later than November 15, just as a guideline. If for some extraordinary reason, some earth shattering news come to your attention on November 17, please feel free to give me a call. I'll do my best to include what I can. ■

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

Board Officers

President	Mark Ethridge	1-301-293-2659
Vice President	Alonso Abugattas	528-8808
Secretary	Sally Sieracki	978-5865
Treasurer	Dustin Pratt	323-1094

Committee Chairs

Botany	Cris Fleming	(301) 657-9289
Conservation	Kathleen Kust	836-5868
Education	Nancy Luria	351-9723
Hospitality	Joan Van Ryzin	799-4520
Membership	Anne Crocker	437-0355
Native Plant Trail	Edith Bradbury	971-8878
Newsletter	Pam Newitt	(301) 949-5066
Program	Alonso Abugattas	528-8808
Propagation and Sales	Gerry Pratt	323-1094
Publications	Liz Smith	768-1697
Publicity	Norma Vermillion	451-0572
Site Registry	Jane Collins	525-1304

LAST OPPORTUNITY TO BUY RAFFLE TICKETS!!

The Plant Sale on Sept. 14, will be the last opportunity to buy raffle tickets for the VNPS state fund raising effort. Drawing for the beautiful quilted wall hanging will take place at the State Annual Meeting on **Saturday, September 21**. The quilt is 40" X 40" and contains colorful appliquéed reproductions of the nine Wildflowers of the Year. Tickets are \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. Call Liz Smith at 768-1697 for more information.

In addition, this year's Wildflower of the Year T-shirt will be on sale. The shirt is bright blue with a *Trillium grandiflora* in green and white. It comes in long or short sleeves. ■

THANK YOU

The July 25th program on grasses at Green Spring Park was a great success. Cris Fleming made a confusing topic much easier. Everyone at the meeting left with a better understanding of grasses. Thank you Ms. Fleming, not just for the great program, but for all the wonderful support you have given your chapter. Thank you!

Another special thanks goes to Ms. Lisa Bierer-Garrett for taking us on a tour of the Suitland Bogs on June 9th. We saw some great plants including pitcher plants, some sundews and rose pogonias. Following the walk, we were able to rescue thirteen pink lady's slippers from Andrew's Airforce Base to Suitland Bog. Maybe in just a small way, we made a difference. These small ways add up to a lot when we're talking about the future of our native plants. Isn't that really what we're all about, making a difference, no matter how small it may seem at the time? That's the only way to make progress, one step at a time.

The Chapter's Potluck Picnic was held on June 23 at Green Spring Garden Park. A lot of our members had an opportunity to socialize and then get a tour of the propagation beds. Propagation Chairperson, Gerry Pratt showed us the beds and answered questions. These beds are the bread and butter of our chapter. They provide a large portion of the plants we sell at our two plant sales. These sales in turn, provide the bulk of the funding for our chapter. Please try to remember this and consider helping out on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9:30am-12 noon at Green Spring. Call Gerry Pratt for details at (703) 323-1094. ■

PROPOSED SLATE 1996-1997

President: Alonso Abugattas
Vice President:
Treasurer: Dustin Pratt
Secretary: Sally Sieracki
Nominating Committee: Laura Beatty
 Anne Crocker

FOR AGAINST

___ ___ **President-** **Alonso Abugattas:** Alonso is a Park Naturalist at Arlington County's Long Branch Nature Center. He also occasionally works for the Fairfax County Park Authority at Riverbend Park. He has worked for several of the local park systems including Alexandria and the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. A VNPS member since 1992, he is currently the Potowmack Chapter's Program Chairperson and acting Vice President, as well as the state VNPS Public Relations Coordinator. Alonso is also on the board of Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE) and part of their Multicultural Committee. He is active in many other environmental organizations including the National Association for Interpretation, the Fairfax Audobon Society and the Washington Area Butterfly Club. He would be honored to serve as the Potowmack Chapter's President.

___ ___ **Vice President-**

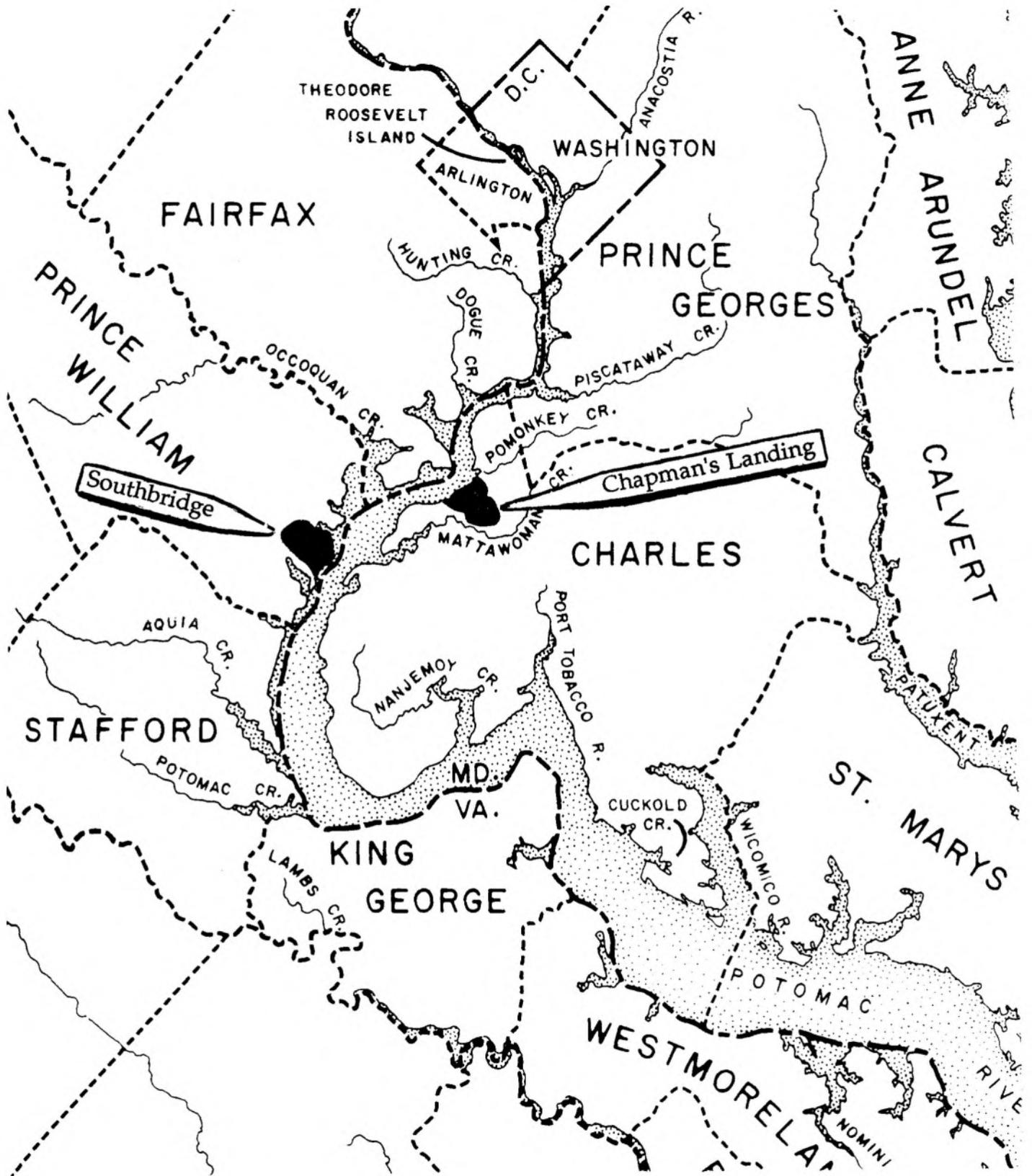
___ ___ **Treasurer-** **Dustin Pratt:** Dustin graduated from Stanford University and after a career in Electronic Systems Management, he retired in 1991. He has been active in chapter activities since joining in 1983, first with plant rescue and later in the propagation beds.

___ ___ **Secretary-** **Sally Sieracki:** Sally learned to love wildflowers in her native Minnesota. She joined VNPS in 1991 and has worked with the propagation beds and plant sales. She is a semi-retired copy editor and has a Masters Degree from George Mason University in Psychology (which may well be useful in this assignment!)

Nominating Committee-

___ ___ **Laura Beatty:** Ms. Beatty has been a chapter member since 1991. She has been very active in the propagation beds and during the plant sales. Ms. Beatty served as chapter secretary in '92-'93. She received a BA in History and an Associates Degree in Horticulture Technology from NoVa. Ms. Beatty has also served as a staff member for the U.S. Senate sub-committee in Parks and Recreation.

___ ___ **Anne Crocker:** Ms. Crocker is a Charter Member of the Virginia Native Plant Society and of the Potowmack Chapter, having joined in 1982. She has been the Membership Chair of this chapter of over 400 voting members since 1985. She converted the membership files from index cards to computer in 1991.



KEEP ALIVE THIS CONSERVATION GOAL: **THE POTOMAC RIVER HERITAGE RESERVE**

There is a confluence of important natural and cultural resources along the lower Potomac River, which have survived because of past preservation investment. We want to establish the Potomac River Heritage Reserve, to guarantee the continued integrity of this collection of resources. A disintegrating Chicago real estate investment company named Banyan Mortgage Investment Fund owns nearly 5,000 acres of land along the Potomac, approximately half in Virginia and half in Maryland. The future of both sites will affect residents of both states. The Chapman's Landing development would degrade the view of the Maryland shore from the Potomac River. It is also a property with exceptional qualities in regard to quality of forest, wildlife habitat, historical and archaeological significance and other concerns. It is also in a key position to determine the future of development along the Potomac River.

The Chicago developer has been in deep financial trouble since shortly after its formation. Banyan Mortgage Investment Fund sold shares in its opening offering in 1988 at \$10. The share price is now under thirty cents.

The US subsidiary of RGI, a Netherlands Antilles company, is gaining control of all of this property. Banyan plans heavy development of all this property. The 2500 acres in Prince William County - two developments, named Southbridge and Wayside, near Cherry Hill - have been approved. However, they have been very slow to develop, and the projects have been in bankruptcy and the developers have defaulted on loans for the projects. RGI has bought Banyan's major loans, and if shareholders approve, is projected to buy 75% of the company by the end of the year.

The Chapman's property is in a critical stage now. The Army Corps is considering permitting it. Without the permit, the project cannot go forward. National and regional organizations have called on the Corps to do a complete study - an Environmental Impact Study pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act - before making a decision on the permit. For over two years both the Corps and the Glendening Administration have shown an inclination to rubber-stamp the project, but citizens, civic organizations, and concerned scientists and other experts across the region continue to develop information showing that Chapman's is a bad deal, and that the developers' studies, on which government agencies have been relying heavily, are inadequate. For example, recently the Maryland Native Plant Society submitted a report showing that the developers' two plant studies are seriously at odds with each other, casting doubt on both. Two Virginia geologists have warned the Corps that the wetland delineations approved by the Corps are highly questionable.

On October 5 there will be a canoe rally in Alexandria regarding Chapman's. Meeting place: Jones Point Park. Call for details. 301-283-2948.

CALENDAR*CALENDAR*CALENDAR*CALENDAR

What's coming up this fall?

SEPTEMBERSept. 7

WATER-BAR DAY AT MONTECELLO PARK 9-11am. Join Montecello Park friends and neighbors in making rainstorm water bars. Wear sturdy shoes and bring tools to cut found wood and dig it in. There will be Dewberry & Davis engineering plans for work next summer, Lemonade, Montecello Park Bird List, Montecello Park Native Plant List and Stan Russell's photos of the park. For more information call Kathleen Kust at (703) 836-5868.

FALL PLANT IDENTIFICATION 2-4:30pm. Adults are invited to join volunteer naturalist, Melvin Little for a walk through Long Branch and Glencarlyn Parks to learn to identify some of our native fall blooming plants. Reservations needed for this free program. 358-6535. Arlington.

Sept. 14

FALL PLANT SALE AT GREEN SPRING 10am-3pm
Alexandria

Sept. 21

FALL NATURAL HISTORY WALK 10am-12 noon. Adults can join a naturalist for a woodland walk as we examine autumn just as it begins. Reservations for this free program can be made by calling Long Branch Nature Center 358-6535. Arlington.

Sept. 25

LIVING OFF THE LAND: EDIBLE PLANTS. 7-8:30pm. Learn to identify edible wild plants and how to use them in a variety of recipes. Tasting included. Reservations are required. There is a \$5.00 fee for this program. Make checks payable to FROGS and mail to Green Spring Garden Park, 4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria, Va. 22312. Call 642-5173 for more information. Alexandria

Sept. 26

NEXT POTOWMACK CHAPTER BOARD MEETING. 7-9pm. All interested members are invited to attend the next VNPS Potowmack Chapter Board Meeting. Green Spring Garden Park.

Sept. 28

FALL PLANT IDENTIFICATION 2-4:30pm. See Sept. 7 for details.

OCTOBEROct. 1

WILDFLOWERS AT ACCOTINK 10-11:30am. Ages 12 and up. Come along as we search the stream and forests for native wildflowers. Reservations needed for this free program. Meet at the Lake Accotink Park Concession Stand. Call 941-1065 for information and reservations.

Oct. 5

POTOWMACK CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING 10AM-1:30PM. At Potomac Overlook Regional Park. See write-up in body of newsletter.

Oct. 12

FLOWERS AND FLIERS AT BON AIR PARK 9-11am. Adults are welcome to join a naturalist for a leisurely walk in Bon Air and Bluemont Parks in Arlington, as we discover fall wildflowers, birds and butterflies. Bring binoculars if you have them. We'll meet in the Bon Air Rose Garden parking lot and walk from there. Call Long Branch Nature Center for reservations and to get directions. 358-6535.

FALL PLANT IDENTIFICATION 2-4:30pm. See Sept. 7 for details.

Oct. 13**VNPS FIELD TRIP**

The Orland E. White Arboretum at Blandly Experimental Farm
The State Arboretum of Virginia

We will meet at 10:30 am at the Arboretum, located on US-50 in the Shenandoah Valley, about 3 miles east of Winchester. Bring lunch for a picnic. Admission is free, but donations are accepted and welcome. There is a small fee to park your car.

The State Arboretum director Dr. Ed Connor, will give a special tour of the native plant woodlands area that is currently under development. He will also outline future plans for the native plant meadow and the wetland areas. After a picnic, we will celebrate the annual Arborfest event and tour more of the Arboretum which should be showing its fine fall colors. Don't miss this opportunity to rekindle friendships with other members. Gatherings of members for picnics, field trips and annual meetings strengthen the thread that ties all of our chapters: our common goal of conserving native plants and their habitats.

If you can join us, please call Bob Eubanks at (804)239-9756 (leave a message if Bob is not at home) or send him a note to 1162 Timberlake Dr. Lynchburg, Va. 24502, by September 15. That way he can let the Arboretum know how many to expect.

Oct. 14

FALL FOLIAGE WALK IN SHENANDOAH 9am-4pm. Adults can join us to view the seasonal color display in the mountains as you learn about the variety of trees responsible for the beauty. Bring a bag lunch, drink and snacks. The van leaves from Lubber Run Recreation Center. There is a \$15.00 fee for this program. For reservations, information and directions, call Long Branch Nature Center 358-6535.

Oct. 26

FALL PLANT IDENTIFICATION 2-4:30pm. See Sept. 7 for details.

NOVEMBERNov. 9

FALL PLANT IDENTIFICATION 2-4:30pm See Sept. 7 for details.

Nov. 23

FALL PLANT IDENTIFICATION 2-4:30pm See Sept. 7 for details.

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



LOVE

32 USA



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

*Please verify your
information and your
date on the mailing*

