

# POTOWMACK NEWS

Volume 16, No 2

Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Mar/Apr 1998

## NEXT MEETING

### Potowmack Chapter Landscapers Will Advise Members at March 12 Meeting

Plan to attend the **Thursday, March 12** membership meeting on **Landscaping With Wildflowers**. Chapter members Beth Smith and Kathleen Kust will answer questions, analyze problems, and advise on sources of plants and information to aid your spring gardening plans. Bring a sketch of your present or future garden, if you choose. Meet at Green Spring Gardens Park at **7:30 p.m.** See you there!

### Cris Fleming To Lead Turkey Run Walk On April 4

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 4** when **Cris Fleming**, recognized local botanist and long-time chapter member, will lead a **chapter walk** at Turkey Run Park. Cris says we will look for harbinger-of-spring and twinleaf as well as other early spring ephemerals. She also advises that we be prepared for moderately rugged terrain and wet areas including a rocky stream crossing. Dress accordingly. Turkey Run is located off the George Washington Parkway. Exits are well marked coming from either direction. Meet at parking lot C-1 at 9:00 a.m. for an all-morning walk. Participation is limited to 16. Call Cris for registration and information at 301 657-9289. You may leave a message.

### Lorton Surveys To Begin Again, Targeting Spring Ephemerals

Potowmack Chapter will continue to participate in an ongoing attempt to help Fairfax County develop appropriate use plans for the 3,000-acre Lorton site by compiling an inventory of the floral species existing there (see *Potowmack News*, Winter '96, Fall '97 issues). A tentative weekly schedule for undertaking native plant surveys has been established, alternating Saturday and Sunday visits as follows: **Saturdays: Mar 14, Mar 28, Apr 11, Apr 25; Sundays: Mar 22, Apr 5, and Apr 19.** All surveys will take place between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. If you would like more information or would like to participate on any or all of these dates, call Kathleen Kust, Conservation Chair, at 836-5868.

### VNPS State Annual Meeting Progress Report

- \* The Holiday Inn at Eisenhower Avenue in Alexandria has been chosen as the headquarters hotel for the September 18-20 meeting.
- \* James Duke, ethnobotanist and author of *Peterson's Field Guide to Medicinal Plants* as well as a new book, *The Green Pharmacy*, will be speaker at the Saturday evening banquet.
- \* Registration and Friday evening's opening program will be held at Green Spring Gardens Park.

### Productive Membership Meeting Held February 12

Two achievements of the February 12 General Membership Meeting were the naming of Barbara Farron as Publicity Chair for the chapter and the appointment of a committee to continue finding ways to increase member participation in chapter activities.

The consensus at the meeting was that greater publicity was needed for chapter events, and Barbara plans not only to contact newspapers and publications of other environmental organizations but to use E-mail in reaching members. If you wish to receive news via E-mail, please notify Anne Crocker, Membership Chair, at 437-0355 so that she can update your records. The first task of the new committee will be to prepare a questionnaire soliciting input from all members on possible chapter activities. Watch for it!

## President's Message

Although only 6 members showed up at our Get Acquainted/Get Involved membership meeting on February 12, there was great interaction and sharing with our 11 board members who attended. It was a lively meeting...and we filled the empty Publicity Committee chair. Barbara Farron has accepted that position so we are delighted to know that our May Plant Sale will be adequately publicized.

If you need any help with planning how to landscape your own yard with native plants and wildflowers, be sure to attend our March 12 meeting at Green Spring. Two members who are trained landscapers will be on hand to advise and answer questions about *your* own yard. Feel free to bring a sketch of your yard showing house, garage, driveway, shady and sunny areas, whatever will help get your questions answered.

Norma Vermillion, President

### Sixteen Favorite Native Shrubs For The Northern Virginia Home Gardener\*

*Xanthorhiza simplicissima* (yellowroot)  
*Leucothoe fontanesiana* (drooping leucothoe or fetterbush)  
*Rhododendron viscosum* (swamp azalea)  
*Rhododendron maximum* (rosebay rhododendron)  
*Lindera benzoin* (spicebush)  
*Hamamelis virginiana* (common witchhazel)  
*Hydrangea arborescens ssp. radiata* (wild hydrangea)  
*Viburnum dentatum* (arrowwood)  
*Kalmia latifolia* (mountain laurel)  
*Viburnum nudum* (smooth witherod, esp. Winterthur, an improved form selected at Winterthur Gardens, DE )  
*Myrica pensylvanica* (northern bayberry)  
*Ilex verticillata* (common winterberry)  
*Rhus aromatica* (fragrant sumac)  
*Aronia arbutifolia* (red chokeberry)  
*Itea virginica* (Virginia sweetspire)  
*Clethra alnifolia* (sweet pepperbush)

\*Compiled by Brenda Skarphol, Green Spring Horticulturist

<b><u>BOARD OFFICERS</u></b>		
President	Norma Vermillion	451-0572
Vice President	Liz Smith	768-1697
Secretary	Marianne Mooney	534-8179
Treasurer	Bill Kreitz	620-4415
<b><u>COMMITTEE CHAIRS</u></b>		
Botany	Cris Fleming	301-657-9289
Conservation	Kathleen Kust	836-5868
Education	-open-	
Hospitality	Joan Van Ryzin	799-4520
Membership/Recognition	Ann Crocker	437-0355
Native Plant Trail	-open-	
Newsletter Editor	Sally Sieracki	978-5865
Labeling/Mailing	Lori Markoff	573-7121
P.O. Box Mail Distributor	Enid Warner	527-0753
Programs	Liz Smith	768-1697
Propagation / Plant Sales	Gerry Pratt	323-1094
Publications	Roberta Day	560-5528
Publicity	Barbara Farron	354-9668
Site Registry	-open-	
State's Annual Meeting-98	Liz Smith	768-1697
	Alonso Abugattas (w)	228-6535
Chapter Annual Meeting-98	Beth Smith	644-1760
Immediate Past President	Alonso Abugattas (w)	228-6535

### Member Profile: Marianne Mooney

Marianne Mooney has called many areas home. She was born in Philadelphia, raised in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida, and went to school at Eastern Connecticut State University where she majored in English.

After graduation she went back to Florida and apprenticed herself to two European chefs; she worked as a chef for 10 years, cooking in such diverse areas as New Orleans, London, and Los Angeles. She later utilized her cooking skills by volunteering to cook for the D.C. Perishable Food Program, serving the homeless.

In 1990, after moving to Arlington, Virginia, she attended a class taught by Marion Lobstein, botany chair of the Prince William Chapter and became fascinated by native plants. She joined VNPS in 1991 after attending our spring plant sale at Green Spring. She became active with the Propagation and Sales Committee in September 1996 and has been a tireless worker in maintaining the beds and helping at the sales. She was elected secretary of the Potowmack Chapter in October 1997.

In addition to her work with VNPS, she is a knowledgeable and active birder, volunteering at Huntley Meadows every week. She is also a Master Gardener with Arlington County and has been assisting Don Humphrey (former manager of Green Spring Gardens Park) in maintaining and landscaping the grounds of Culpepper Gardens Retirement Home in Arlington.

Her favorite native plants are trilliums and columbines. Besides her volunteer work, she enjoys hiking, birding, traveling, and reading, especially British mysteries. She is a very valued addition to our chapter in many ways--and she bakes a mean hazelnut biscotti! We hope Marianne will call *our* area home for a long, long time.

(Gerry Pratt's profiles will be appearing frequently in *Potowmack News*. If you have a suggestion, call her at 323-1094.)

## Community Events Calendar For March and April

### Walks

Sat. March 7. **Spring Plant Walk**, 2-4:30 p.m. Adults. Join volunteer naturalist Melvin Little for a walk through the wooded stream valley of Long Branch and Glencarlyn Parks and learn about our native spring blooming plants. Call Long Branch Nature Center, 228-6535.

Sat. March 21. **Spring Wildflower Walk**, 2-3:30 p.m. Adults. Ford Nature Center in Alexandria. For information, call 838-4829.  
**Spring Plant Walk**, 2-4:30 p.m. Adults. Long Branch Nature Center; see March 7 entry for details.

Thurs. April 2. **Introduction to Spring Wildflowers**, 7:30-9 p.m., ages 6 and up. Learn how to identify spring wildflowers and the best places to find them, through a slide show and discussion. Call Hidden Pond Nature Center for reservation, 451-9588.

Sat. April 4. **Potowmack Chapter Wildflower Walk** with Cris Fleming. See article on p. 1 for details. **Bluets and Butterflies**, 9-11 a.m. Adults. Hike the rocky trails of this peaceful park to see and identify beautiful blooms. Meet in west parking lot. Call Scotts Run Nature Preserve, 759-9018. Reservations begin March 4. **Spring Plant Walk**, 2-4:30 p.m. Adults. Long Branch Nature Center, see March 7 entry for details.

Fri. April 10. **Spring Wildflowers Hike**, 2-3:30 p.m. Grades 4 to adult. Take a walk to look for signs of spring. The trail is moderately strenuous and has stairs. Bring a water bottle and wear sturdy shoes. Call Gulf Branch Nature Center, 228-3403.

Sat. April 11. **Wildflowers of the C&O Canal**, 10-12 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. A Smithsonian Associates program with Cris Fleming. Call 202 357-3030 for information.

Tues. April 14. **Wildflowers at Roundtree Park**, 10-11:30 a.m. Search the stream, forests, and fields of Roundtree Park for spring wildflowers. Call Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 941-1065, for information and reservations.

Sat. April 18. **Birds and Blooms at Riverbend Park**, 8-10:30 a.m. Adults. Explore one of Fairfax County's most beautiful parks, searching for spring migrant birds and wildflower displays along the Potomac River. Meet at the Visitors Center parking lot; bring binoculars and field guides if desired. \$3 park entrance fee. Call Long Branch Nature Center at 228-6535. **Wildflower Adventure**, 2-3:30 p.m. Visit local parks. Call Ford Nature Center at 838-4829 for details. **Pohick Wildflower Walk**, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Ages 12 and up. Naturalist Jim Pomeroy will point out wildflowers and trees that are in bloom along with other natural happenings during this leisurely walk. Call Hidden Pond Nature Center, 451-9588, for details. **Lilies and Bells**, 9-11 a.m. Adults. Search the riverside for a lovely display of trout lilies, bluebells, trilliums, and other jewels. Call Riverbend Nature Center (after 3-18) for reservations; 759-9018. **Spring Plant Walk**, 2-4:30 p.m. Adults. Long Branch Nature Center, see March 7 entry for details. **Bluebells are Blooming**, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Join VNPS past president Nicky Staunton in welcoming spring ephemerals blooming in Manassas National Battlefield Park. Sponsored by Prince William VNPS, Prince William Natural Resources Council, and Nature's Wonder World. Cost \$5. Call 703 490-0455 for registration and information. **Enviro-fest '98**, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Celebrate Earth Week with live entertainment, educational programs, wildlife art and demonstrations, silent auction, nature walks, and more. At the National Wildlife Federation's Laurel Ridge Conservation Education Center, 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Call Theresa Spataro at 790-4435 for details.

Sun. April 19. **Spring Wildflowers at Fort C.F. Smith**, 1:30-3 p.m. Grade 6-adult. Join us in search of spring wildflowers at Fort C.F. Smith Park. Learn some of the lore that surrounds our native plants as well as how to identify them. Call Long Branch Nature Center, 228-6535. **Thirtieth Anniversary Bluebell Walk at Bull Run**, 2 p.m. View one of the largest stands of bluebells on the east coast and an array of other spring wildflowers on this free, guided tour. For information, or **to volunteer to help with walks**, call Martin Ogle at 528-5406. There will be an orientation for volunteer guides on Saturday, April 18 at 1:30 p.m.

Tues. April 21. **Bluebell Bonanza**, 9 a.m.-1p.m. Ages 12 and up. Go for a stroll along the Bull Run stream valley to revel in the abundance of spring. Bring a bag lunch and walking shoes. Reservation by 4-17, \$5, canceled if rain. Call Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 941-1065.

Thurs. April 23. **Potowmack Chapter Trillium Walk.** See article on p. 5 for further information.

Sat. April 25. **Lake Accotink Wildflower Walk,** 10-11:30 a.m. Join naturalist Clara Ailes for a walk in search of trout lilies, hepatica, wild ginger, and other wildflowers in bloom. Dress for the weather; canceled if rain. Call Hidden Pond Nature Center, 451-9588, for reservation.

Sun. April 26. **Wildflower Walk,** 1-2:30 p.m. Ages 12 and up. A brief slide presentation will be followed by a hike to identify local varieties of spring wildflowers. Bring wildflower guide books. Call Walney Visitor Center in Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 631-0013, for reservations. **Pink Lady's-Slipper Walk,** 2:30-3 p.m. Join a naturalist for a leisurely stroll to see one of Northern Virginia's largest displays of nature's beautiful orchids. Canceled if rain. Call Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 941-1065, for reservation.

Tues. April 28. **Trillium Trek,** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Adults. Head to Linden, Virginia, for the glorious display of trilliums and other spring wildflowers. Moderate level walk on rocky trail. Bring a bag lunch and hiking shoes. Reservations by 4-24, \$10. Call Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 941-1065.

### Courses, Workshops, and Seminars

Thurs. March 12. **Forest Conservation and Site Planning in Northern Virginia,** 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. An all-day seminar sponsored by Fairfax ReLeaf in cooperation with the Virginia Dept. of Forestry, to be held at the Annandale Campus of Northern Virginia Community College. Cost of \$45 includes parking, lunch, and refreshments. Call Fairfax ReLeaf at 324-1409 to register or for further information.

Sun. March 22. **National Wildlife Federation Gardening for Community and Wildlife Event.** See article on p. 5 for further information.

Wed. April 8 and 22. **Spring Wildflowers,** 4:15-6:15 p.m. Professor Marion Lobstein presents the basics of spring wildflower identification. This 2-part workshop incorporates the ecology and life cycles of plants. Participants will use plant specimens to learn the basics of flower structure and the use of common guides. The field section allows participants to practice identification skills covered on Apr. 8. Sponsored by the Prince William VNPS, Prince William Natural Resources Council, and Nature's Wonder World. Cost \$30. Call 703 490-0455 for information or registration.

Tues. April 14-Tues. June 2. **Section 1, Spring Flower Identification,** 6-8:30 p.m. USDA-sponsored 2-credit course to be held at Capital Gallery, tuition: \$164. Instructor Stephanie Mason, staff naturalist, Audubon Naturalist Society. Laboratory and field practice in identifying specimens, emphasizing the use of identification keys. For further information call 202 720-5885.

Wed. April 15-Wed. June 3. **Section 2, Spring Flower Identification,** 7-9 p.m. USDA-sponsored 2-credit course to be held at Woodend Sanctuary, tuition \$164. Instructor, Cris Fleming, regional ecologist for the Maryland Natural Heritage Program. (See Section 1, above, for course description and registration information.)

EARTH DAY IS  
WEDNESDAY,  
APRIL 22



#### EARTH, OUR MOTHER

Don't live only for Yourself  
for today,  
for this generation.

Keep our Earth,  
our Air,  
our Water,

CLEAN,  
for future generations  
to be able to use.

Each of us must  
be ever alert,  
to prevent contamination

From pesticides,  
toxic substances,  
and nuclear wastes.

If we care NOW  
for our birthplace,  
our home - PLANET EARTH,

We won't ever have  
to search the stars  
for a new place to live.

Let us all respect,  
care for,  
and protect

What we already have -  
our good Mother,  
EARTH.

NORMA VERMILLION

## Potowmack Members Play Role In Educating The Community On Native Plants

Potowmack Chapter member **Beth Smith** will speak at the 3rd annual National Wildlife Federation Gardening For Community and Wildlife Event on **Sunday, March 22**. Beth's lecture is titled "Gardening for Community and Wildlife, A Case History," and is the last of three lectures beginning at 1 p.m. (the other two are "Native Plants, Water Garden, Bird Supplies and More" offered by David Yost and "Creating Your Backyard Wildlife Habitat by Craig Tufts"). Beth's yard and the gardens she has created at Pohick Regional Library will be on display during self-paced garden tours following the lectures. This series is offered by the Merrifield Garden Center at their Fair Oaks location and costs only a \$5 donation to the National Wildlife Federation. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. For more information, contact the Merrifield Garden Center at 560-6222.

Using a different educational format, member and popular lecturer **Marion Lobstein** has announced the availability of a new video she has created titled "Spring Wildflowers of the Mid-Atlantic Region." The video features 100 common species of spring wildflowers with information on their identification as well as medicinal and edible uses, life cycle information, conservation, and plants to be avoided (such as poison ivy). Marion's co-authors are John DeMary, a teacher and naturalist, and Suzanne Lohr, also a teacher. The video costs \$19.95 and can be obtained at chapter member Ginny McNair's nature shop, One Good Tern (1710 Fern St., Alexandria); from Botanical Views, P.O. Box 2756, Purcellville, VA 20134 (shipping \$3); or by calling Marion at 536-7150.

## Trillium Walk Scheduled Earlier This Year--April 23

The 6th annual spring walk through the Virginia Native Plant Society's first Registry Site, The G. Richard Thompson Wildlife Management Area, is planned for Thursday, April 23. This leisurely, informal stroll through quiet spring woodlands is held on a weekday to avoid the crowds that visit this extraordinary place on weekends.

Due to the mildness of the winter it is believed the flowers will be earlier this year. The usual peak time is the first week in May. The site is famous for its dense stands of *Trillium grandiflorum* and other native ephemerals. The state-owned preserve straddles the Fauquier-Warren County line on the slopes of Blue Mountain near Linden. Participants usually spend 1-2 hours on the mountain. Lunch and a rest stop are available at the Apple House Restaurant on Route 55 in nearby Linden.

Several species of migrating birds are usually seen and heard in abundance at this time, including scarlet tanagers, rufous-sided towhees, and wood thrushes.

A carpool will be organized to leave Fair Oaks Mall at 9:30 a.m. if there is sufficient interest. The trip to Linden is about an hour's drive from there via Route 66. For printed details and directions call **Anne Crocker** at 437-0355 between 5 and 7 p.m.

### Potowmack Chapter VNPS

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_ W (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues: \_\_\_ New \_\_\_ Renewal  
 Individual \$15  Family \$25  
 Patron \$50  Student \$10  
 Sustaining \$100  Associate (groups) \$40\*  
 Life \$400

\*Please designate one person as delegate for Associate membership:  
I wish to make an additional contribution to:  
 VNPS  Chapter  
in the amount of:  
 \$10.  \$25.  \$50.  \$100.  \_\_\_\_\_

This is a Gift Membership. Please include a card with my name as donor: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in the following:  
\_\_\_ Propagation \_\_\_ Art \_\_\_ Public speaking  
\_\_\_ Field botany \_\_\_ Telephoning  
\_\_\_ Producing publications \_\_\_ Photography  
\_\_\_ Plant rescue/relocation \_\_\_ Youth programs  
\_\_\_ Program or display development \_\_\_ Computers  
\_\_\_ Promotion of legislation aimed at plant protection  
\_\_\_ Stewardship of wildflower plantings/preserves  
\_\_\_ Service on Chapter Board of Directors  
\_\_\_ Service on State Board of Directors  
\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

I wholeheartedly support the Society's efforts with my membership. I have \_\_\_\_\_ time/\_\_\_\_\_ little time/\_\_\_\_\_ no time to participate as an active member.  
 Check here if you do not wish your name and address 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 Chairman  
P. O. Box 844  
Annandale, Virginia 22003

**Chapter Events Calendar for 1998**

Mar	12	Board mtg. <b>Gen. membership mtg.</b>
Apr	4	Cris Fleming <b>Chapter walk</b> 9 a.m.
Apr	9	Board mtg. Newsletter deadline
	23	Trillium walk 9:30 a.m.
May	14	Board mtg.
	16	<b>Plant sale</b>
Jun	7	<b>Membership pot luck</b>
	11	Board mtg. Newsletter deadline
Jul	9	Board mtg.
Aug	13	Board mtg. Newsletter deadline
Sep	10	Board mtg.
	12	<b>Plant sale</b>
	18,19,20	<b>Potowmack Chapter hosts State Annual Mtg.</b>
Oct	8	Board mtg.
	11	<b>Potowmack Chapter Annual Mtg.</b>
Nov	12	Board mtg. Newsletter deadline



**Spring Plant Sale Scheduled For May 16, 1998**

After an unusual winter (often blamed on poor little El Niño), most of us are looking forward to getting outdoors and digging in the dirt and are full of plans to beautify our landscapes. It's been a very lackluster winter with only one meager snowstorm to break the monotony.

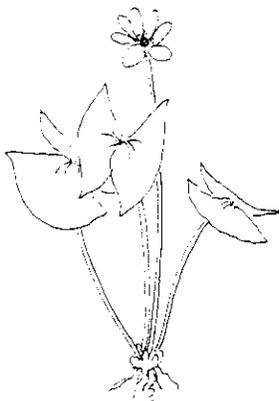
To those of us active in the propagation beds at Green Spring, spring means a very active season preparing for our annual spring sale. We will be potting up plants for the sale as soon as the weather permits. We urge you to think of the VNPS sale as you divide your perennial native plants this spring. The public is very anxious to include native plants in their gardens and we on the committee depend on our members to supplement the number and variety of native plants offered.

We especially welcome ferns, woody plants, and spring ephemerals since these plants are not easily propagated in our chapter beds. If you are planning to contribute plants, please pot them up by the first week in May. Transplanting often stresses plants and we want to be certain that all plants we offer to the public are healthy and in good shape. Of course, ephemerals may look pretty sad by mid-May but that's to be expected.

In addition to plants, we would appreciate your plastic pots (4-, 5-, and 6-inch size; no market packs or clay pots, please). You can bring them to the propagation beds at Green Spring and deposit them near our potting table. While you're there, notice the brand new park sign installed last fall.

Our successful plant sales have enabled us to contribute to the continuing development of the Native Plant Trail at Green Spring. The chapter supports efforts to make the trail more user friendly by encouraging interpretation. We are anticipating a new brochure, some wayside stations on the trail, and the training of a core of our members to lead tours through the trail. The financial contributions budgeted by our chapter this year have been earmarked to hire an intern to accomplish these ends.

If you are interested in helping us in any way (volunteer hours, plants, pots, etc.) please call Gerry Pratt at 323-1094. We welcome all members--**no experience necessary!**



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



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