POTOWMACK NEWS

Volume 16, No 3

Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

May/June 1998

PLANT SALE PLANT SALE PLANT SALE

Don't forget, **Saturday May 16** is the date for this year's **spring plant sale**. The time is 10 a.m. till 3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens Park off Rt. 236 in Annandale. Come early for best selection! Call the park at 703 642-5173 for additional information.

MEMBER POT LUCK TO BE HELD JUNE 7

Mark your calendars now for Potowmack Chapter's annual pot luck picnic at Green Spring Gardens Park on Sunday, June 7, from 1 to 4. Note the improvements to the native plant trail, tour the propagation beds, and admire other areas of the park as you socialize with new members and old friends. Free copies of the booklet published by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and VNPS titled Native Plants for Conservation, Restoration, and Landscaping: Master List will be available for anyone who wants one. Bring either a main dish, salad, or dessert (with serving spoon) to share. The chapter will provide drinks and eating utensils. Call Norma Vermillion at 451-0572 or Liz Smith at 768-1697 for reservations as late as the day before.

WORK DAY AT STATE ARBORETUM SCHEDULED

On Saturday, May 23, from 9 to 2, Potowmack Chapter members are invited to take part in a work day on the native plant trail at the State Arboretum of Virginia. Participants will be planting shrubs, grasses, ferns, and perennials in the trail's woodland portion, extending the plantings put in last fall (with the help of several Potowmack members, and helping with routine maintenance as time permits.

Tools will be available, or you can bring your own favorites, and a simple picnic lunch will be provided. The Arboretum is located about 10 miles east of Winchester on Route 50. For more information: Tim Farmer at the Arboretum: 540 837-1758, ext. 26, or tif7@Virginia.edu.

In addition, a new, expanded plant list for the woodland section of the trail is ready for anyone who's interested in contributing plants now or in the fall. To obtain a copy, please leave a message with Mary Pockman: 356-7425 or Pockman@alumni.princeton.edu

POSTER CONTEST

The Potowmack Chapter in cooperation with Great Falls Park is sponsoring a poster contest for our members. The winning and other selected entries will be displayed at the National Park during the summer.

- Subject: PLEASE DO NOT PICK THE WILDFLOWERS—or your own message reflecting the conservation of wild flowers.
- Size: Posterboard size no larger than 22 by 28 inches
- Categories: Children: elementary school Adults: junior high to adult
- Medium: Crayon, paint, markers, colored pencil, etc.
- Prizes: Three prizes will be awarded in each category.
- **Deadline**: Please bring posters to Green Spring Gardens Park Horticulture Center by June 1. All entries will be on display at Green Spring during the chapter's annual potluck on June 7. For more information call Anne Crocker at 437-0355.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sometimes we need volunteers to help out on an infrequent basis, i.e., a telephone tree (members who could help me call to find workers for whatever task suddenly arises). If you are willing to make a few calls from time to time, please call me.

I would also like to have the names of a few people who have desktop publishing capabilities and the time to help with a project once in a while. Call me.

We need a few more members who can help set up our display board and sit at our exhibit table when needed on such occasions as the Enviro-Fest, Earth Day/Arbor Day at the NVCC campus, etc. Call Lori Markoff, 573-7121. Thanks, Lori, for all your help.

If you're willing to contribute plants (sunny area) or help once or twice with a landscaping/beautification project at the West Springfield Government Center/Police Station, call me. The area across the front of the building that was once brown mulch now has 1,150 pachysandra plants. Now I would like to see some display gardens established, and what better to use than native plants?

Potowmack Chapter has again contributed funds to Friends of Green Spring (FROGS) to underwrite the cost of hiring a summer intern. For this, we've received a letter of thanks from Green Spring's new manager, Chris Strand, who has also joined our Potowmack Chapter as a new member. Welcome, Chris!

Merrifield Nursery has contributed \$250 to Potowmack Chapter to be used to offset some of the costs of printing our new brochure, "Why Grow Native Plants?". In exchange, Merrifield's name will appear on the back of the brochures.

With agreement from our Board, I have delivered a letter of support to Gary Roisum, manager at Huntley Meadows, who had requested a letter of support or a financial pledge in the park's efforts to begin a 3-year project to rid about 200 acres of invasive Microstegium grasses.

A special thanks to Kathleen Kust and Beth Smith for providing an informative program on Landscaping with Wildflowers at our march meeting held in the library at Green Spring. About 32 people attended and they had a lot of special questions on what plants to use in their own yards. Perhaps it's a program that should be repeated. Let us know what you'd like to have as programs.

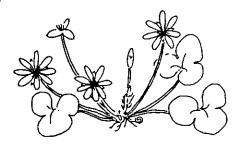
HOPE TO SEE YOU AT OUR JUNE POT LUCK!

Norma Vermillion, President

	BOARD OFFICE	RS	
President	Norma Vermillion		451-0572
Vice President	Liz Smith		768-1697
Secretary	Marianne Mooney		534-8179
Treasurer	Bill Kreitz		620-4415
	COMMITTEE CHA	<u>IRS</u>	
Botany	Cris Fleming	301	657-9289
Conservation	Kathleen Kust		836-5868
Education	-open-		
Hospitality	Joan Van Ryzin		799-4520
Exhibits/Displays	Lori Markoff		573-7121
Membership/Recognition	Anne Crocker		437-0355
Native Plant Trail	-open-		
Newsletter Editor	Sally Sieracki		978-5865
Labeling/Mailing	Markoff family		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	Liz Smith		768-1697
_	Alonso Abugattas	W	228-6535
Chapter Annual Meeting	Beth Smith		644-1760
Immediate Past President	Alonso Abugattas	w	228-6535

VNPS MEMBERS AMONG THOSE WHO PLANTED TREES

On Saturday, April 16, 77 volunteers planted over 200 upland hardwood trees in the Marie Butler Leven Preserve where invasive species had previously been removed. The Fairfax County Park Authority sponsored the event. On Sunday June 17th, in Alexandria, volunteers planted more than 50 trees in Holmes Run Park along Homes Run.



Round-lobed Hepatica

The following article is reprinted from *Conservation Currents*, a newsletter of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District.

IS YOUR YARD A SALAD BAR FOR DEER? By Judy Okay, Ph.D., VA Department of Forestry

What is that "cry in the wild"? Today it may be the cry of gardeners in the Washington suburbs as they survey the deer damage in their backyards. As natural habitat for wildlife is fast disappearing, suburban backyards have become the salad bar for local deer herds. The first sighting of a deer in the backyard is exciting, but when the deer appear in fours and fives, it can be quite intimidating.

There are homeowners who watch the deer, take photos, and know that next spring the azaleas won't bloom on the outside edges and the 5-year-old hydrangea will never reveal the color of its blooms. The opposite reaction is the hunter instinct--find the nearest rifle and claim a trophy. But shooting deer in your backyard is illegal; furthermore, what the deer are doing is natural, not criminal. Even if the deer are persistent in their browsing, one cannot resort to cruel, fatal methods of dealing with the problem.

Since fighting to save your landscape does become a small war with the deer, what can be done? Some homeowners have resorted to netting, fencing, repellents, bells, motion detector lights, and more creative mechanisms to frighten the deer away. The bottom line is that if you plant it, they will come. Some deer diet favorites are azaleas, hosta, daylilies, yew, cedar, nandina, roses, hydrangea, and most young trees.

A reasonable way to discourage the deer is to change the salad bar. Surround the deer's favorite landscape plants with other plants they consider distasteful. Deer generally don't like a plant if it has hairy, fuzzy, or thick leaves; it has spines, thorns, or needles; or it exudes a thick, sticky juice from the stem or leaves.

The following lists of plants have been circulated in newspapers and conservation magazines as species that deer do not browse:

<u>Trees</u>: serviceberry, cypress species, holly species, scotch pine, Douglas fir, alders, some birch species, sweetgum, sycamore, larch, and beech.

Shrubs: barberry, rose of sharon, spice bush, andromeda, alders, and witch hazel.

<u>Perennials</u>: monkshood, ageratum, dill, snapdragons, jack-in-the-pulpit, foxglove, bleeding heart, euphorbia species, pachysandra, and geranium.

These lists are not extensive, but they include commonly known garden/landscape plants. For more information on this topic, contact agencies and organizations that protect and conserve wildlife and wildlife habitat: National Wildlife Federation, National Fish and Wildlife Service, Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries, Fairfax County Cooperative Extension, Virginia Dept. of Forestry, Audubon Society, Sierra Club, and Chesapeake Bay Program.

WHAT'S YOUR QUESTION?*

Q. There are many types of goldenrod that seem to thrive in Northern Virginia. I would like to grow a noninvasive type that doesn't get too high-no more than 18-24 inches. What variety do you recommend?

A. Gerry Pratt, propagation bed chairman, mentions two selections from the Solidago (goldenrod) family that might meet your needs: Golden Fleece, which grows about 12 inches high and is good for the front of the border, and Fireworks, which grows about 24 inches high and can be used at the back of the border.

^{*}Potowmack News is starting a new feature designed to help our members with specific questions related to using native plants in the home garden. Send your question to the editor, Sally Sieracki, at 4125 Elizabeth Lane, Fairfax, VA 22032 or e-mail to Sieracki @erols.com. We'll try to answer as many as space and expertise permits.

THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT TRAIL-AN OVERVIEW

New members of Potowmack Chapter may have questions about the Virginia Native Plant Trail (VNTP) and what it has to do with our organization. The trail's history began early in the decade when the need for a repository for rescued plants became apparent and those involved realized that a trail could also be an effective educational tool. Green Spring Gardens Park was selected as the most desirable among several county sites proposed. The chapter voted to hire Colston Burrell (former curator at the National Arboretum and native plant expert) to design a master plan for the 2-acre site that visitors could use to further their understanding of native plant habitats.

Work on the trail has continued since, and as the plants have grown and spread, so have improvements such as invasive plant removal, trail surfacing, an irrigation system, a bench, rock walls, signs, and brochures. Many people have been involved, including volunteers from the chapter and from FROGS; various summer interns whose salaries were paid by Potowmack Chapter; and most especially, Brenda Skarphol, Green Spring horticulturist. Plant donations have come from numerous sources and are still welcomed by Brenda (Brenda's list of wanted plants is on page 7; call her at the park if you have anything to donate).

Last year's intern, Kelly Wilson, with help from the Fairfax County Park Authority's Mona Enquist-Johnson and propagation bed chairman Gerry Pratt, designed an excellent new system of numbered signs and a corresponding brochure for the trail, the latter available at Green Spring's Horticultural Center.

As you will read in the new brochure, the trail meanders "through shady woodlands, a stream valley, and open, sunny sites" and "offers a display of diverse native flora that so richly represents our Commonwealth." It "features more than 400 species and cultivars for your enjoyment."

This year, intern Cathy Strager, with chapter financial aid, will develop interpretative tours and conduct training sessions for VNPS members who wish to become tour guides for the trail, will begin the creation of a bloom record for trail plants, and will develop the text for the interpretative signs to be placed along the trail.

The trail is a proud accomplishment for the chapter and an asset to the park and the community. If you haven't yet seen it, go, and if you haven't been there for awhile, go again. You'll be glad you did.

SELECTED COMMUNITY WILDFLOWER-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Sat. May 2. Pink Lady Slipper Walk, 2:30-3 p.m. Call Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 941-1065, for reservation. Limit 20, minimum 5. Canceled if rain. Free. Lilies and Bells Walk, 9-11 a.m. Call Riverbend Visitor Center, 759-9018, for reservation. Adults. Limit 25, minimum 8. Canceled if rain. Free.

Sun. May 3. May Fair, 10:30-5:30. Call Audubon Naturalist Society, 301 652-9188, for more information. \$6. Rain or shine.

<u>Tues. May 5.</u> Trillium Trek, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Call Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 941-1065. Reservations by 5/1. Limit 12, minimum 6. \$10.

Thurs. May 7. Trillium Trek to Linden, VA, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Van will leave from Lubber Run Rec Center. Adults. Bring a bag lunch and binoculars for bird watching. Call Long Branch Nature Center, 228-6535, for reservation. \$15.

Sat. May 9. Bluets and Buttercups, 9-11 a.m. Scott's Run Nature Preserve. Limit 25, minimum 8. Canceled if rain. Free. Call 759-9018 for reservation. Mother's Day Wildflower Walk, 2-3:30. For families. Call Ford Nature Center in Alexandria, 838-4829, for reservation and information. Time for Trillium, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Join VNPS past president Nicky Staunton for a walk through the Thompson Wildlife Management Area at Linden, VA, to see trillium, green violets, bear cabbage, showy orchis, and

other species, plus birds. Sponsored by Prince William VNPS, Prince William Natural Resources Council, and Nature's Wonder World. Cost \$15. Call 703 490-0455 for registration and information.

Sun. May 10. Mother's Day Wildflower Walk, 2 p.m. Call Potomac Overlook Regional Park, 528-5406, for reservation and information. Free.

Sat. May 16 and Sun May 17. 12th Annual Wildflower Weekend. Shenandoah National Park, call 540 999-3282 for more information.

Sat. May 23. Spring Plant Walk, 2-4:30 p.m. Adults. Call Long Branch Nature Center, 228-6535, for reservation and information.

WORKSHOPS

The following workshops are sponsored by Prince William VNPS, Prince William Natural Resources Council, and Nature's Wonder World. The cost is \$30. Call 703 490-0455 for registration and additional information.

<u>Sat. May 16.</u> Insect and Plant Relationships, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Join Audubon Naturalist Society's water quality coordinator Cliff Fairweather in a study of the interaction between local plants and insects. Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

Sat. June 13. Grasses, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Join Dr. Paul McCawley, rangeland ecologist, in learning to distinguish the major diagnostic characteristics of the six most common tribes of grasses. Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Recommended resources: "How to Know Grasses" by Richard Pogh and a 20x hand lens.

Sat. June 20. Butterfly and Plant Relationships, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Join Alonso Abugattas, Arlington County naturalist and Potowmack Chapter past president in an exploration of the intertwined lives of plants and butterflies. Manasses National Battlefield Park (Space available only.)

<u>Sat. July 11</u>. **Mushrooms and Other Fungi**, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Dr. David Farr, research mycologist, will lead participants in a discovery of poisonous and other common fungi found in our area. Leesylvania State Park.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED AT HUNTLEY MEADOWS

Huntley Meadows Park, like other local areas, has been experiencing severe problems due to overgrazing by deer. An expanding resource management program at the park has resulted in the need for assistance in white-tailed deer research. This and other ongoing volunteer projects rely on the continual involvement of talented and energetic people. Now is a good chance to get involved at Huntley Meadows and to contribute in a direct and meaningful way towards the protection of natural resources. The position of botanist involves identifying plants, measuring plant height, and recording plant

numbers within three deer exclosures. This project will evaluate the impact of white-tailed deer browse on the forest community. Surveys will include herbaceous plants in spring and all plants in summer. The job requires a strong interest in learning local flora, working with others, and the ability to work in challenging outdoor conditions. Some knowledge of plants is necessary. This position requires a 1-year commitment. If you are interested in further information, call Chris Lamond, Huntley Meadows resource manager, at 768-2525.

A NOTE FROM THE PROPAGATION BEDS by Marianne Mooney

Some of the most requested plants at our bi-yearly plant sales are ground covers for shade or part-shade situations. Some people are trying to diminish the old green carpet of lawn, others are seeking a more naturalistic woodland look, and many want to replace invasive, exotic ground covers such as English ivy and vinca, with native plants. While we can't help you pull up all that ivy, we do offer a selection of native plants to replace it with.

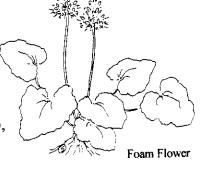
The following recommended plants are all low-growing, spreading, and easy to keep alive. They do well in part-shade to shade in average garden soil enriched with leaf mold or compost, and they will keep their leaves all winter:

*Foamflower (Tiarella wherryi) is a favorite of home and professional gardeners. Flowering white spires grace the plant in spring, and the attractive foliage looks great in a massed effect.

*Alumroot (Huechera americana and the related <u>Huechera villosa</u>) is also a noted May-blooming foliage plant that sends up slender flowering stems that create an airy feeling in the garden.

*Green and gold (Chrysogonum virginianum) is a colorful, mat-forming plant of dark green foliage sprinkled with yellow flowers with a long bloom period. It does well in part-shade or in a dryer, sunnier site.

For other ideas and plants, stop by the sales table on Garden Day, May 16, at Green Spring Gardens Park. Members of the propagation committee will happily answer questions about the plants we raise. See you there!



VNPS DISPLAY ENLIGHTENS PUBLIC ABOUT NATIVE PLANTS AND INVASIVE ALIENS AT

WILDLIFE ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

A sincere thank you goes to all the volunteers who manned the Potowmack Chapter's display table at the Wildlife Art and Photography Show on March 7 and 8. The display featured beautiful photographs of blooming native plants as well as some of the alien plants that have become seriously invasive. Those who helped during the 2-day show were Nancy Adamson, Vivian Attermyer, Judith Boone, Frances Chandler, Tom Geary, Delma Hale, Eleanor Kask, Lori Markoff, Jane Moreland, and Sally Sieracki. Coordinators of the Wildlife Art and Photography Show, Alice

Carol Horner and Charles S. Smith, asked that their thanks be passed along to all who were involved. In addition, special thanks go to Lori Markoff, for her role as display chairman, Jane Moreland for allowing the use of several of her photographs for the display, and to Vivian Attermeyer, who graciously assisted in the ongoing task of developing the display. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help with the display in the future, please call Lori Markoff at 703 573-7121. Your assistance would be most welcome!

WELCOME

The Potowmack Chapter welcomes the following new members who have joined since the first of the year: Peter W. Adams, Falls Church; Jeff Aten, Haymarket; Kathleen Aucoin, Alexandria; Martha W. Baker, Vienna; Kathleen Bayer, Alexandria; Jane Blumenthal, Falls Church; Kathleen Fisher Ebersole, Alexandria; Mary G. Espy, McLean; Cliff Fairweather, Arlington; Cathy Flynn, Arlington; Susan Grissom, Alexandria; Julius F. Koetsch, Springfield; Louis and Diane Nichols, Springfield; Sylvia Orli, Arlington; Marshall Rawson, McLean; Fred Reiner, Alexandria; Christine M. Sauer, Reston; and Chris Strand, McLean.

Please call Brenda Skarphol, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT TRAIL--PLANT WISH LIST FOR 1998

Green Spring Park Horticulturist, at 642-5173 if you can donate any of the following plants.

Scientific Name

Acer pensylvanicum Aconitum uncinatum

Actaea pachypoda Adiantum pedatum

Anemone (Hepatica) acutiloba Aralía racemosa

Aruncus dioicus

Asimina triloba
Astilibe bitemata

Cardamine (Dentaria) species Caulophyllum thalictrioides

Cimicifuga racemosa

Confirmation of the control of the c

Cyrilla racemiflora Diplazium (Athyrium) pycnocarpon

Disporum maculatum Dryopteris carthusiana

Dryopteris celsa Dryopteris goldiana

Dryopteris marginalis Euonymus americanus Gaultheria procumbens

Gaultheria procumbens Geranium maculatum Hamamelis virginiana

Hexastylis (Asarum) arifolia Hexastylis (Asarum) shuttleworthii Hexastylis (Asarum) virginica

Jeffersonia diphylta Kalmia latifolia Leucothoe fontanesiana Lindera benzoin

Common Name

Striped Maple Monkshood

Doll's Eyes or White Baneberry Maidenhair Fern Sharp-lobed Hepatica

Sharp-lobed Hepa Spikenard

Spikenard Goatsbeard Pawpaw False Goatsbeard Toothwort Blue Cohosh

Black Snakeroot Horse Balm, Stone Root

Pagoda Dogwood Swamp Cyrilla

Glade Fern Fairy Bells Spiryloge Wood B

Spinulose Wood Fern Log Fern Goldie's Wood Fern Marginal Wood Fern

American Euonymus, Strawberry-bush Wintergreen Wild Geranium Common Witchhazel Evergreen Ginger

thii Evergreen Ginger Evergreen Ginger Twinleaf Mountain Laurel Drooping Leucothoe

Nood-rush

Luzula echinata

Spicebush

Scientific Name

Magnolia fraseri Magnolia tripetala Osmunda cinnamomea

Osmunda claytoniana Osmunda regalis var. spectabilis Phenonteris (Thekmteris) hexano

Phegopteris (Thelypteris) hexagonoptera Phlox divaricata

Phlox stolonifera
Polygonatum biflorum

Potypodium virginianum
Polystichum acrostichoides
Rhododendron atlanticum

Rhododendron calendulaceum Rhododendron maximum Rhododendron periclymenoides

Rhododendron prinophyllum Rhododendron viscosum Sambucus pubens

Scutellaria incana Scutellaria serrata Smilacina racemosa Smilacina stellata Stewartia malacodendron

Symplocarpus foetidus Thalictrum (Anemonella) thalictroides Thalictrum clavatum Tiarella wherryi (T. cordifolia var. collina)

Trillium grandiflorum Trillium sessile Uvularia grandiflora Viburnum acerifolium Viburnum nudum

Woodwardia areolata

Common Name

Fraser Magnotia
Umbrella Magnotia
Cúnnamon Fem
Interrupted Fern
Royal Fem

Broad Beech Fern Wild Blue Phlox Creeping Phlox Solomon's Seal

Solomon's Seal Rock Polypody

Christmas Fern Coast Azalea Flame Azalea Rosebay Rhododendron Pinxterbloom Azalea Roseshall Azalea

Roseshell Azalea White Swamp Azalea American Red Elder (Elderberry)

Downy Skullcap Showy Skullcap False Solomon's Seal Star-flowered False Solomon's Seal Silky Stewartia Skunk Cabbage

Rue Anemone Mountain Meadow Rue Foamflower Great White Trillium Large-flowered Bellwort Mapleleaf Viburnum Smooth Witherod Viburnum

Sessile Trillium

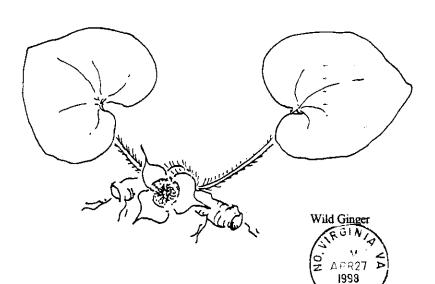
Smooth Witherod Vibu Netted Chain Fern

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SURVEYORS FIND LORTON WORK REWARDING

Kathleen Kust, Conservation Chair, reports that the spring Lorton plant surveys have been proceeding as scheduled. On March 14, surveyors were rewarded with the sight of drifts of hepatica in bloom. On later weekends at the same location, they saw numerous toothwort and trailing arbutus and they expect to see native hydrangea (H. arborescens) in bloom in the future. Other species encountered have included columbine; New York and other ferns emerging

from the ground; star chickweed along a creek bed; rue anemone; blooming deerberry, blueberry species, and huckleberry; as well as blooming violet wood sorrel. Kathleen describes the surveys as a grand adventure, like a treasure hunt, and she and others enjoy the surprises they find each time as well as the picnic lunch in the woods. If you are interested in joining them, call Kathleen at 836-5868 for the latest schedule.



USE ZIF

Chap	ter E	vents Calendar
May	14	Board meeting.
-	16	Plant sale, 10-3
Jun	7	Membership pot
		luck, 1-4 p.m.

- 11 Board meeting; newsletter deadline 9 Board meeting
- Jul 9 Board meeting
 Aug 13 Board meeting;
 newsletter deadline
- Sep 10 Board meeting
 - 12 Plant sale
 18-20 Potowmack Chapter
 hosts State Annual
- Meeting.
 Oct 8 Board meeting
 - 11 Potowmack Chapter
 Annual Meeting
- Nov 12 Board meeting; newsletter deadline

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

