

POTOWMACK NEWS

Volume 17, No 2

Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Mar/Apr 1999

POTOWMACK CHAPTER EARLY SPRING CALENDAR

- **Thursday March 18, 7:30 p.m.** **Mark Garland**, author of *On Watching Nature* and senior staff naturalist for the Audubon Naturalist Society, keeps a close eye on the plant and animal happenings in our area. He heads butterfly surveys, leads natural history walks, and is a champion of our native flora. In a slide show, he'll illustrate local habitats and plant and animal interactions. Join us as Mark gives us the scoop on the real wildlife of Washington!
- **Thursday April 8, 7:30 p.m.** **Kathleen Kust**, landscape architect, chapter conservation chair, and Lorton plant survey coordinator, will give a slide presentation introducing us to the diversity of plant communities and the ecological range of the 3,200-acre Lorton site.
Both programs are at Green Spring Gardens Park, which is located at 4603 Green Spring Road, off Little River Turnpike in Alexandria. Turn between the Salvation Army and Jerry's Ford.
- **Saturday April 10, 9-12 a.m.** **Stanwyn Shetler**, botanist emeritus of the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History and former VNPS botany chair, will lead a walk on Roosevelt Island. See spring ephemerals in flower, learn of the island's interesting history, and discuss a variety of plant issues such as the problem of invasive species. Call 920-1913 or 534-8179 for reservations and directions.
- **Thursday April 29, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.** **Marion Lobstein**, Associate Professor of Biology, Northern Virginia Community College and co-author of *Finding Wildflowers in the Washington-Baltimore Area*, will lead a trillium walk at the G. Richard Thompson Wildlife Management Area near Linden, VA, for Potowmack and Piedmont Chapter members of VNPS. See a splendid display of trillium and other spring ephemerals. For reservations, call 920-1913, 534-8179, or contact Marion for reservations at 536-7150 or e-mail mblobst@mnsinc.com.
- **Saturday May 1, 9:30-11:30 a.m.** **Marianne Mooney and Shirley Gay**, chapter president and program chair, respectively, will lead a trillium walk at the G. Richard Thompson Wildlife Management Area near Linden, VA. Phone 534-8179 or 920-1913 for reservations and directions.

FINDING THE EARLIEST SPRING WILDFLOWERS by Cris Fleming

If you are eager to see the earliest spring wildflowers, it's already time to start looking. Many early flowering species can be found in March or even February. It's a special pleasure to find these early bloomers on a crisp, sunny day in March. Despite the ice and snow, the cold winds and gray skies, these earliest flowers appear on a regular schedule year after year. Although the dates may change, the progression is always the same.

The earliest plant to emerge from the ground is skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*). Often poking up through the ice, this plant has the amazing ability to create its own heat and thus gets a head start on other species. The mottled purple sheath surrounds the club-like spadix that holds the tiny flowers. Skunk cabbage can be found as early as January in warm winters (like 1998 and 1999) and is usually up in February. Look for it in wet, swampy woods along the Potowmack Canal Trail and the Swamp Trail at Great Falls Park. Skunk cabbage grows in other similar habitats throughout our area, and I usually stumble upon it on a winter walk. But the first flower that I go searching for is the tiny harbinger-of-spring (*Erigenia bulbosa*). Uncommon in both Maryland and Virginia, the diminutive flowers appear before the leaves and are often hard to spot among the leaf litter on the ground. However, once you spot one small white umbel, you're likely to find many more. Look in rich moist soil just above the floodplain at places such as the foot of the Zigzag Trail at Turkey Run Park or between the horse trail and Clay Pond at Great Falls Park. My earliest record for this true harbinger was February 22, 1991; the latest record for my first spotting of it was March 20, 1994. (Continued on p. 2)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'd first like to welcome our new board members: Sylvia Orli, publicity chair, and Rod Simmons, site registry chair. All of our committees love assistance, so please call if you'd like to help.

With spring approaching, I look forward to spending time outdoors searching for spring ephemerals and neo-tropical migrants. But the enjoyment of nature carries a darker side: diminishing bird populations, invasives competing with native plants, and the ever-shrinking natural areas in our region. I encourage all our members to experience nature as often as possible and give something in return. Plant native, get involved in local conservation issues, and come to a VNPS program or plant walk this spring.

Carpe diem!

Marianne Mooney

FINDING THE EARLIEST

WILDFLOWERS, continued Often the long, fleshy leaves of spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*) arise in mid February. If you reach down to feel them, you may also find the flowering stem with tight round buds. As soon as the days warm up, these buds will open into bright white flowers. Spring beauty is common in our woodland parks in both bottomland and upland habitats. To spot the first blooms, look for it in early to mid March on south-facing, sunny hillsides in wooded areas.

For many years, I have celebrated my daughter's birthday, March 23, by visiting my favorite patch of round-lobed hepatica (*Hepatica americana*) in the Boundary Bridge area of Rock Creek Park. A good way to find this early bloomer is to locate the thick, three-lobed evergreen leaves in fall or winter and then return to the spot in mid to late March. Often there are as many as two dozen fuzzy stems and bright blue flowers emerging near the leaves. Hepatica particularly likes dry, rocky soil, sometimes growing right on the rocks. Look for it along Turkey Run at the crossing of the Potomac Heritage Trail, on the rocks near the river at Riverbend Park, and on the hillside above Difficult Run.

Purple cress (*Cardamine douglassii*) flowers in late March in wet, seepy woods at Great Falls Park near the harbinger-of-spring at Clay Pond and also at the Waste Weir along the Potowmack Canal Trail. The early blooming time, purple sepals, and hairy stem distinguish this uncommon species from its more common relative, spring cress (*C. bulbosa*).

Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) comes next, the big white flower stamens popping up with their leaves curled around them. Look for bloodroot during the last week of March and first week of April on upland hillsides at all our local parks. It is easy to spot it at the beginning of the Zigzag Trail at Turkey Run Park.

A similar looking flower to bloodroot, twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*) is much rarer in our area. This species likes rich, calcareous soil and is found in only a few places locally. There are small populations at Turkey Run Park, Great Falls Park, Scott's Run Nature Preserve, and Riverbend Park. It is also found

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at the Marsden Tract along the C&O Canal in Maryland. To see masses of twinleaf, visit the limestone bluffs along the C&O Canal in Washington County, MD. Twinleaf was named for Thomas Jefferson and is reputed to bloom at Monticello on his birthday, April 13. However, I have usually found it in flower during the first 10 days of April. This is the most ephemeral of flowers--the petals often last only a few days. Last year, I found twinleaf in bud on March 25. When I returned the next week, most of the petals had already fallen.

An early bloomer that is new to many people is the uncommon shrub, leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*). The drooping, yellow, bell-shaped flowers appear before the leaves in late March and early April. Leatherwood is found in only a few locations in our area. Look for it in rich moist soil along the Potomac Heritage Trail at Turkey Run Park and near Sandy Landing at Great Falls Park.

In the last week of March, you may be able to spot the first blooms of Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*). The flowers emerge from the ground when they are still in bud and are

miniatures of the later blossoms. This dainty charmer grows in nutrient-rich, moist soil, often on north-facing hillsides. Fine displays of Dutchman's breeches can be seen at Scott's Run Nature Preserve and at Red Rock Wilderness Overlook Park in Loudoun County.

A favorite early flower of many people is trailing arbutus (*Epigaea repens*). Small waxy white or pale pink flowers are clustered among the low-growing evergreen leaves. If you spot this uncommon plant, be sure to kneel down and smell the delicate fragrance. This plant grows on dry, eroding hillsides with nutrient-poor, acidic soil. It is often found under mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*). Look for trailing arbutus in late March and early April on the bluffs above Difficult Run and on the rocks along the River Trail at Great Falls Park. There is also a small colony along Scott's Run.

So there's no reason to wait for the masses of bluebells, phlox, trout-lilies, trilliums, and other spring wildflowers. You'll find the first wildflowers of spring when the calendar (and maybe the weather) says it's still winter!

WELCOME...

The Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society welcomes the following new members: Susan Abraham, Fairfax; Donna Adams, Alexandria; Ana C. Arguelles, Alexandria; Larry Bradshaw, Vienna; Robert C. Coles Jr., Annandale; Betty Collins, Vienna; Janet L. Dierker, Falls Church; Shari Elsen and Family, Fairfax; E. Euler, Fairfax; Phyllis Friedemann, Alexandria; Ellen Gilmore, Falls Church; Bruce Hahn, Arlington; Beth Hampton, Falls Church; Amity Horowitz, Arlington; Robert E. Jenkins, Arlington; Allen Kettler, Alexandria; Marjorie L. Larson, Annandale; M. S. McDiarmid, Vienna; Ted McKeldin, Reston; William T. Morgan, Falls Church; Laura Noguchi, Burke; Amy O'Donnell, Alexandria; Dr. Jamie K. Reaser, Springfield; Judy Riekse, Springfield; Donna Royston, Fairfax; Lieselotte Ruiz, Falls Church; Eric and Sara Sanders Buell, Alexandria; Barbara Mikula and Michael Scalia, Vienna; Kim Schauer, Oakton; William L. Smith, Fairfax; Jane A. Stevens, Arlington; Florence Surovell, Alexandria; Julia Geniesse Symmes, Arlington; Beverly Vermeer, Alexandria; Elizabeth F. Wells, Alexandria; Mary Wharton, Alexandria; and Leneice Wu, Falls Church.

CHAPTER RECEIVES SUBSTANTIAL DONATION

President Marianne Mooney has recently received a donation of \$1,000 in memory of Nancy Gore Everett, a charter member of the Virginia Native Plant Society. Nancy joined the Potowmack Chapter in 1982 and was fund-raising chair in 1984. She also was interested in the native plant trail at Green Spring Park. According to Mary Painter, VNPS founder, she was "a selfless, astute, and engaging person, and the kind of person that every fledgling organization needs for early support." The board is considering how to use the money to best advantage.

GETTING TO KNOW BLANDY by Mary Pockman

While the name "Blandy" is now familiar as the location of the new VNPS office, many Potowmack Chapter members have only a vague picture of the place itself. Won't you come along on an armchair visit and get acquainted?

"Blandy" is shorthand for Blandy Experimental Farm, a University of Virginia field station for ecological and biological research, located in the Shenandoah Valley east of Winchester, an hour west of the Beltway. About a quarter of its 700 acres is the Orland E. White Arboretum, the focus of Blandy's public programs. Blandy's first director, for whom it is named, established it in the 1930s. In 1985 the General Assembly designated it the State Arboretum of Virginia, spurring an emphasis on native species that makes it especially interesting to members of VNPS.

Going to Blandy from the metropolitan area, it's easiest to take I-66. Beyond Marshall, go north on U.S. 17, which joins U.S. 50 a few miles farther on; cross the Shenandoah, then watch for the entrance. You'll know you're close when you see, through trees on the left, a field where broad mowed corridors separate unmowed squares. This distinctive pattern marks the site of long-term studies of habitat fragmentation, part of Blandy's research program.

The broad curves of the entrance road frame views of Blandy and its surroundings--to the left the nursery and service buildings, ahead in the distance the Blue Ridge, off to the right the 19th century house and outbuildings of the adjoining estate. Early in this century it belonged to Graham Blandy, who in 1927 left the University the tract that now bears his name. The trees and shrubs along the entrance road are all Virginia natives. Planted only 8 years ago, the oaks and sycamores are not yet stately, but redbuds and arrowwoods make a fine show in the spring.

At one end of the visitor parking lot is an information pavilion where you can look at a map and get your bearings. From there--perhaps after a side trip to the American Boxwood Society's Memorial Garden, the Herb Garden, or the Picnic Grove--turn toward the main building, the Quarters. The nearest path will take you past the Parkfield Learning Center. Once an apple-packing shed, the center is now the base for education programs. The VNPS office is on the lower floor, reached by a door at the back.

The main path, lined by Korean boxwood, leads to the open archway of the Dutch-gabled Quarters, a National Historic Landmark. In the archway itself you'll find a rack of trail guides and Our Shop, offering books, seeds, garden tools, and mementos. The wing to the right houses restrooms and offices and at the far end a library and meeting room. To the left is the oldest part of the building, built in the 1820s. Remodeled to house the research program, this wing is not open to visitors.

Walk through the archway into the Courtyard Garden, which is planted for year-round ornamental and botanical interest. Beyond its flagstone walks, a landscape of trees and grassy meadows, stone walls, and old fields invites exploration. Circle the Quarters to enjoy other gardens, including many native species. Walk south between towering evergreens to Lake Georgette, an ephemeral pond set among rocks that's a magnet for children of all ages. Head southeast to the Nancy Larrick Crosby Native Plant Trail, named for its major benefactor, a charter member of VNPS. There, recently planted woody and herbaceous species join trees that were mature well before the Arboretum came into being.

Farther afield, use the map to find the plant-family groupings that comprise much of the Arboretum's collection. Visit the azalea garden, the ginkgo grove, Dogwood Lane--or just enjoy being outdoors. The farther from the Quarters you venture, the more informal the grounds, and the quieter and more pastoral the ambiance. Sound appealing? Some fine day pay a real visit to Blandy, and see for yourself.

Blandy is open, without charge, 365 days a year from dawn to dusk. Coming events include an invitational Botanical Illustrators Art Show March 12 through April 7; the annual Garden Fair May 8-9; and 3-week summer courses in Field Botany (taught by Marion Lobstein) and Field Ecology. There are also varied opportunities to become actively involved, as a member of the Foundation for the State Arboretum (FOSA) or a regular or occasional volunteer.

For more information call Tim Farmer, staff Public Relations Coordinator, at 540 837-1758, ext. 26, or visit Blandy on the web, at www.virginia.edu/~blandy.

GARDENING FOR GALAPAGOS: SUPPORT NEEDED FOR UNIQUE FUND-RAISING**PROGRAM** by John C. Magee

Many people are familiar with the unique reptiles and birds of the Galapagos Islands. However, few people are aware that the plants of the islands are just as unique. Of the 600 taxa of terrestrial plants found in Galapagos, 41 percent are endemic (found nowhere else in the world). An example is the genus *Scalesia*, sunflowers, which have become trees. The genus is unique to the archipelago and comes in 20 distinctly different shapes and forms.

Unfortunately, the ecosystems of Galapagos face an uncertain future because of the threat posed by introduced exotic animals and plants. Galapagos has several bad exotic plant invasions that are now covering vast areas of native habitat. Lantana (*Lantana camara*) was first brought to the island of Floreana in 1938 as a family garden plant. It escaped cultivation and now covers almost 2,000 hectares of land, changing forever the native habitats found there. In 1946, the red quinine tree (*Cinchona succirubra*) was introduced to Santa Cruz as an agricultural plant. It too escaped and it now covers nearly 4,000 hectares and is a direct threat to the rare *Scalesia* forests and fern sedge and *Miconia robinsoniana* (a beautiful, laurel-like shrub that is the nesting site of the dark-rumped petrel) vegetation zones. But what is most alarming is the **rate of new introductions**: it took nearly 400 years for the first 200 exotic species of vascular plants to be introduced; by comparison **nearly 150 new species have been introduced to the islands during the past decade.**

Despite all that, Galapagos remains mainly intact. The Galapagos National Park Service (GNPS) does have a strict quarantine program in place. Unfortunately, it does not have the funding to keep an eye on everything, and without serious efforts towards the eradication of established introduced species, there is a

chance of losing one of the last great natural areas of the world.

In support of the Falls Church-based Charles Darwin Foundation, Inc. (CDF, Inc.), a not-for-profit organization responsible for raising funds to support the work of the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS) and GNPS, a fund-raising tour of local gardens was arranged last May. This was the beginning of the **Gardening for Galapagos** campaign. This year there will be another **garden tour on May 22nd**, but more importantly, the CDF, Inc., is launching Gardening for Galapagos as a much larger international campaign to save the unique flora of the Galapagos Islands.

Gardening for Galapagos is an important conservation effort, not only for protecting the native flora of Santa Cruz, but also for demonstrating the potential for restoration programs in other parts of Galapagos and around the world.

The funds raised in this campaign are to be restricted to the CDRS's Botany Department for eradication of quinine from the island of Santa Cruz. As the campaign matures, the department may be able to expand and move onto other plant restoration projects within the Archipelago. For more information on the Gardening for Galapagos garden tour this spring, or the campaign in general, please call the Charles Darwin Foundation, Inc., in Falls Church at 538-6833; (e-mail darwin@galapagos.org), or call John C. Magee at 478-9428 (e-mail: euphorbia@aol.com).

Eds. note: John Magee is a landscaper specializing in the use of native plants and current Potowmack Chapter education chair. His clients have kindly allowed their gardens to be visited as part of the Gardening for Galapagos tours.

WANT TO JOIN VNPS? Call Anne Crocker, Membership Chair, at 437-0355, and she will send you an application.

Nature Center Groundskeeper and Natural Areas Field Worker positions available. Part-time now; full-time summer months. Call Katie Shaw at Reston Association (435-6510) for details.

EXCERPTS FROM THE LORTON RESOURCES SURVEY STATUS REPORT by Kathleen Kust

The Lorton tract natural drainage system contributes to the health of the Chesapeake Bay through the Occoquan watershed. The creeks are in very good condition over the site. Erosion is only present at spots where land has been cleared and graded for prison operations over the years, or where natural drainage has been altered or manipulated.

Several striking ecological niches have presented themselves in the northern end of the site. There is every condition, from level to steep, dry to wet, and all slope aspects, each favoring a characteristic set of indigenous plants.

On a west facing slope, there is an oak barren with a new location for the fragrant goldenrod in Fairfax County, as well as other unique plants. And there is a particularly rich valley and ridge drainage formation, with diverse types of forest, including riparian forest and a mimic of the terrace gravel forest more common in the Arlington ridge formation to the north. On such a terrace gravel slope grows an American chestnut in good condition.

In one wooded valley, surveyors found a luxuriant spread of spring ephemerals and many fern and orchid species. The orchids include the large whorled pogonia, large twayblade, crane fly, and downy rattlesnake plantain. Ferns include New York, maidenhair, cinnamon, interrupted, royal, lady, and broad beech. In the northern woods at the headwaters of Pohick Creek there are large drifts of the mountain jack-in-the-pulpit, not usually found in our region. At one of the central ponds grows a naturally occurring cross between the willow oak and the southern red oak, the John Bartram oak. Young black willow and black cherry trees, shining sumac, Canada goldenrod, and cardinal flower are commonly found around the 10 farm ponds. Each pond has a distinctive plant association arising from differences in water depth, size, and surrounding features.

Currently in the fields there is an abundance of indigenous grasses and forbs such as bidens mingling with the planted cover crops and introduced plants such as spotted knapweed. Vegetation in the area all around the dairy has been suppressed due to dairy operations and grazing cattle. Steep slopes are the exception, where surveyors have found large populations of toothwort and hepatica and specimens of unusual plants such as trailing arbutus and wild hydrangea.

Varying plant communities typical to the edge between field and forest are seen throughout the site. Some of the fields are "old fields" evolving towards the forest, while others have only recently been left fallow. There are hedgerows between fields in the middle of the site, havens to birds, reptiles, and small mammals. Hedgerows are a feature of a disappearing agricultural landscape, and there are vestiges of this landscape in the fields and yards of houses near Rt. 123.

SPRING SCHEDULE FOR LORTON SURVEYS

If you would like to be part of the exploration of the Lorton Reformatory tract this spring, **please call Kathleen Kust at 836-5868**. Eight surveys will be conducted mid-March through May. In order to catch spring ephemerals that are blooming one week but not the next, there will be a survey every weekend in April.

Because knowledge is complementary, the more surveyors there are, the more plants we can add to the inventory. A regular crew of surveyors will be able to cover more ground in less time, knowing the site. Please try to fit into your schedule some botanizing walks at this

fascinating site this spring. It is a great way to increase and challenge your knowledge of our local plants and ecology, while reveling in the fresh air and open spaces!

Sunday March 14 from 12:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
 Saturday April 3 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
 Sunday April 11 from 12:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
 Saturday April 17 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
 Sunday April 25 from 12:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
 Saturday May 1 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
 Sunday May 16 from 12:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
 Saturday May 29 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

SELECTED COMMUNITY EVENTS OF INTEREST TO VNPS MEMBERS**Lectures**

Wednesday, March 31. **Introduction to Spring Wildflowers.** 7:30-9:00 p.m. Learn how to identify spring wildflowers and the best places to find them in Northern VA through a slide show and discussion led by naturalist Jim Pomeroy. Hidden Pond Nature Center, 451-9588. Reservation required. Free.

Excursions

Saturday, March 27. **Early Spring Wildflowers,** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Great Falls Park and Difficult Run walk led by Cris Fleming. Audubon Naturalist Society, 301-652-9188. Fee.

Thursday, April 1. **Introduction to Wildflower Identification,** 7:30-9:30 p.m. lecture followed on **Saturday April 3** by an all-day field trip to Carderock area of the C&O canal. Audubon Naturalist Society, 301-652-9188. Fee.

Tuesday, April 27. **Trillium Trek,** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Adults. Head to Linden, VA, for the glorious display of trilliums and other spring wildflowers. Bring a bag lunch. Wear hiking shoes. Moderate hike on rocky trail. Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 941-1065. Reservations by 4/23. \$10.

Friday, April 30. **Thompson's Wildlife Management Area and Blandy Tour** led by Marion Lobstein. Call Mary Olien, (540) 837-1758, ext. 30.

Monday, May 3. **Trillium Trek,** 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Adults. Travel by van from Lubber Run Recreation Center to Thompson's Wildlife Management Area at Linden, VA. Long Branch Nature Center, 228-6535. \$15.

Tuesday, May 4. **Trillium Trek** to Linden, VA. See 4/27 entry. Reservations by 4/30.

Walks

Saturday, March 6. **Walk with a Naturalist,** 10:30 a.m.-noon. Join the naturalist for a stroll through West Springfield's natural wonder—the Pohick Stream Valley—in search of seasonal natural happenings. Hidden Pond Nature Center. 451-9588. Cancelled if rain.

Saturday, March 20. **Spring Hike,** 2-3:30 p.m. Adults. Ford Nature Center, 838-4829. Free.

Sunday, March 21. **Great Falls Walk,** 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Contact Marion Lobstein at 536-7150 or e-mail to mblobst@mnsinc.com. Free.

Saturday, April 3. **Bluets and Buttercups,** 9-11 a.m. Adults. Hike the rocky trails of this peaceful park to see and identify beautiful blooms. Scotts Run Nature Preserve, 759-9018. Meet in west parking lot. Reservations begin 3/3. Canceled if rain. Free.

Saturday April 10. **Pohick Wildflower Walk,** 10:30 a.m.-noon. Naturalist Jim Pomeroy will point out wildflowers and trees that are in bloom along with other natural happenings. Hidden Pond Nature Center, 451-9588. Dress for the weather. Reservation required; canceled if rain. Free. **Spring Wildflower Walk,** 2-3 p.m. Walker Nature Center, Reston, 435-6530.

Tuesday, April 13. **Wildflowers at Roundtree Park ,** 10-11 a.m. Ages 12 and up. Search the stream, forests, and fields of Roundtree Park for native spring wildflowers. Call Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 941-1065. Meet at the sheltered picnic area. Reservation required by 4/9. Canceled if rain. Free.

Friday, April 16. **Birds and Blooms,** 9-11:30 a.m. Adults. C&O Canal Walk. Call Long Branch Nature Center, 228-6535 for information and directions.

Saturday, April 17. **Lilies and Bells,** 9-11 a.m. Adults. Search the riverside for a lovely display of trout lilies, bluebells, trilliums, and other jewels. Riverbend Visitor Center, 759-9018. Reservations begin 3/17. Canceled if rain. Free. **Lake Acotink Wildflower Walk,** 10-11:30 a.m. Join naturalist Calra Ailes for a walk in search of trout lilies, hepatica, wild ginger, and other wildflowers in bloom. Reservations required. Free. **Wildflower Walk,** 2-3 p.m. Ford Nature Center, 838-4829. Free.

Sunday, April 18. **Great Falls Walk,** 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Marion Lobstein, 536-7150 or e-mail mblobst@mnsinc.com. **Balls Bluff Walk,** 2-4 p.m. Marion Lobstein will lead a walk at Balls Bluff Regional Park near Leesburg. Call 536-7150 or e-mail mblobst@mnsinc.com. **Wildflower Walk at**

Fort C.F. Smith, 2-3:30 p.m. Ages 12 and up. Call Long Branch Nature Center, 228-6535. **Bluebell Walk at Bull Run**, 2:00 p.m. Call Potomac Overlook Regional Park, 528-5406.

Tuesday, April 20. 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 wildflowers. Bring a bag lunch and wear sturdy shoes. Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 941-1065. Reservations by 4/16. Cancelled if rain. \$6.

Sunday, April 25. Wildflower Walk, 1-2:30 p.m. Ages 12 and up. Rediscover wildflowers as you rediscover spring. A short slide show will be followed by a trail walk to observe and identify wildflowers. Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, Walney, 631-0013. Bring field guides. Reservation required. Free. **Pink Lady's Slipper Walk**, 2:30-3 p.m. Visit one of Northern Virginia's largest displays of beautiful orchids and the park's native wildflower garden. Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 941-1065. Reservation required by 4/20. Canceled if rain. Free.

Saturday, May 1. Lilies and Bells, 9-11 a.m. Adults. See 4/17 entry for details. Reservations by 4/1.

Sunday, May 2. Folklore of Wildflowers. Trillium walk at Thompson's Wildlife Management Area led by Alonso Abugattas will include discussion of legends, folklore, and traditional edible and medicinal uses of our regional plants. Prince William Wildflower Society/ Nature's Wonder World, 490-0455.

Saturday, May 8. Bluets and Buttercups, 9-11 a.m. See 4/3 entry for details. Reservations by 4/8.

Sunday, May 16. Great Falls Walk, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Contact Marion Lobstein at 536-7150 or e-mail mblbst@mnsinc.com.

Workshops

March 31 and April 7. Wildflower Workshop, 6:30-9:30 p.m., and half-day field trip on **April 10**. offered by Marion Lobstein. Identification of plant families, ecology, and life cycles of plants. Fairfax Audubon Society, 256-6895. Fee.

Cleanups

Saturday, April 3. English Ivy Pull, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The New Columbia Audubon Society and the Maryland Native Plant Society need help cutting English ivy from trees in Rock Creek Park. Meet at the Rock Creek Park Nature Center (off Clover Road south of Military Road). For information and reservations, call Ross Campbell at 202-512-6550.

Chapter Events Calendar

Mar	11	Board meeting, 7pm
	18	Program meeting: Mark Garland speaks on local habitats and plant and animal interactions 7:30 pm
Apr	8	Board meeting, 6:45. Program meeting: Kathleen Kust on Lorton plants 7:30pm
Apr	10	Stan Shetler leads walk at Roosevelt Island, 9-12 am
	29	Marion Lobstein conducts trillium walk at Linden, 10-2 pm
May	1	Mooney, Gay lead trillium walk at Linden, 9:30-11:30
	22	Plant Sale, 10-3

Potowmack Chapter

Virginia Native Plant Society
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