

POTOWMACK NEWS

Volume 18, No 5

Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Sep/Oct 1999

GARDEN DAY PLANT SALE SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 18, RAIN (?) OR SHINE!

Our fall plant sale will take place at Green Spring Gardens Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, September 18th, 1999. After a record-breaking drought this summer, it will be hard to imagine adding new plants to our gardens.

However, it is a good time to replace plants that didn't survive and to consider adding drought tolerant plants such as *Rudbeckia fulgida* and *Echinacea purpurea* to your garden. We also have plants that tolerate dry shade. Thanks to the successful propagation effort of Lori Markoff, a member of the Propagation Committee, we will have a good supply of butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) to offer for the first time in many years.

We encourage you to visit the VNPS tents and think positively about the weather. Our knowledgeable members will be glad to help you select the right native plant for your purposes--whether it is to invite the birds, pollinators, and butterflies to your backyard, or to extend the bloom in your garden until frost.

To those of you who not only were successful in keeping your plants alive this summer, but who are ready to donate some of your excess to the sale, we will be extremely grateful. We are especially in need of native woody plants you may have to share, since these plants are not propagated in our beds and the demand for native shrubs and trees is great.

If you are interested in donating plants, plastic pots, or your valuable time to the sale, please call Gerry Pratt at 323-1094. You will enjoy meeting other VNPS members and sharing in the excitement of Garden Day. Green Spring Park is located at 4603 Green Spring Road, off Rt 236 in Alexandria.

1999 CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 17

This year's Potowmack Chapter Annual Meeting will be held at Huntley Meadows Park on Sunday, October 17 at 1 p.m. Huntley Meadows, located in Alexandria (Beltway exit 1, follow Rt. 1 South for 3-1/2 miles, turn right on Lockheed), is a 1,426-acre park that contains the last, large non-tidal freshwater wetland in Northern Virginia. Other habitats found in the park include shrub swamp, forested wetlands, and open fields, which help to bring plant species tallied in the park to 560. The park is also known for its fauna and is home to many species of birds including nesting king rails. The unique natural resources of Huntley Meadows have earned the park its reputation as one of the most significant environmental study areas in the metropolitan area and has earned it a place as a VNPS Registry Site.

A brief social period will be followed by an introduction to the park's flora and fauna by a staff naturalist. Our featured speaker will be Norma Hoffman. Norma founded the Citizens Alliance to Save Huntley in 1975 when Fairfax County officials imperiled the park by announcing plans to build a 4-lane highway through Huntley Meadows. Engaging scientists, citizens, and lawyers, Norma persevered until 1990 when the highway project was finally denied.

Following a short business meeting, including election of officers, participants will be invited to tour the park and see some of its wonders. Trail guides and wildflower lists will be provided. Please RSVP to 920-1913 or 534-8179 if you plan to attend. If you can't make it, please mark the ballot provided on page 7 and send it to Anne Van Ryzin, Secretary, at the address listed.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The theme of this year's annual meeting at Huntley Meadows Park is Wetlands Appreciation and Conservation. It's a timely program in a year that has seen Virginia's wetlands threatened by Tulloch ditching, a full report on which can be found in this month's VNPS *Bulletin*. Hopefully our members will be motivated to write to Governor Gilmore's office and help protect our wetlands. I encourage all who can to come to our annual meeting to learn about Fairfax County's largest remaining non-tidal wetland in Huntley Meadows Park, and to have a good time in the process.

Hope to see you there.

Marianne Mooney

CHAPTER TO LOSE TWO LONG-TIME BOARD MEMBERS

Two of the Potowmack Chapter's most beloved and esteemed board members will be leaving the board (but not the organization) this fall. Both have been with VNPS since its beginning and have devoted countless hours to chapter work. **Anne Crocker** has been a member since 1982 and membership chair since 1985. For almost 15 years Anne has kept the membership records, created mailing labels, published membership directories, sent out notices, and done countless other jobs outside of her membership realm. All this she has accomplished with a generosity of spirit and good cheer that will be sorely missed. **Gerry Pratt** has been propagation/plant sales chair since 1991 and a VNPS member since 1983. She has built up the propagation beds and the record-breaking plant sales into our most successful chapter fund raiser. Her capacity to attract dedicated volunteers and willingness to share her great knowledge of plants will be hard to replace.

We wish Gerry and Anne all the best and thank them from the bottom of our hearts for their many years of dedicated service. Please come to the chapter annual meeting to help us bid them adieu.

VNPS POTOWMACK CHAPTER TO SPONSOR E-MAIL LISTSERV

The Potowmack Chapter is introducing a new e-mail list for a faster, more efficient form of communication with chapter members. All subscribers to this list will receive regular announcements of meetings, events, and volunteer needs through e-mail. In addition, subscribers can write to the list to relay information that they would like other members to know about local native plant events and issues.

If you would like to subscribe, send an e-mail to Sylvia Orli at stone.sylvia@nmnh.si.edu and in the message section write the following: subscribe to vnps-pot, your e-mail address, and your full name. Or use this Web address (<http://www.onelist.com/subscribe.cgi/vnps-pot>) and follow directions to subscribe. Once you are a subscriber you can write to other members of the list by sending a message to vnps-pot@onelist.com. Don't worry, the list will be monitored to keep spammers away.

BOARD OFFICERS		
President	Marianne Mooney	534-8179
Vice President	Robert Schmidt	931-1799
Secretary	Anne Van Ryzin	938-3227
Treasurer	Bill Kreitz	620-4415
COMMITTEE CHAIRS		
Botany	Cris Fleming	301 657-9289
Conservation	Kathleen Kust	836-5868
Education	John C. Magee	478-9428
Hospitality	Joan Van Ryzin	799-4520
Membership/Recognition	Anne Crocker	437-0355
Native Plant Trail	-open-	
Newsletter	Sally Sieracki	978-5865
Labeling/Mailing	Markoff family	573-7121
P.O. Box Mail Distributor	Laura Beaty	534-8746
Programs	Shirley Gay	920-1913
Propagation/Plant Sales	Gerry Pratt	323-1094
Publications	Roberta Day	560-5528
Publicity	Sylvia Orli	979-3545
Site Registry	Rod Simmons	256-7671
Garden Tours	Billie Trump	960-1476
Immediate Past President	Norma Vermillion	451-0572

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

ALIEN INVADERS by Mary Ann Lawler

“Toadshade, meadowrue,
Fern, and frond along the stream...
Kudzu approaches.”

This Haiku image of a lurking form threatening the delicate wildflowers of our native woodlands is all too real. Most of us are familiar with kudzu, the “vine that ate the South,” but it is only one of literally hundreds of highly invasive alien species that threaten the flora and fauna of the United States. The problem is so serious that the President signed an executive order in February of this year, directing federal agencies to expand and coordinate their efforts to combat the introduction and spread of plants and animals not native to the United States. They “are upsetting nature’s balance, squeezing out native species, causing severe economic damage, and transforming our landscape.”

The statistics are daunting. Cornell University researchers report that invading non-indigenous species in the United States cause major environmental damage and economic losses adding up to more than \$125 billion per year. They estimate that 5,000 alien plant species have escaped and now exist in U.S. natural ecosystems. The Department of the Interior reports that invasive exotic plants consume 4,600 acres of wildlife habitat per day. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt has stated “The invasion of noxious alien species wreaks a level of havoc on America’s environment and economy that is matched only by damage caused by floods, earthquakes, mudslides, hurricanes, and wildfire.”

To combat this threat Secretary Babbitt, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, and Commerce Secretary William Daley co-chair a federal interagency Invasive Species Council created by the President’s Executive Order. They have begun the Native Plant Conservation Initiative (NPCI), a consortium of 10 federal government agencies and over 140 non-federal cooperators representing various disciplines within the conservation field: biologists, botanists, habitat preservationists, horticulturists, resource management consultants, soil scientists, special interest clubs, non-profit organizations, concerned citizens, nature lovers, and gardeners.

As one of these cooperators, VNPS is working closely with the Virginia State Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Division of Natural Heritage to identify those alien plant species that have become aggressive competitors in natural habitats, to document these threats, and to educate the public.

For those who have Internet access, here are two important web sites for detailed information on invasive species. For fact sheets on the specific invasive species that are problems in Virginia, see <http://www.state.va.us/~dcr/dnh/invproj.htm>. The Alien Plant Working Group of the NPCI, mentioned above, also has excellent information on the problems of invasive species, nationwide lists of problem species, and other computer links at <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/>. For a copy of “Control of Invasive Non-Native Plants,” please call Publications Chair Roberta Day at 560-5528. Eds. note: An expanded version of this article appeared in the Jul/Aug issue of *The Special Garden*, the newsletter of Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, Inc.

WELCOME!

The Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society welcomes the following new members: Peter W. Adams, Falls Church; Jacqueline Atkinson, Herndon; Larry and Kathy Bradshaw, Vienna; Beverly Browne, Arlington; Bill and Patti Burch, Alexandria; John C. Callow, Herndon; Vonda Camper, Alexandria; Anne Carroll, Alexandria; Katherine Connell, Arlington; Flora Crater, Falls Church; Carey Creed, Darnestown; the Dryden Family, Bethesda; Joan Duncan, Lorton; Margery Erickson, Great Falls; Jim Haile, Washington; Linda Haller, Vienna; Adam Henderson, Arlington; Kate Johnson, Washington; Patricia Lauderdale, Arlington; Mary Ann Lawler, Arlington; Bob Lund, Burke; Marian Macgilvray, Arlington; Jo Amrah McElroy, Arlington; Dwight McMakin, Vienna; Carolyn H. McMurray, Alexandria; Susan Meeks-Versteeg, Woodbridge; Fran Millhouser, Falls Church; Paige Ohliger, Alexandria; Susan Polinsky, Fairfax; Tom Raque, Annandale; Tina Roberts, Springfield; Martha Rothenberg, Vienna; Susan S. Sache, McLean; Judy Schofield, Annandale; Mary H. Seith, Alexandria; Linda Sellevaag, Annandale; Richard Simpson, Springfield; John Thompson, Woodbridge; Sharon Watkins, Falls Church; Carol Weaver, Burke; Alison L. Williams, Springfield.

HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK MICROSTEGIUM CONTROL PROJECT NEEDS**VOLUNTEERS**

Microstegium viminium (Japanese stilt grass), a shade tolerant, moisture-loving grass from Asia, is invading the forests and riparian corridors of Huntley Meadows Park. *M. viminium* affects the floral diversity and structure of wetland communities. It rapidly out competes native vegetation and eliminates understory layers required by nesting birds such as warblers and wood thrushes. Declines in those species have been noted by park staff and volunteer naturalists. The grass currently exists within the northern 800 acres of Huntley Meadows Park. Due to the park's distinctive hydrology, the entire 1,425 acres are considered at risk of invasion. Without immediate control of *M. viminium* in Huntley Meadows Park, critical migratory bird habitats will continue to degrade at an alarming rate.

In an effort to address this invasion, the park has received a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This grant covers hand spraying of *microstegium* by licensed applicators using a .5% solution of Roundup with oversight by park staff. The project has letters of support from Fairfax Audubon Society, Northern Virginia Bird Club, the American Horticultural Society, and the Virginia Native Plant Society. The park continues to explore other avenues of control, including manual removal of the grass. **If you would like to volunteer in this effort, please read the following description and contact Chris Lamond, Resource Manager, at 768-2525.**

Job Title: Invasive Plant Control Crew Member

Goal: Control the spread of invasive-exotic plant species identified as harmful to the Huntley Meadows Park ecosystem.

Duties: Work with others on an invasive plant crew to reduce pest plant species. Mechanically and/or manually remove invasive-exotic plants at Huntley Meadows.

Qualifications: Ability to operate hand and power tools such as scythes, weed eaters, or other cutting tools. Ability to work outside and off-trail in challenging working conditions such as summer heat and humidity. Tolerant of working conditions found within a natural environment, including nuisance wildlife such as ticks, chiggers, and poison ivy. Ability to work with others as part of a team. Interest in the stewardship of the county's natural resources.

Training: Must attend an initial project training (control program varies based on target species). Project training will be arranged.

Commitment: Two-day commitment minimum; each day lasts for approximately 4 hours.

THREE MORE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

(1) Those of you with an interest in state-level VNPS efforts to deal with the invasive/alien plant problem, are welcome to help out and get involved. There are a variety of areas where help is needed; for example, updating a web site, writing an article, attending the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Plant Pest Council meetings, giving a presentation, or developing a project. Please **contact Jessie Strother**, Director-at-Large, for more information. Home phone: 323-5278 or e-mail sylvatica9@juno.com.

(2) Potowmack Chapter is often asked to furnish displays and other educational materials at seminars, conferences, workshops, etc. Two such requests are pending for this fall and volunteers who have skills related to graphics, horticulture, ecology, photography, computers, or education and who might be interested in participating short or long term should **call John Magee** at 478-9428.

(3) A crew of dedicated workers from Potowmack Chapter (Deborah Crabtree, Janet Dierker, Cathy Greene, Kathleen Kust, Montie Kust, and Mary Wharton) have been working to rid a section of Four-Mile Run in Arlandria, near Rt. 1 and the Potomac River, of an infestation of the wetlands-loving alien purple loosestrife. The Alexandria Parks Department supplies heavy duty contractor-sized trash bags. Efforts for the rest of this year will focus on seed head cutting only, but the group plans to begin pulling again next summer. Anyone interested in joining the effort should **call Kathleen Kust** at 836-5868.

REPORT'S LANGUAGE SUPPORTS PARK SERVICE PLANS TO MANAGE INVASIVES ON PUBLIC LANDS

On March 12 Potowmack Chapter wrote to Congressman Jim Moran to raise the issue of landscaping with native plants in units of the National Park System. Therefore, we are extremely pleased that as a result of Mr. Moran's efforts, the House Committee on Appropriations put the following language into its report (H.R.106-222) on the FY2000 appropriations bill for Interior and Related Agencies:

"The Committee is pleased with the National Park Service's strategic plan for managing invasive non-native plants on National Park System lands and its aggressive efforts to eradicate non-native species. The Committee urges the Service to be pro-active in implementing its goal to provide park managers and the public with acceptable native alternatives to non-native plant materials and to increase public awareness of these issues. In implementing these goals, the Service should examine ways in which it can enhance habitat which benefits birds and pollinators. In particular, where it is appropriate, the Service should implement alternative regimens for mowing grass."

This language will certainly help reinforce our goal to emphasize landscaping with native trees, shrubs, and perennials that are beneficial to birds and pollinators.

FAIRFAX COUNTY OFFERS TIPS FOR TREE CARE DURING DRY WEATHER

- ❖ Prioritize your watering to trees planted in the past 3 years or trees with stress factors such as limited root zone area or previous damage.
- ❖ Water only the soil *under* trees since watering leaves or trunk can cause fungus growth.
- ❖ Use a soaker hose, hand-held spray nozzle, or water-filled buckets/milk jugs with pin sized holes in the bottom placed under the tree's canopy. Sprinklers often water too large an area and can get tree leaves and trunk wet.
- ❖ If water runs off the soil surface, reduce the watering rate.
- ❖ To assess the amount to water, use this rule of thumb: a 4- to 6-inch screwdriver should be able to easily penetrate the soil after watering. If it does not, increase the frequency of watering.
- ❖ To conserve water use, place mulch 3 inches deep in the area under the canopy of each tree, being careful not to place mulch against the trunk.

LORTON PRISON SITE TO BECOME MOSTLY PARKLAND

On July 26th, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted to make the Lorton prison complex a 2,500-acre park. Only 235 of the 3,200 total acreage will be set aside for development and housing will be limited to 1,500 homes, including a 450-unit residence for seniors. The Potowmack Chapter applauds the board for this vote and will follow further developments to ensure that as much land as possible is left in a natural state. This is a great opportunity to have wildlife habitat and open space in a very congested Fairfax County.

We also want to thank **Kathleen Kust**, Potowmack Chapter Conservation Chair, and **Elaine Haug**, Site Registry Chair of the Prince William Chapter. Together they spent the past 2 years conducting extensive botanical surveys of Lorton and mapping out the rich diversity of habitats found there. Kathleen spent many hours bringing public attention to Lorton, photographing much of its flora, and giving programs to show others Lorton's potential. Also, bird surveys were conducted by **Jim Waggener**, who was instrumental in the recent conservation of the Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Surveys showed a rich variety of habitats and a wide array of flora and fauna. We owe our gratitude to all who worked hard to save this land.

Fairfax County's final plans for the Lorton site are due to be submitted to the General Services Administration by late October. Please congratulate your supervisors and encourage them to recognize and conserve the biologically rich areas as natural places.

HAPPENINGS

- ❁ Oct 2-3 **Maryland Native Plant Society Fall Conference**, Mount St. Mary's College, Thurmont, MD. The conference theme is "New Directions in Land Preservation: Thinking Big So Nature Can Work." Call Rod Simmons at 256-7671 for a registration form or pick one up at Green Spring Park. Visit the MNPS Web site (www.geocities.com/rainforest/vines) for further information. VNPS members may register at the reduced rate of \$30.
- ❁ Oct 9-10 **Crow's Nest Forest Field Trip** led by Rod Simmons and Hal Wiggins of the Maryland Native Plant Society. Meet Saturday or Sunday at 10:00 a.m. This trip is a repeat of one held in July, and a description with directions is on p.1 of the July/Aug issue of *Potowmack News*. Contact Hal Wiggins at 540-898-3568 or email him at harold.j.wiggins@USACE.army.mil for further information.
- ❁ Oct 20 **Lecture on Galls**, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Huntley Meadows Visitor's Center. Dr. Raymond Gagne will give an introduction to many kinds of gallmakers and the diversity of their biology on local plants. Reservations required, call 768-2525. \$3.
- ❁ Nov 17-19 **Eastern Native Grass Symposium**, Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD. For information/registration write to Dianne Rightmire, USDA-NRCS, Big Flats Plant Materials Center, Box 360A, RD#1, RT 352, Corning, NY 14830-0360; or FAX 607-562-8516.

PLANTING SEASON TIPS FOR A BETTER GARDEN by John C. Magee

It seems that the fall planting season is upon us again, so I thought I'd share some successes and failures from my own garden that may help you in planning yours. Being a landscape designer by trade also helps me see some of the new plants coming out. When I see a plant performing well, I try to spread the word. Here are some tips on how to plant, and some interesting natives you might not have heard of.

Always learn the "cultural requirements" of each plant. That is, the combination of environmental and technical factors that permit a plant to develop and grow to its fullness. In other words, it's not a good idea to put a plant that likes wet shade in full dry sun. Where do I find the cultural requirements for plants? Generally I would follow the recommendations in a gardening book or on the name tags the plants come with from the nursery.

Think about the mature height and width of the plant and think of your garden in layers. Start in the back with the tallest plants (i.e., trees and shrubs) and work your way to the front, moving lower as you plan. Use plants in the foreground that may help to hide some of the "legginess" of the plants behind them. When working with trees and shrubs (1) give them enough room to grow, (2) don't put them underneath the eave of your house where they won't receive rain, (3) keep tall trees away from power lines, and (4) don't hide utility boxes with coarse-leaved plants with prickles (such as some of the hollies).

And don't forget that if you make a mistake, plants can always be moved!

Since many developments in Northern Virginia have had most trees removed by the builder, I will concentrate more on sun-loving native plants.

Small trees. One of my favorite choices has to be the sourwood (*Oxydendrom arboreum*). A member of the heath family (*Ericaceae*), it is one of the most beautiful, summer-flowering trees I know. It also has spectacular fall color and holds its seed heads into the winter. 'Forest Pansy' redbud (*Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy') is a nice selection of our native redbud tree that has beautiful mahogany foliage. Of course, you can never have too many dogwoods (*Cornus florida*) in your yard. I know they are suffering from an introduced anthracnose disease, but plant them in sun and rich, moist soil and they should do all right, as long as you help them get established.

Shrubs: My personal favorite has to be Virginia sweetspire (*Itea virginica*). It's one of the most versatile plants I've ever used. It flowers in early summer, gets to be about 4 feet high and, along with the sourwood, has outstanding fall color and will hold its leaves well into winter. Oak leaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) and summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*) are other great shrubs for the border. There are getting to be quite a few selections of summersweet available in the trade (continued on p.8)

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The 1998-1999 Nominating Committee, consisting of **Alonso Abugattas** and **Beth Smith**, is pleased to present the following slate of candidates for offices in the Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society for 1999-2000.

OFFICERS

President - Marianne Mooney: Marianne is a former chef whose work has included 5 years as a volunteer chef at DC Central Kitchen. She has been president of Potowmack Chapter for the 1998-99 year and was secretary in 1997-98. She has also been an active propagation committee member since 1995 and is a frequent volunteer at Huntley Meadows Park.

Vice President - John Magee: John has served as Education Chair for the past season. He is a landscape designer and founder of the Charles Darwin Foundation and Gardening for Galapagos campaign, which collects money to support the native plants of the Galapagos Islands.

Secretary - Mary Ann Lawler: Mary Ann retired last fall as the Director of Budget for the U.S. Department of the Interior, where she worked for 34 years. Since her retirement she has completed the Master Gardener training program and is chairing the training program for Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia for the upcoming class. She has also completed training as a Habitat Steward with the National Wildlife Federation. She is an avid birder, bicyclist, and native plant enthusiast.

Treasurer - William E. Kreitz: Bill has been our treasurer since the 1997-98 term. He is a charter member of VNPS and member of the Nature Conservancy. When he's not traveling around the world, he enjoys landscaping his home with native plants.

AT LARGE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Anne Crocker: Anne was membership chair from 1985 to 1999. Her experience and knowledge of Potowmack Chapter is second to none.

Nancy Luria: Nancy served chapter as president from 1993-95, vice president from 1990-93, and education chair from 1990-93. She worked to develop the native plant trail at Green Spring Park..

**IF YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE CHAPTER ANNUAL MEEING ON OCTOBER 17,
PLEASE MAIL THE FOLLOWING BALLOT BY OCTOBER 12 TO:**

Anne Van Ryzin, Secretary

9545 Bel Glade St.

Fairfax, Va 22031

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1999-2000 Potowmack Chapter Ballot

(For use of spouse in family membership)

_____ I approve of the slate of nominees

_____ I approve of the slate of nominees

Signature _____

Signature _____

but my own favorite is still the straight species. It has the most wonderful fragrance when it blooms in late summer and its yellow fall color looks great behind some Virginia sweetspire.



Some special perennials: What I believe to be the most under-used native perennial for sun is prairie baby's breath (*Euphorbia corollata*). Its white airy flowers appear in mid-summer and last for nearly 2 months. It's also one of those plants that just gets nicer and nicer every year. Sally Kurtz, from Waterways Nursery gave me my first plant and I've been in love with it ever since.

Another great plant Sally gave me to try, which has performed extremely well in my own garden, is hoary vervain (*Verbena stricta*). Properly sited, it is, without a doubt, the most drought tolerant plant I've seen. I haven't watered mine since I put them in 2 years ago and they just keep on growing. Its tall (4-5') baby blue flower spikes that appear in mid summer look fantastic behind my prairie baby's breath. It's not an easy plant to grow in the nursery, so I'm not sure if it will ever become popular in the trade, but if you come across it sometime, it's worth a try.

Some old favorites. Joe-pye weed (*Eupatorium fistulosum*) and 'Moonbeam' coreopsis (*Coreopsis verticillata* 'Moonbeam') have different cultural requirements, joe-pye being a wetland plant and coreopsis being more of an upland plant. But both can sometimes be planted out of their normal range and still perform well. Joe-pye is a tall, summer-flowering plant, while 'Moonbeam' is much shorter. If you plant them in the same bed, you'll need something to go in between to cover the "legs" of the joe-pye. This is where plants like purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) and blazing stars (*Liatris spp.*), or even some of the goldenrods (*Solidago spp.*) come in handy.

There are many species of *Liatris* becoming available. My favorite has to be the rough blazing star (*Liatris squarrosa*). This plant might not even be known in the trade without the conservation efforts of Mary Painter. She saw some growing at the intersection of Braddock Road and Lee Highway, just as they were about to start a construction project. She received permission from the State to save the plants and finally has enough nursery stock built up to offer them for sale. Thank you Mary.

My last tips: (1) Keep your options open; (2) don't be afraid of failing... you will, once or twice; and (3) remember why it didn't work. Plants can be moved, passed on, or thrown away (as I've done with my *Lythrum*). Whatever the case, the garden can be re-done. What's one more blister on your hand at this point anyway?

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Chapter Events</u> <u>Calendar</u></p> <p>Sep 9 Board meeting 7pm 18 Plant Sale 10am Oct 17 Chapter Annual Meeting at Huntley Meadows 1pm</p> 	<p>Potowmack Chapter Virginia Native Plant Society P.O. Box 161 McLean, VA 22101</p>  <p><i>please verify your address information and your renewal date on the mailing label</i></p>
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