

POTOWMACK NEWS

Volume 18, No 3

Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

May/June 2000

❖ MAY 6 CHAPTER WALK AT HEMLOCK OVERLOOK

On Saturday, May 6th, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Rod Simmons, City of Alexandria horticulturist and current Potowmack Chapter site registry chair will lead a walk to explore the Hemlock Overlook Regional Park near Clifton. Besides the old-growth hemlocks, participants can expect to see round-leaved pyrola, rattlesnake plantain, and various other interesting orchids, shrubs, and trees. This park is historically of note because it encompasses an area of Civil War skirmishes. Simmons plans to begin the walk in the uplands and follow the trail down to the floodplain of Bull Run. Call 703 256-7671 or e-mail Rod77@BellAtlantic.net for additional information. No reservations are needed. The walk will be cancelled in case of heavy rain but not for drizzle. Bring water and lunch if desired. Meet at the entrance to the park, which is at 13220 Yates Ford Road in Clifton. From Fairfax City, go south on Rt. 123, turn right on Clifton Rd. and drive 3.7 miles, turn left on Yates Ford Rd. and follow it to the park entrance.

❖ MAY 13 CHAPTER WALK AT ACCOTINK BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE

On Saturday May 13, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, join George Washington University botanist Dr. Elizabeth Wells on a plant hike/walk in the Accotink Bay Wildlife Refuge at Ft. Belvoir. More than 700 acres of tidal marshes and forested wetlands with many different habitats are preserved in the refuge. There will be opportunities for photography. Wear mud tolerant shoes, as we will walk along Accotink Creek. Bring water and prepare to use tick and insect repellent because deer ticks, carriers of Lyme disease, are known to be present. To reserve a place call Marianne Mooney at 703 534-8179 or e-mail her at moosfy@webtv.net. Be sure to include your telephone number in all messages. The trip will be canceled for heavy rain but not for drizzle.

Directions from Fairfax County Parkway: Take the Parkway east of I-95 to US Rt. 1. Go left at Rt. 1 for .3 mile to first light (Backlick/Pohick Rds). Turn right into Ft. Belvoir (Tulley Gate) and proceed .7 mile to the 2nd refuge parking lot on the right. **From Alexandria:** Take the George Washington Parkway south past Mt. Vernon, turning left at Rt. 1. At the 3rd light (Backlick/Pohick Rds), turn left into Ft. Belvoir (Tulley Gate) and proceed .7 mile to 2nd refuge parking lot on the right.

❖ JUNE 20 CHAPTER MEETING ON FERNS AND FERN IDENTIFICATION

In the wild and in the garden, ferns are a wonderful part of natural landscapes. They vary widely in habitat, texture, form, and color. Come and learn more about ferns on Tuesday, June 20, when Potowmack Chapter will welcome botany chair Cris Fleming. Starting at 7:30 p.m., Cris will lead a short walk along the Native Plant Trail at Green Spring Gardens Park, where we'll see a beautiful and interesting collection of native ferns. Later we'll return to Green Spring's multipurpose room for her slide presentation. Reservations are not necessary. Green Spring Gardens Park is located at 4603 Green Spring Road, off Rt. 236 in Alexandria. Turn at the Salvation Army/Jerry's Ford intersection.

❖ ADD RESTON WILDFLOWER TRAIL TO YOUR SPRING PLANT TOURS

A wildflower trail has been established in Reston's Walker Nature Area with both naturally growing and planted native species. May bloomers include smooth Solomon's seal, jack in the pulpit, and mayapple. A small nature center building is located near the wildflower trail. Directions to the area are as follows: From Dulles Toll Road, turn left on Wiehle, then right on Sunrise Valley Drive, left on Soapstone Drive for about 2 miles. After crossing Glade Drive, look for the wildflower trail on the left.

❖ SPRING PLANT SALE: See page 3

GARDEN TOURS: See insert

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

The wildflower season is in full bloom and so are chapter activities. We've already held two expertly led wildflower walks with another two coming up in May. Also, the Garden Tour and Plant Sale are right around the corner. Our committee chairs are working hard to offer great programs, tours, newsletters, and plant sales to the chapter. We encourage you to enjoy the benefits of your membership and participate in some or all of these events. If you wish to become more involved in a hands-on way, please contact me or one of our chairpersons. We'll show you the way!

Happy May,
Marianne Mooney

LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES IN VIRGINIA by

Mary Ann Lawler

On April 4 Governor Gilmore signed into law a bill passed unanimously in both the House and Senate, which declares that *Lythrum salicaria* and *Lythrum virgatum* and all of their hybrids and cultivars are noxious weeds, subject to regulation. This means that beginning on July 1, even cultivars of purple loosestrife cannot be transported into or sold in Virginia without a permit, and anyone who does so can be prosecuted. Purple loosestrife, which itself has little or no value to wildlife, crowds out diverse native wetland vegetation that provides the food and shelter required by numerous species of birds and other wildlife.

On April 19, the Virginia House and Senate concurred with the Governor's minor changes to the Wetlands legislation, which will go into effect on July 1. The new law directs the State Water Control Board to establish and implement policies and programs to protect and enhance the Commonwealth's wetland resources, using a

regulatory approach to achieve no net loss of wetlands and a voluntary approach to achieve a net resource gain. Individuals seeking to modify wetlands will be required to obtain permits from the Board. In addition to the individual permits, general permits must be issued for activities affecting less than half an acre of wetlands and other specified activities. The Board will issue Water Protection Permits after the public has an opportunity to comment on the proposed activities. The permits are to be conditioned upon compensatory mitigation for adverse impacts to wetlands in order to achieve no net loss of wetland acreage and functions. The law does exempt normal agricultural and silvicultural activities from the permit requirement. The Board must also develop voluntary and incentive-based programs to increase wetland resources.

Both of these laws will benefit native wetland plants and the web of diverse life that they support.

WANT TO JOIN VNPS? Call Linda Haller, Membership Chair, at 703 938-8504, and she will send you an application.

BOARD OFFICERS		
President	Marianne Mooney	534-8179
Vice President	John C. Magee	478-9428
Secretary	Mary Ann Lawler	684-8622
Treasurer	Bill Kreitz	620-4415
COMMITTEE CHAIRS		
Botany	Cris Fleming	301-657-9289
Conservation	-open-	
Hospitality	Joan Van Ryzin	799-4520
Green Spring Liaison	Gerry Pratt	323-1094
Awards/Recognition	Anne Crocker	437-0355
Membership	Linda Haller	938-8504
Newsletter	Sally Sieracki	978-5865
Labeling/Mailing	Markoff family	573-7121
Programs	Shirley Gay	920-1913
Propagation/Plant Sales	Laura Beaty	534-8746
	Beth Smith	644-1760
Publications	Roberta Day	560-5528
Publicity	Sylvia Orli	528-5618
Site Registry	Rod Simmons	256-7671
Garden Tours	Billie Trump	960-1476
Immediate Past President	Norma Vermillion	451-0572
All numbers should include the 703 area code unless otherwise noted.		

The Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society
Presents a
GARDEN TOUR

SUNDAY MAY 7, 2000, FROM 12:00 TO 4:00 P.M.

In McLean:

❖ **Beaty-Berry Garden**

2019 Virginia Ave., McLean, VA
(ADC Map 9, Grid A13)

Pat Berry and Laura Beaty purchased this acre of woodland property in Franklin Park 12 years ago. At that time, the property contained mature specimens of native trees, shrubs, ferns, perennials, moss, and unfortunately, English ivy, honeysuckle, multiflora rose, and wintercreeper. Come and see the results of years of removing invasive exotics (ongoing) and planting hundreds of native and non-native plants.

❖ **Hyatt Garden**

1948 Lorraine Ave., McLean, VA
(ADC Map 9, Grid A12)

Donald Hyatt started gardening at his McLean family home in 1951, when he was just 3 years old. Over the years, he has transformed this 3/4-acre yard into a mature woodland garden featuring rhododendrons, deciduous and evergreen azaleas, companion plants, and masses of wildflowers planted among natural outcroppings of quartz rock. Recently retired from Fairfax County Public Schools, Don has just started reworking portions of his hillside garden devastated by the hemlock woolly adelgid, dogwood anthracnose, and invasive English ivy. If he can keep the deer and bunnies away, tall rhododendrons, Glenn Dale azaleas, and Knap Hill hybrids should be in bloom among drifts of blue phlox, bulbs, ferns, and hostas in early May. Don't overlook the delicate wildflowers naturalizing there too, such as trillium species, anemones, tiarellas, crested iris, and yellow lady's slippers.

In Reston:

❖ **Peck Garden**

2524 Heathcliff Lane, Reston, VA
(ADC Map 6, Grid B10)

Although this 25-year-old house and lot in the Fox Mill development occupy only 1/3 acre, the garden contains several different garden environments with both native and introduced plants—shady herbaceous borders around a brick patio, partly sunny herbaceous borders, a vegetable garden, a woods garden with a waterfall trickling over a quartz boulder into a small pond, and a wetland garden with a fish pond.

❖ **Orzech Garden**

11202 Leatherwood Drive, Reston, VA
(ADC Map 6, Grid E10)

The Orzech garden is located on one of the pathways in the Hunters Woods section of Reston. The garden has slowly evolved as the Orzechs have replaced grass with a combination of native and non-native plants on a steeply sloping lot. The garden includes an aboveground lily pond built to the specifications of a Henry Mitchell design published in *Horticulture* magazine several years ago. The garden is also claimed by a variety of wildlife. A great blue heron often dines at the lily pond. Beavers have not only felled several trees and bushes but have built a dam directly behind the garden. Deer dine on just about everything.

In Vienna:

❖ **Krumviede Garden**

910 Frederick St. SW, Vienna, VA
(ADC Map 14, Grid F3)

This is what a completely novice gardener has done with a typical suburban lot. In a search for a solution to an ivy-covered shaded and sunken area at the rear of the lot, Joann Krumviede discovered VNPS and the world of native plants. Through trial and error, she acquired the skills necessary to expand the beds and make the garden a source of great pleasure as well as earn National Wildlife Federation certification for her backyard habitat.

Call Billie Trump at 703 960-1476 for more information. The tours are free and no reservations are necessary.

PLANT SALE* PLANT SALE* PLANT SALE *PLANT SALE *PLANT SALE *PLANT SALE

The Potowmack Chapter of the VNPS will hold a wildflower sale on **Saturday, May 20 at Green Spring Gardens Park from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.** The sale is part of the Garden Day festivities at the park. As in the past, the many varieties of plants offered will include spring ephemerals, perennials for sun and shade, ferns, and woody plants. **Members willing to donate native plants from their own yards for the sale should bring them to our propagation beds** behind the Green Spring administration building by May 6. If you have any questions about the sale, please call Laura Beaty at 703 534-8746 or Beth Smith at 703 644-1760.

POTOWMACK CHAPTER MEMBERS ADD TO KNOWLEDGE BASE ON LOCAL FLORA

As was reported in *The Washington Post* of March 22, Potowmack Chapter and Smithsonian staff members Stanwyn Shetler and Sylvia Stone Orli, along with colleagues M.S. Abu-Asab and P.M. Peterson, have evidence based on extensive record keeping that a sample of 100 different plants of this region are blooming on average a full week earlier than they were 30 years ago. The authors have submitted their findings for review by the journal *Biodiversity and Conservation* under the title "Earlier plant flowering in spring as a response to global warming in the Washington, DC, area."

Shetler and Orli are also responsible for another recent publication titled *Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of the Washington-Baltimore Area--Part I. Ferns, Fern Allies, Gymnosperms, and Dicotyledons*. The checklist, described more extensively in the March 2000 issue of the VNPS *Bulletin*, is an update of a 50-year-old catalog distributed in 1946 and includes information on 2,001 species, of which 1,221 are native. Copies of the checklist are available free from Stanwyn Shetler by calling 202-786-2996 or by e-mail at shetler.stanwyn@nsmnh.si.edu.

FIELD TRIP OFFERED AT CROW'S NEST

Hai Wiggins, an environmental scientist, and **Jessica Strother**, VNPS Director-At-Large, will lead a field trip at Crow's Nest Forest in Stafford County, Virginia, on **Saturday May 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Revel in this outstanding example of a pristine, mature mesic forest, portions of which border the Potomac River and its wetlands and creeks. The privately owned property contains old growth hardwoods and

chinquapin oaks endemic to calcareous soils, and an extensive variety of spring ephemerals and mushrooms, many of which are still to be discovered on this property. The hike is moderately strenuous. Reservations are required, first come, first served. To register and get directions to the meeting place, call Jessica Strother at 703 323-5278 or e-mail her at sylvatica9@juno.com.

WE HAVE A NEW MEMBERSHIP CHAIR!

Potowmack Chapter member **Linda Haller** has recently taken over the duties of membership chair from retiring chair Anne Crocker. Linda will now be our source for membership forms, mailing labels, and records. Linda works for Accent Landscaping, a firm that designs and cares for the interior gardens of offices, hotels, restaurants, and food chains. She studied horticulture at Northern Virginia Community College, and lives in Vienna, VA. If you need to reach her, call evenings at 703 938-8504, or e-mail her at LChyko@aol.com.

BUT WE NEED A PUBLICITY CHAIR-----

Our chapter will need a new publicity chair in July. The duties of this position are to publicize chapter activities and events (such as speakers, plant sales) and create flyers. Sylvia Orli, current chair, will be happy to advise and work with the new person. If you've wanted to get more involved, and this position interests you, call Marianne Mooney at 703 534-8179 or e-mail her at Moosfy@webtv.net.

SELECTED COMMUNITY EVENTS OF INTEREST TO VNPS MEMBERS

- ❖ **Sunday, May 7. Wetlands Awareness Day and the 25th Anniversary of Huntley Meadows Park.** 12-3 p.m. Visit Huntley Meadows, a VNPS registry site where there will be something for everyone, including kids activities, naturalist interpreters, birthday cake, etc. Call Huntley Meadows Visitor Center, 703 768-2525 for information. **Potomac Overlook Park Open House.** 1-4 p.m. The VNPS, along with other organizations, will have a display while the park celebrates with a heritage festival.
- ❖ **Saturday and Sunday, May 13 & 14. Blandy Garden Fair.** 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. each day. Vendors, guided tours, a water-gardening workshop, children's activities, a native plant presentation with author Nancy Hugo, a bird walk, a stone wall construction demonstration, etc. Blandy Experimental Farm at the State Arboretum of Virginia, 400 Blandy Farm Lane, Boyce, VA 22620. Call 540 837-1758 or e-mail www.virginia.edu/~blandy for more information. \$3 parking fee.
- ❖ **Saturday, May 13. Spring Plant ID Walk.** 2-4:30 p.m. Join a naturalist for an informative walk and learn about our native flowers, trees, and shrubs. Call Long Branch Nature Center, 703 228-6535 for reservations. Free.
- ❖ **Sunday, May 14. Mother's Day Walk at Fort C.F. Smith Park and Historic Site.** 12-1:15 p.m. Enjoy a leisurely stroll and learn the legend and lore of flora found in this lovely park. Adults and children 6th grade and older. Call Long Branch Nature Center, 703 228-6535 for reservations. Free.
- ❖ **Saturday, June 10. National Wildlife Federation Backyard Wildlife Habitat Tour.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The self-guided tour includes six yard and garden habitats with wildlife friendly landscaping in Reston, Herndon, and Great Falls. The gardens were created with the assistance of John C. Magee, chapter member and area landscape designer. Many of the habitats use native plants. Call 703 790-4434 to register. The \$10 fee will support the NWF's Backyard Wildlife Habitat program. **Volunteer Work Days (also Saturday June 24).** Help Huntley Meadows Park preserve its native habitat by pulling up invasive plants. Call Chris Lamond, 703 765-8285 by May 19 if you want to participate.
- ❖ **Saturday, June 17th. Wetland Plant Walk.** 9-10:30 a.m. Learn to identify common wetland plants and their wildlife uses. Call Huntley Meadows Visitors Center, 703 768-2525 for reservations. Free.

<p>Chapter Events Calendar</p> <p>May 6 Rod Simmons walk; Hemlock Overlook Reg. Park 10-1pm</p> <p>May 7 Spring Garden Tours 12-4 pm</p> <p>May 13 Elizabeth Wells walk; Accotink Bay Refuge</p> <p>May 16 Board Mtg. 7 pm</p> <p>May 20 Plant Sale, Green Spring Park 10-3</p> <p>Jun 2-4 State Annual Mtg. Roanoke</p> <p>Jun 8 Board Mtg. 7 pm</p> <p>Jun 20 Program: Cris Fleming on ferns 7:30 pm Green Sp.</p> <p>Jul 29 Denise Gibbs meadow walk 9-11am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">   </p> <p>Potowmack Chapter Virginia Native Plant Society P.O. Box 161 McLean, VA 22101</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please verify your address information and your renewal date on the mailing label.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>printed on recycled paper</i></p>
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