

# POTOWMACK NEWS

Volume 29, No. 3

Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

May June 2011

**MAY 7 STATE-WIDE INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL DAY** Virginia's third annual state-wide invasive plant removal day! The only event of its kind in the nation! Saturday, May 7th, 2011. Find a project at: <http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/invasives/projects.html>

**REGENERATION: RECOVERING A NATURE CENTER FROM AN UNNATURAL INVASIVE PLANT INFESTATION, Thursday, May 12, 7:30p.m., Green Spring Gardens**

Twenty years ago, Arlington's Long Branch Nature Center was suffering from an onslaught of non-native, invasive plants. Even the native plant gardens next to the building were being overrun by invasives like English Ivy. Steve Young, will discuss how staff and volunteer efforts have been "taking back the park" from the invasives, allowing the native plants in the park to regenerate. He will talk about some of the invasive plant problems, solutions, and why we should be hopeful that better stewardship can turn back the non-native plant invasion in our parks. He will also show pictures of some of the park's native plants and wildlife.

**Steve Young** is an Invasives Volunteer in Arlington County and an active member of the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council.

We hope to have an opportunity to sponsor another walk and will let you know through our newsgroup and facebook should we be able to do so.

*Directions to Green Spring Gardens: From Interstate 395, exit at Route 236 West (Little River Turnpike); turn right at Braddock Road and go one block north to park entrance: 4603 Green Spring Rd*



**CHAPTER PLANT SALE, MAY 14, GREEN SPRING GARDENS 9am to 3pm**

On May 14 we kick off the native plant growing season with our first sale of the year. This is Spring Garden Day at Green Spring Gardens, and as in the past, we'll be selling plants from our propagation beds behind the horticulture center. We opened our beds on April 6 and began the process of removing early spring weeds and some native perennials for the upcoming sale. Our beds hosted many nectaring and leaf-eating insects, and attracted many photographers capturing insect activities.

As we learn more and more from research about the inter relationships between soil organisms and plants, and leaf-eating insects, native plants and higher order animals, it makes sense to plant more natives in your yard to help support biodiversity there, and your entire neighborhood and community. Native plants encourage nesting birds. It is in those plants that birds find insects, spiders and caterpillars for feeding chicks constantly and everyday from sunrise to sunset.

While seeking out the right natives for your space, don't forget the host plants for butterflies and moths. As in the past, we'll have information to help you select the right native for your conditions and needs. Should you have an excess of regionally native plants that you'd like to donate to the sale, please let us know. We'd like to receive all donation two weeks prior to the sale to allow them to recover from the digging. Remember, Going Green means Going Native!!

We are looking forward to a fun and busy day and hope that you can join us. Please direct any questions to Laura Beaty: [laurabeaty@mac.com](mailto:laurabeaty@mac.com) or 703 534-8746

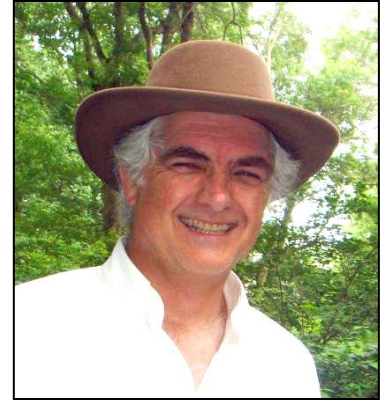
**On a global basis...the two great destroyers of biodiversity are first habitat destruction and second invasion by exotic species.**  
**E. O. Wilson**

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

May is my favorite month. This is when the weather and sunshine combine to make everything grow and thrive. Shade returns to the forest and the songbirds are singing joyously. May is also a great time to venture into the fields and woods as the insects are not yet a nuisance, but everything else is flush with new growth.

I would like to speak with you more directly about invasive exotic flora. You may see throughout this bulletin the small and large ways we have come to address the challenge of these unwanted and destructive interlopers. We have come to recognize the threat they represent to the health and viability of our natural communities and many of us have participated in efforts to control them.

Many sister organizations partner with us and others to improve the community and the forest. Groups such as Arlington County RiP, Falls Church Habitat Restoration Team, Fairfax County Park Authority IMA Program, and The Nature Conservancy Potomac Gorge Invasive Removal Program have been organizing volunteers and hosting work events for many years now and they will all tell you of success stories. Speaking of success stories, please join us to hear Steve Young discuss his work at Long Branch Nature Center on May 12th at Green Spring Gardens.



This challenge of controlling invasive flora comes with concerns. Can we actually make a difference? With the spread of so many different exotics how can we ever hope to overcome their spread? The commercial nursery trade continues to recommend and promote species such as *Hedera helix*, English Ivy. (I have been trying to make a curse word out of this name for years but just haven't found the right inflection.) What is the environmental impact of these species, and what is the impact of our efforts to remove it? Are we tracking in unwanted species on our boots? Are we tracking them out?

A few years ago Meghan Fellows presented some results from her research to us on the success rate for invasive control based on data collected by a team of scientists led by John Dodge and Jan and Galen Meyer. She demonstrated that success is possible, albeit slowly and requiring constant vigilance. But this is the same circumstance that applies to our own yards, whether we are propagating turf grass or more environmentally sustainable native habitats. We need to tend the earth to encourage it to prosper to our advantage and weeding is just part of that process.

So join me this month as Virginia hosts their annual Invasives Control Day on May 7th or at any of the other volunteer opportunities listed in this bulletin. Help make a difference in our yards, our parks, and our community. **Alan Ford**

**INVASIVES CONTROL WORK PARTIES AT TURKEY RUN PARK ALONG THE POTOMAC**

Join with The Nature Conservancy to help control invasive plant species in the Potomac Gorge at Turkey Run Park. Wear work gloves and boots or sturdy shoes, and bring water, snacks, and hand saws or loppers if you have them. Time is 10-1 on each workday. For work days and dates, watch the VNPS listserve or contact Alan Ford: 703.732.5291 or [amford@acm.org](mailto:amford@acm.org) or Mary or Jamie at [volunteermd@tnc.org](mailto:volunteermd@tnc.org).

**WANT TO JOIN THE CHAPTER LISTSERV?** Send an e-mail to [Orlis@si.edu](mailto:Orlis@si.edu) and in the message section write subscribe to vnps-pot, your e-mail address, and your full name. Or visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/vnps-pot/join>

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<p><i>Potowmack News</i> is published 6 times per year, in January, March, May, July, September, and November. The deadline for submissions is the 15th day of the month prior to publication. Call Mary Ann Lawler for more information or e-mail her at <a href="mailto:malawler0@gmail.com">malawler0@gmail.com</a> or Susan Wexelblat at <a href="mailto:susanwexelblat@gmail.com">susanwexelblat@gmail.com</a></p>		

**If you would like your newsletter delivered electronically instead of hard copy, send an email to: [amford@acm.org](mailto:amford@acm.org)**

**WASTE NOT, WANT NOT: TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE PROLIFIC NATURE OF INVASIVE PLANTS IN ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA** by Alexander M. Fetgatter, AmeriCorps volunteer

Birds resume their chirping, bugs resume their crawling, and rodents resume their scurrying. As spring begins to breathe life back into Arlington County's rather dreary and winterized landscape, I cannot help but be daunted by the prospect of our area's infamous invasive plant problem sprouting, budding, crawling, creeping and otherwise forcing its new growth into our environment. As a member of the 2010 – 2011 AmeriCorps Team within the county's Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources I, along with my five team members, am responsible for removing invasive plants from park lands within the Four Mile Run watershed, an area comprising roughly half of Arlington's lands.

Although I consider myself a pacifist for the most part, I am passionate about the idea of killing invasive plants so our native ones have a chance to thrive (I suppose I bend my ethics a bit when it comes to plants). However, the sheer mass of plants my team and I kill day in and day out is enough to make even the most hardened plant-hater feel more than a little guilty. I fully understand the need to rid Arlington's ecosystem of these harmful plants, but I sometimes find it hard to "punish" them for doing the one thing Mother Nature has hard-wired them to do: grow and proliferate.

Just when I was about to resign myself to the label of "plant murderer," my former roommate sent me an article written by Linton Weeks for National Public Radio. Entitled "The Art of War on Invasive Species," this article tells the story of Patterson Clark, an artist who harvests invasive plants from Rock Creek Park in Washington, DC and uses their parts to make various forms of art (<http://www.npr.org/2011/02/28/134054004/the-art-of-war-on-invasive-species>). Reading this article opened my eyes to something I hadn't thought about before: the piles and piles of dead plant matter resulting from our invasive removal might be utilized for useful ends. For example, Weeks makes ink from English Ivy leaves, paper from the inner bark of White Mulberry trees, and paint brushes from the bark of young Multiflora Rose canes. Weeks' example inspired me to do some research to discover some of the uses to which people might be able to put the invasive plant material we pull out of Arlington's parks. I surely wouldn't feel so bad slaying enemy plants if I knew their bodies were being put to good use.

One invasive we have been finding in our parks recently is Purple Dead Nettle. Albeit small in stature, this plant's tendency to cover large swaths of ground does not bode well for its native competition. According to Rebecca Lerner in her blog, "First Ways: Urban Foraging and Other Wilderness Adventures," (<http://firstways.com/2011/02/17/purple-dead-nettle-a-weed-good-to-eat/>) one way to combat this plant is to eat it! Rebecca recommends blending this plant with other foods (e.g., in smoothies, etc.) because its texture is fuzzy and its flavor is bland and grassy. However, it is said to be high in antioxidants and other nutrients, so we may all benefit from digging in to this invasive delight.

The Virginia Department of Forestry, in partnership with Virginia Tech and local woodworkers, conducted research on some potential commercial uses for Ailanthus (Tree of Heaven), including pulpwood, firewood, natural lump charcoal and lumber ([http://www.dof.virginia.gov/health/resources/pub\\_Ailanthus-Control-and-Utilization.pdf](http://www.dof.virginia.gov/health/resources/pub_Ailanthus-Control-and-Utilization.pdf)). The use in which I am most interested is lumber. At the end of a long day working to remove invasives, I think it would be superbly satisfying to relax out on the deck while sitting in a rocking chair made exclusively of Ailanthus wood. Talk about poetic justice.

Bamboo is one of the more aggressive spreaders among Arlington's invasives, almost literally spilling across private property into county park lands. According to Chris Meehan in the BuildDirect Green Blog ([http://blog.builddirect.com/greenbuilding/19\\_uses\\_bamboo/](http://blog.builddirect.com/greenbuilding/19_uses_bamboo/)), there are at least 19 different ways humans use bamboo in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. One of the more artistic examples is its use to build an Indonesian instrument called the angklung. It consists of tuned bamboo tubes on a bamboo frame. To make music, simply shake and strike the instrument simultaneously.

The examples I've provided here are relatively small-scale and mostly for fun (I would have run the risk of losing you long before this point had I delved into the science behind turning Ailanthus into charcoal). This is not to imply that the harvested invasive plant material, if collected on an appropriately large scale, cannot be used to create any number of currently mass-produced commercial goods. The benefit to our environment would be two-fold: less native plant material and other potentially harmful substances would need to be utilized, while problem plants would be taken out of problem areas to allow native plants to fill in the gaps they leave. That may be far off in the future, but for now I would probably be happy just to sit in my Ailanthus rocking chair with my White Mulberry newspaper and a Purple Dead Nettle smoothie, listening to the soothing sounds of a bamboo angklung.





Photo by R.H. Simmons.



Photo by R.H. Simmons.



Photo by R.H. Simmons.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** Scenes from a several-day project in fall of 2009 with the **City of Alexandria**, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities – Horticulture and Natural Resources Section, and the **National Park Service** – George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP), including assistance from **Arlington County**, to eradicate 17-acres of *Phragmites* and *Ampelopsis brevipedunculata* along the GWMP between Daingerfield Island and Potomac Greens.

**Top left:** City Assistant Horticulturist, Guillermo Paz, watches as NPS technician carries ladder (for use as a “snowshoe” to bounce over mats of 6-10’ deep vines)

**Top right:** Karsten Ziemann of Arlington County with

pressurized hose for herbicide spraying through a “tunnel” of vines and *Phragmites*. **Bottom left:** results. All plants in the photos are invasive exotics! (except smothered trees); willow at upper center is *Salix fragilis*.

**FAIRFAX COUNTY’S INVASIVE MANAGEMENT AREA (IMA) PROGRAM**

The IMA program is a volunteer-based project that is working towards habitat restoration. Help us remove invasive plants, learn new species of invasive plants, and work outdoors during the following workdays:

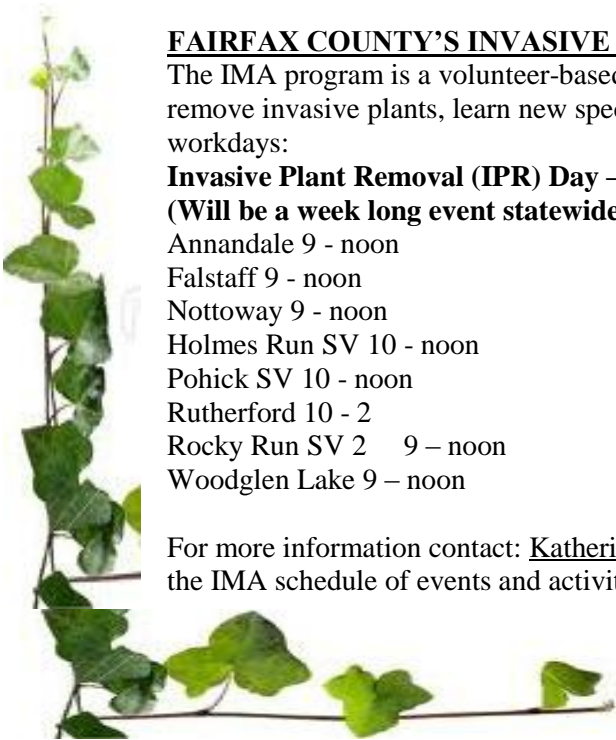
**Invasive Plant Removal (IPR) Day –May 7**

**(Will be a week long event statewide)**

- Annandale 9 - noon
- Falstaff 9 - noon
- Nottoway 9 - noon
- Holmes Run SV 10 - noon
- Pohick SV 10 - noon
- Rutherford 10 - 2
- Rocky Run SV 2 9 – noon
- Woodglen Lake 9 – noon

- May 18, 9:00 – 12:00 Nottoway workday
- May 21, 9:30 – 12:00 Huntley Meadows workday
- June 4, 9:00 – 12:00 McLean Hunt Estate workday
- June 25, 10:00 – 12:00 Pohick Stream Valley workday

For more information contact: [Katherine.Frederick@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Katherine.Frederick@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703 324 8681. Check out the IMA schedule of events and activities at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/nrp-ima.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/nrp-ima.htm).





**ARLINGTON COUNTY RiP PROGRAM.** Free. For ages 9 to adult. Come and help rescue our parks from the alien plant invaders! We meet monthly at the locations listed below. If you have your own garden gloves and tools, please bring them along. Some supplies will be provided. Be sure to come dressed for work, wear sturdy shoes, long pants, long sleeves, and perhaps a hat. You may want to bring along a reusable water bottle. Please register by email or calling to assure that you have the most up-to-date information.

**Second Saturdays @ Lacey Woods, 10 am to noon**      **Second Sundays @ Gulf Branch Nature Center, 1 to 4pm,**  
**Third Saturdays @ Tuckahoe Park, 10 am to noon**      **Third Sundays @ Long Branch Nature Center, 2 to 5pm,**  
**Fourth Saturdays @ Benjamin Banneker Park**      **Fourth Saturdays @ Barcroft Park, 9:30 - 1**  
 Register at [Sarcher@arlingtonva.us](mailto:Sarcher@arlingtonva.us) or 702-228-1862. Check the website for details on location.  
[www.arlingtonva.us/invasiveplants](http://www.arlingtonva.us/invasiveplants)

### **FALLS CHURCH HABITAT RESTORATION TEAM Upcoming Events:**

Please join the Falls Church Habitat Restoration Team in restoring the local ecosystem in city parks. We will be removing damaging invasive plants as well as planting natives that benefit our local birds and butterflies.

**May 21, 2011      Hamlett/Rees Tract      10am-Noon**

**May 22, 2011      Native Plant Sale Pickup– Cherry Hill Park      1pm to 4pm**

For more information: *For more information: contact Melissa Teates, 703-538-6961 or [melanite@verizon.net](mailto:melanite@verizon.net).* The City of Falls Church is committed to the letter and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request a reasonable accommodation for any type of disability call 703-248-5016 (TTY 711)  
*Event Locations:*

**Hamlett/Rees Tract** – From West Street head east on Broad Street/Rt. 7. Turn right onto South Virginia Avenue then right again to stay on South Virginia Avenue. Then a right onto Rollins, the street dead-ends at the Park. Enter from the end of Rollins Street. \*More parking is available at TJ Elementary School. Follow the signs from the parking lot.

### **BARCROFT BOG IMPROVEMENTS**

**By Marty Nielsen**

The Barcroft magnolia bog and surrounding park is receiving much-deserved attention, after being named the “most ecologically significant natural site owned by [Arlington] County”, in the Natural Resources Management Plan approved by the Arlington County board in 2010.

VNPS volunteers have been working to control invasive plants there every winter since 2007, with the backing of the Arlington County RIP program. The county now has Americorps volunteers working there, and the Arlington Regional Master Naturalists ([www.armn.org](http://www.armn.org)) have begun an invasive removal project.

Pictured are volunteers from our January event. Thanks to everyone who has helped over the years! **Marty**



## **LOCAL EVENTS AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Sat. Apr. 30 Trillium Trek** 8:30am – 4:00pm. Adults. Travel to Linden, VA to see one of the largest (millions!) Great White Trillium displays in the world! This area is resplendent with many (often rare) wildflowers and trees, including native orchids and a variety of wildlife to observe. On the somewhat rocky two-mile trail we'll discuss plant folklore, natural history, identification and ethnobotany. Before we head home, we'll stop to purchase local country crafts and apple products. Dress for hiking; bring water and a bag lunch to eat on the trail. Van leaves from Lubber Run Center parking lot, 300 N Park Dr., Arlington, VA 22203 or will pick up from Ballston Metro Station with advance request: 703-228-6535 **\$30 fee due upon registration. Register at <https://registration.arlingtonva.us>. Program #: 632941-A**

**Tues. May 5 Birding Trip to Thompson Wildlife Management Area** 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM Adults. Join us on this exciting excursion where we hope to see many spring migrants, including Cerulean Warblers and Kentucky Warblers along the wildflower laden trails. Participants should dress for the weather and bring binoculars, a bag lunch and a drink and snacks for the day. For more information call 703-228-3403. Meet at the Lubber Run Recreation Center parking lot, 300 N. Park Dr., Arlington, VA 22203. **\$35 fee due upon registration. Register at <https://registration.arlingtonva.us>. Program #: 632841-G**

**Sun. May 8 Appalachian Spring at the Thompson (8:30 am - 3 pm)** Leader: Stephanie Mason. Spring rains, warming temperatures, and longer hours of daylight ignite a great burst of life in the valleys and ridges of the Appalachian Mountains. Nowhere is this more evident than at the Thompson Wildlife Management Area in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Linden, VA, a wildlife reserve that is well known for its botanical diversity. The floral display is especially rich in early May, when the hillsides are covered with millions of large-flowered trillium, along with other species such as yellow lady's-slipper, showy orchis, pennywort, and wood betony. Our field trip will focus on the rich wildflower display, as well as spring migrants, butterflies, and other wildlife. We'll cover around 3 miles at a leisurely pace, but there will be uphill and downhill walking on rocks and uneven trails. Registration required. **Members: \$28; Nonmembers: \$39** For information or to register call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for registration form.

**Sun. May 22. Butterflies of Blue Mountain (full-day field trip)** Leaders Dick Smith and Stephanie Mason Blue Mountain, near Linden, VA, is best known for its spectacular wildflower display earlier in the month at the Thompson Wildlife Management Area. We'll search for the rich diversity of butterflies that can be found here at the lower elevation Lake Thompson. We'll hope to find swallowtails, including the uncommon Appalachian Tiger Swallowtail; the Appalachian Azure and other blues; plus other species both common and uncommon. We'll walk up to several miles, with some uphill and downhill over uneven terrain. Members \$30; nonmembers \$42. Registration required. For information or to register call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for registration form.

**Thurs. Jun 9 (7:30-9:30 pm) and Sat. Jun 11 (morning field trip) Natural Heritage Series: Suitland Bog. Leader Cris Fleming.** Suitland Bog is a tiny but perfect coastal plain "magnolia bog," the best preserved of over 30 bogs that once occurred in the Beltsville-Suitland area. Surrounded by swamp magnolia and swamp azalea, this small bog contains many typical bog species such as sphagnum moss, bog clubmoss, northern pitcher-plant, and sundews. At least 20 state-rare species still occur in the bog, including a delicate orchid named rose pogonia, as well as red milkweed, twisted spikerush, ten-angled pipewort, and sheep laurel. Thursday's class will include slides of plants found in Suitland Bog, as well as a discussion of bog formation, types of bogs, and characteristics of various bog types. Saturday's field trip to the bog, which we'll explore by boardwalk, is by special permission and is limited to 14 people. Members \$38; nonmembers \$52.50. Lecture only: members \$17; nonmembers \$24 Registration required. For information or to register call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for registration form.

**Thurs. Jun 9 (7:30-9:30 pm) Sun. June 12 (9 am-3 pm) The Natural History of Caterpillars Leader Nate Erwin** Here's a chance to learn about caterpillars' many forms and their fascinating life histories, including defense strategies. We'll find and identify local caterpillars and discuss their host plant associations. With Nate Erwin, director of the Smithsonian Insect Zoo, we'll combine an evening presentation at Woodend with exploration at Hughes Hollow, near Poolesville, MD. Members \$38; nonmembers \$52.50 Lecture only: members \$17; nonmembers \$24 Registration required. For information or to register call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for registration form.

## **LOCAL EVENTS AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES (Continued from previous page)**

**Sun. Jun 12 Butterfly Gardening** 2 pm Hidden Oaks Nature Center Enjoy a presentation by Dr. Dexter Hinckley on 15 species of butterflies, host plants for their caterpillars and nectar plant suggestions for adults. Learn techniques for attracting these garden jewels and area butterfly gardens you can visit.

Register at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hiddenoaks/public.htm>

## **EXCERPTS FROM “INVASIVE EXOTIC PLANTS THAT THREATEN PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS IN THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA”**

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Virginia Native Plant Society have identified 108 invasive exotic plants that threaten natural areas and lands in Virginia (VADCR 2009) and Swearingen et al. (2010) include 80 plants from a list of nearly 280 invasive exotic plant species documented within the mid-Atlantic region. Largely overlapping with these and other regional lists are eighty species that were documented for the City of Alexandria, Virginia during natural resource assessments and vegetation surveys by the City Dept. of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities (RPCA), Horticulture and Natural Resources Section.

Hundreds of exotic plants growing in a variety of habitats, such as Queen Anne’s Lace (*Daucus carota*), Indian Strawberry (*Potentilla indica*), Field Garlic (*Allium vineale*), etc., occur in the City of Alexandria. Some of these exotic weeds are extremely widespread and visible for several months during a particular season, such as early spring-blooming annuals of lawns and open disturbed areas like Chickweeds (*Stellaria* spp.) and various Speedwells (*Veronica* spp.). Others, like Mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), Bermuda Grass (*Cynodon dactylon* var. *dactylon*), and Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), are familiar, difficult to eradicate weeds of lawn and garden. **However, only exotic plants that are especially invasive, damaging, and persistent, including species that produce a pervasive seed bank and those that prevent natural succession by native plants, are included on the following list.**

Invasive exotic plants occurring within the City of Alexandria are actively monitored by the RPCA, Horticulture and Natural Resources Section; which also coordinates and oversees various control efforts, including joint projects with other City depts. and staff, partner organizations, and volunteers.

\* Species that are particularly invasive and destructive in Alexandria include:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| *Garlic Mustard ( <i>Alliaria petiolata</i> )                             | *Japanese Honeysuckle ( <i>Lonicera japonica</i> )       |
| *Common Thistle ( <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> )                                | *Burning Bush ( <i>Euonymus alatus</i> )                 |
| *Lesser Celandine ( <i>Ficaria verna</i> ) [= <i>Ranunculus ficaria</i> ] | *Amur honeysuckle ( <i>Lonicera maackii</i> )            |
| *Ground Ivy ( <i>Glechoma hederacea</i> )                                 | *Multiflora Rose ( <i>Rosa multiflora</i> )              |
| *Sericea Bushclover ( <i>Lespedeza cuneata</i> )                          | *Wineberry ( <i>Rubus phoenicolasius</i> )               |
| *Japanese Stiltgrass ( <i>Microstegium vimineum</i> )                     | *Tree-of-Heaven ( <i>Ailanthus altissima</i> )           |
| *Porcelainberry ( <i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i> )                    | *Mimosa, Silk Tree ( <i>Albizia julibrissin</i> )        |
| *Oriental Bittersweet ( <i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i> )                    | *White Mulberry ( <i>Morus alba</i> )                    |
| *Winter-creeper ( <i>Euonymus fortunei</i> )                              | *Callery Pear, Bradford Pear ( <i>Pyrus calleryana</i> ) |
| *English Ivy ( <i>Hedera helix</i> )                                      | *European White Willow ( <i>Salix alba</i> )             |
|   | *Siberian Elm ( <i>Ulmus pumila</i> )                    |

**A complete list of the 80 invasive exotic plants in Alexandria that are especially invasive, damaging, and persistent can be found at City website: <http://alexandriava.gov/22560>**

## **INVASIVE FOREST PLANTS IN FAIRFAX COUNTY**

Download a brochure on invasive forest pests in Fairfax County at:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/downloads/invasiveforestplants.pdf>





**THE WORST INVASIVE EXOTIC PLANT SPECIES IN ARLINGTON COUNTY PARKS**

These results were based on observed distribution in the following parks: Pimmit Run, Gulf Branch, Donaldson Run, Zachary Taylor, Windy Run, C.F. Smith, Lacy Woods, Benjamin Banneker, Madison Manor, Bon Air, Bluemont, Glencarlyn, Long Branch, Barcroft, Fort Scott, Upton Hill, and Powhatan Springs. They fairly represent distribution within our larger, more natural parkland, but surveys were not conducted within the many multi-use recreational parks, nor on federal properties with the exception of Pimmit Run. Note: Not all alien plants were included, only those species considered to be invasive and represent a potential impact to local forest ecosystems.



Akebia, Five-leaf, *Akebia quinata*  
 Clematis, Sweet Autumn, *Clematis ternifolia*  
 Euonymus, Creeping *Euonymus fortunei*  
 Garlic Mustard, *Alliaria petiolata*  
 Honeysuckle, Bush, *Lonicera maackii*  
 Honeysuckle, Japanese, *Lonicera japonica*  
 Ivy, English *Hedera helix*  
 Japanese Stiltgrass *Microstegium vimineum*  
 Knotweed, Japanese *Polygonum cuspidatum*

Lesser Celendine *Ranunculus ficaria*  
 Mile-A-Minute-Weed *Persicaria perfoliata* (*Poly. perfoliatum*)  
 Multi-flora Rose *Rosa multiflora*  
 Oriental Bittersweet *Celastrus orbiculatus*  
 Periwinkle *Vinca minor*  
 Porcelainberry *Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*  
 Wineberry *Rubus phoenicolasius*  
 Wisteria, Chinese *Wisteria sinensis*  
 Wisteria, Japanese *Wisteria floribunda*  
 Yam, Chinese *Dioscorea oppositifolia*

**For a spreadsheet of all 72 invasive plant species threatening these parks, please email: [Gzell@arlingtonva.us](mailto:Gzell@arlingtonva.us)**

**Chapter Events Calendar**



- May 12 **Un-natural Invasions Program**  
Green Spring 7:30pm
- Jun 12 **Board Meeting 7:00**  
Green Spring

**Potowmack Chapter  
 Virginia Native Plant Society  
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