

FALL

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

# POTOWMACK NEWS

*Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society*

VOLUME 30, No. 4, OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2012

## THE STATE OF OUR CHAPTER



BY ALAN FORD

This issue of the newsletter is a little different from others as we have chosen to use it as our annual report to you on the state of our chapter. This year we celebrate 30 years as a chartered organization and we have much about which to be proud. We have over 375 memberships representing about 450 members. While we would always appreciate growth, these numbers reflect a strong and loyal group willing to support our mission with their contributions of time, money, and expertise. This is both gratifying and deeply appreciated.

Our long standing and supportive relationship with Green Spring Gardens continues as we hold our meetings in their meeting room and maintain our propagation beds behind the main building. The contributions provided by Mary Olien and her staff are many and varied and we are thankful to have such support and assistance from the Fairfax County Park Authority. Our twice yearly plant sales are scheduled to coincide with the well-organized events put on by the Friends of Green Spring.

I would like to commend a few of our Board members on their efforts this past year. Diana Carter has made an invaluable contribution to our chapter through her efforts as Programs Chair. I am glad to report we had record attendance at our talks this past year. We hosted nine regular walks and several weekday evening walks, a new initiative to provide shorter local walks in our community. We would not have had such success without the important work Diana provided. Bob Yacovissi has been our Membership Chair for three years and has been an active and invaluable Board Member. His dedication is deeply appreciated.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

## Upcoming Events

### October

#### **Potowmack Annual Meeting**

*October 14, 1:00-4:00 pm*

Finding Wildflowers in the Washington-Baltimore Area, a special presentation from Botany Chair Cris Fleming. Cris was the principal author of the 1995 book with the same title. In this talk, she will discuss recent threats to the native plants of our region and will revisit five key sites covered in the book. Autographed copies of the book will be for sale.

A field trip to Scott's Run will follow the lecture.

### November

#### **The Effects of Changing Climate**

*November 15, 7:30-9:00 pm*

Dr. David Inouye of the University of Maryland will explore how mountain wildflowers and pollinators are responding to a changing climate.

*\*Note: All events are free and open to the public. Meet at Green Spring Gardens.*

## THE STATE OF OUR CHAPTER (CONT'D FROM COVER)

Pat Salamone has served as Secretary for four years and provides a constant and reasoned voice to our Board. I am deeply grateful to her for her support and encouragement. Please look for the green name tags of Board members whenever you participate in one of our events and thank them for their efforts.



Alan Ford, Chapter President

### FINANCES

Our chapter has been blessed with a strong and consistent revenue stream from two primary sources. Our members contribute 40% of their annual dues to the chapter and our biannual plant sales generate a significant portion of our revenues. When I accepted the chapter presidency we had a positive balance sheet with over \$40,000 in savings. Our annual operating budget has been around \$15,000 for about a decade. IRS regulations for non-profits limits the total retained savings and the Board proposed and the membership agreed to operate a net negative budget for the past two years. We contributed significantly to the Flora of Virginia Project and commissioned a set of four original watercolors from B.J. Opfer, artist and chapter member, and used the images to develop a set of greeting cards for promotions and sales. As you can see from our proposed FY 2013 budget, the Board has proposed a return to a balanced budget. I can report our current balance sheet has over \$33,000.

### COMMITMENT

We remain active and committed to our mission statement to protect the diversity and viability of the native flora of Virginia through conservation, education, and advocacy. Our Board members and volunteers accept as many opportunities as we can to speak with the public at large on the merits of preserving green space and encouraging the use of native flora when landscaping. The increasing interest in native plants is gratifying and we recognize the efforts made by our members, our sister organizations, and our effective and dynamic allies such as Dr. Doug Tallamy whose book, 'Bringing Nature Home' has served to popularize and spread the message of the importance of diversity and of native flora to support the charismatic fauna such as songbirds and butterflies which we all enjoy. Many of our members contribute to this effort including Diana Carter who has been organizing and developing our public lectures and guided walks for the past year. Shirley Gay, her predecessor as Programs Chair, provided ten years of exemplary service to the chapter and the State VNPS by organizing the Annual Workshop hosted each March in Richmond.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

## Potowmack Chapter Board Officers

### President

Alan Ford 703-732-5291

### Vice President

Vacant

### Secretary

Pat Salamone

### Treasurer

Vacant

## Committee Chairs

### Botany

Cris Fleming

### Conservation

Rod Simmons

### Education

Scott Knudsen

### Membership

Bob Yacovissi

### Newsletter

Vacant

### Programs

Diana Carter

### Propagation/ Plant Sales

Laura Beaty

### Publications

Roberta Day

### Publicity

Vacant

### Site Registry

John Dodge, Rod Simmons

### Technology

Jenn Truong

### Member-at-Large

Marty Nielson  
Steve Young

Submissions to *Potowmack News*  
should be sent to  
The Editor at  
vnps.pot@gmail.com

Potowmack Chapter  
Virginia Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 5311  
Arlington, VA 22205  
www.vnps-pot.org

### VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS

Many of our members contribute generously of their time and expertise to our chapter. Two major efforts to which we make this commitment are our propagation beds and the plant sales, and the Invasive Plant Management programs.

Laura Beaty, Propagation Chair, has led our propagation efforts for over ten years. Her cheerful and supportive attitude has encouraged many of us and she is a wonderful and dynamic teacher. She has provided several workshops on plant propagation and they are always well attended. Laura is supported by over twenty volunteers who work each Wednesday morning from April to October, staff the two plant sales, and who contributed a total of 1100 volunteer hours last year and over 1000 hours so far this year.

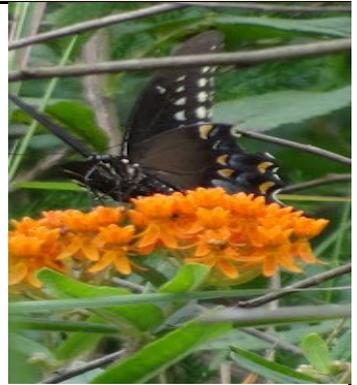


Photo credit: Marty Nielsen

Many of our members have also made significant contributions to the Invasive Management programs in our region, sponsored by Arlington County, the City of Falls Church, Fairfax County, National Park Service, and The Nature Conservancy. Marty Nielsen has been working with Arlington RiP committed to Four Mile Run and the Magnolia Bog. Margaret Chatham has been making a significant difference in the struggle with Wavyleaf Basketgrass at Fraser Preserve. Jan and Gaylan Meyer and John Dodge have been working with the Fairfax County IMA conducting surveys of IMA locations, capturing data on the effects of invasive removal. Many other members are site leaders for the IMA program. Jenn Truong has for many years been active in organizing and leading volunteer efforts in Arlington and the region, including organizing the Invasive Lunch program. These dedicated volunteers are making a difference in our community, please join me in thanking them for their efforts.

Our chapter also accepted many opportunities to speak in the community about the importance of native plants in preserving biodiversity, the need for protecting public lands, and promoting better landscaping practices; reduced use of pesticides and herbicides, increasing low mow or no mow areas wherever possible, adding native species to landscaping plans which can lower watering requirements and improve biodiversity. Scott Knudsen, our Education Chair has coordinated our outreach volunteers including Scott Fredericks, Donna Murphy, and Lesa Schmidt.

Finally, I want to recognize Becky Super who has worked so hard for us as Publicity Chair for several years and then took on the Newsletter from Mary Ann Lawler who had been longtime editor. Becky helped us organize and spread our message by getting news of our events to the many papers and organizations interested in them. She also worked to improve our look in print and on the web. Unfortunately, her work and school commitments have forced her to step down from these roles.

### BOARD PARTICIPATION

I would like to add a note regarding the chapter leadership. We could not get our work done without each of the members of our Board who provide their time and invaluable expertise. I am glad to state that every one of our Board members has agreed to continue to serve next year. However you should note there are several vacancies in very important positions. We have no one standing for Treasurer, the role devolving to me. We are also missing a Newsletter Editor, a consequence of which is the tardy publication of this very document. Finally we are lacking a Publicity Chair, placing an additional burden on Diana Carter to advertise our events. The Programs Committee is looking for people interested in our walks and talks to help plan and host these events. The Education Committee is looking for people willing to staff information tables at many events countywide. We are often invited to attend events and are unable to do so for lack of staff. Please consider joining us in these efforts. Contact me at your convenience. Thank you.

# Potowmack Chapter — Year in Reflection

- Oct. 20 **Adventures in the Eastern Old Growth Forests** - Dr. Joan Maloof discussed her new book, including description of 26 majestic forests and their rich diversity.
- Nov. 5 **Fall at Huntley Meadows** - Park Manager Kevin Monroe led a walk through this beautiful fresh water marsh ecosystem. With the recent reopening of the restored boardwalk this was an exciting look at the flora and fauna of the marsh.
- Nov. 10 **Promoting Native Bee Abundance and Diversity with Native Plants** - Maria Van Dyke, Program Coordinator for Virginia Working Landscapes, discussed native plant research she has participated in through Rutgers University, the NRCS Plant Research Center in Cape May and Xerces Society.
- Feb. 2 **A Bee's Eye View of Native Plants** - Sam Droege, Biologist, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center .
- Feb. 16 **Plants and Pollinators: A Perfect Partnership** - Laura Beaty, Propagation Chair, VNPS
- Mar. 4 **Winter Tree Identification - Prince William Forest Park** – led by Elizabeth Rives, environmental educator, Tree Steward and Citizen Forester. Training and field trip in diverse Coastal Plain and Piedmont forest. Co-sponsored with Prince William Wildflower Society.
- Mar. 15 **Landscape Design for Pollinator Diversity** -Susan Abraham, MLD, owner & principal designer of Lush Life Sustainable Landscape Designs.
- Apr. 7 **Early Spring Wildflower Walk - Ball's Bluff** – led by John DeMary. Early bloomers on calcareous soils and alluvial floodplain. Co-sponsored with Piedmont Chapter.
- Apr. 11 **Weekday Wildflower Walk - Wakefield Park** led by John Dodge, Biologist and Board Member
- Apr. 14 **Native Plant Propagation Workshop** - Laura Beaty, Propagation Chair
- Apr. 19 **Pollen as a Window into the Past: How Ecologists Use Pollen to Reconstruct Past Vegetation** - Dr. Emily W. B. (Russell) Southgate, Author & Adjunct Professor of Biology at Hood College.
- Apr. 21 **Peak Season Spring Wildflower Walk - Turkey Run Park** - Cris Fleming, Botany Chair.
- May 2 **Barcroft Magnolia Bog** – led by Marty Nielsen, Board Member. Globally rare plant community.
- May 8 **Viburnum ID Field Trip – Reston** – led by Margaret Chatham and Ginny Yacovissi, Potowmack Chapter members
- May 17 **Native Plant Cultivars in the Designed Landscape** - Carla Thomas of Nature By Design discussed the advantages and disadvantages of using native plant cultivars.
- May 19 **Potowmack Chapter Spring Native Plant Sale**
- Jul. 10 **Riverbend Park Botanical Walk: Natural History, Folklore and Ethnobotany** - led by Alonso Abugattas, Arlington County, Potowmack Chapter member
- July 12 **Fern ID Workshop** - led by Cris Fleming, Botany Chair
- Aug. 4 **Native Woody Plant Propagation Workshop** - Laura Beaty, Propagation Chair
- Aug. 11 **Summer Trees of Park Fairfax** - led by Scott Knudsen, Education Chair. Summer tree identification, native habitat, and good uses for trees in the landscape.
- Aug. 25 **Summer Plants of Clark's Crossing** - led by Marty Nielsen and Diana Carter, Programs Chair
- Sep. 20 **Native Plant Seed Collection and Propagation: Techniques to Break Dormancy of Local Native Plant Seeds** - Lisa Bright discussed techniques used by Earth Sangha for propagation of the local ecotype plants they are propagating – currently more than 220 species
- Sep. 22 **Potowmack Chapter Fall Native Plant Sale**
- Sep. 23 **Seed Collection Field Trip - Huntley Meadows Park** - Lisa Bright – This field trip was a continuation of the Sep. 20<sup>th</sup> program on native plant seed propagation.
- Oct. 14 **Potowmack Chapter Annual Meeting—Finding Wildflowers in the Washington-Baltimore Area**, a special presentation from Botany Chair Cris Fleming. Cris was the principal author of a 1995 book with the same title. In this talk, she discusses recent threats to the native plants of our region and revisits five key sites covered in the book.
- Oct. 14 **Scott's Run Nature Preserve** – led by Cris Fleming following the lecture.

VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
POTOMACK CHAPTER

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**To: C/O Pat Salamone  
Virginia Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 5311  
Arlington, VA 22205**

If you cannot attend the annual meeting, please send in this ballot by October 6 .

## 2012 - 2013 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Board of the Potowmack Chapter VNPS is presenting the following slate of officers for the 2012-2013 year, which begins on November 1. This slate will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on October 14.

**Note that we are recruiting for several vacant positions on the Board of Directors. Please consider volunteering for these important positions. If you have questions, please contact Alan Ford at vnps.pot@gmail.com.**

### SLATE OF OFFICERS

**President:** Alan Ford  
**Vice President:** Steve Young (Write-in)  
**Secretary:** Pat Salamone  
**Treasurer:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in)

## FY2013 BUDGET APPROVAL

The Board of the Potowmack Chapter VNPS is presenting the following proposed budget for fiscal year 2013.

Note that the board has decide to return to operating on a balanced budget for the coming year.

### 2012-2013 Potowmack Chapter Ballot

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print),  
approve of the slate of nominees and budget.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

.....  
*(For use of spouse in family membership)*

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print),  
approve of the slate of nominees and budget.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

	FY 2012 Budget	FY 2013 Budget
<b>INCOME</b>		
Donations	\$500	\$600
Member Dues	\$4,000	\$6,000
Sales	\$8,000	\$7,500
Other	\$200	\$300
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$12,700</b>	<b>\$14,400</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Administrative	\$980	\$800
Membership	\$250	\$100
Registry	\$250	\$100
Programs	\$1,750	\$2,800
Education	\$2,000	\$500
Newsletter	\$3,500	\$3,500
Internships	\$4,000	\$3,500
Plant Sales	\$2,300	\$1,500
Printing/Publications	\$-0-	\$200
Merchandise	\$400	\$400
Special Board Action	\$2,000	\$1,000
Flora of Virginia	\$5,000	\$-0-
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$17,430</b>	<b>\$14,400</b>

## IN MEMORIAM

We note with sadness the passing of three founding members of VNPS and the Potowmack Chapter this past year. Our community has lost some amazing people who shared their appreciation of native plants with so many of us over the years.

### **Gretchen Minners of Bethesda, MD**

Gretchen was very active in the gardening community. Her garden featured native plants and she gave many talks on the value and beauty of native plants to various groups.

### **Dr. Larry Morse of Washington, DC**

Larry was a botanist who served as the Botany Chair on the VNPS Board of Directors for a number of years. During his career he worked as a botanist for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, and NatureServe until his retirement in 2006.

### **Norma Vermillion**

Norma first joined VNPS in 1982 and was a very active VNPS and Potowmack charter member. She served as the Potowmack Chapter president in 1997-1998, in addition to serving in multiple Committee Chair positions and on the Botanical Survey and Plant Rescue teams.

## NEW GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE

B.J. Opfer, chapter member and local watercolor artist has completed another series of original paintings of songbirds and native plants. We have printed a new series of gift cards. The cards are available in sets of four for \$15. The sale of these cards support our mission of conservation, restoration and education about the importance of native flora to supporting the biodiversity and maintaining habitat. They are available at our talks and plant sales.



American Goldfinch  
Lyreleaf Sage



Northern Cardinal  
Flowering Dogwood



Carolina Wren  
Partridgeberry



Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Northern Red Oak

## How You Can Help?

### **Falls Church Habitat Restoration Team**

Help restore the local ecosystem in city parks. Remove invasives and plant natives that will then benefit local birds and butterflies. For more information contact Melissa Teates at 703-538-6961 or [melanite@verizon.net](mailto:melanite@verizon.net)

### **Arlington County Remove Invasive Plants (RiP) Program**

Help rescue Arlington parks from alien plant invaders! Bring your own tools. For more information contact Sarah Archer at 703-228-1862 or [sarcher@arlingtonva.us](mailto:sarcher@arlingtonva.us)

### **Fairfax County's Invasive Management Area (IMA) Program**

Remove invasive plants and learn about new species. For more information contact Erin Stocksclaeder at 703-324-8681 or [erin.stocksclaeder@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:erin.stocksclaeder@fairfaxcounty.gov)



## POTOWMACK CHAPTER FALL WALKS

ALL CHAPTER PROGRAMS AND WALKS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. PLEASE CHECK OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND YAHOO LIST SERVE FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ABOUT ALL

**October 14**

**Scotts Run Nature Preserve  
7400 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22102**

Cris Fleming, Potowmack Chapter Botany Chair will lead a Fall wildflower walk at Scott's Run Nature Preserve immediately after the chapter annual meeting.

**If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically  
please contact Alan Ford at: [amford@acm.org](mailto:amford@acm.org)**

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