

POTOWMACK NEWS

Volume 25. No.2

Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Mar/Apr 2007

THE RISE OF INVASIVE ORNAMENTALS, THURSDAY, MARCH 8

On March 8 at 7:30 pm **John Peter Thompson**, Chairman and President, The Behnke Nurseries Company and Secretary of the National Invasive Species Council Advisory Committee, will give a presentation titled "The Rise of Invasive Ornamentals: Plant Collecting and Landscape Traditions" at Green Spring Gardens Park. Mr. Thompson is a national leader in the landscaping and nursery industry in promoting environmentally appropriate plants and discouraging invasive exotics. He will explain why humans want to tame nature and simplify the seemingly chaotic diversity around them by planting only a few species that nothing eats, survive floods or droughts, and are easy to propagate—a perfect recipe for exotic invasive plants. *Directions to Green Spring Gardens Park: From Interstate 395, exit at Route 236 West (Little River Turnpike); turn right at Braddock Road and go 1 block north to park entrance*

CHAPTER WALK—PINE BARRENS COMMUNITIES, SATURDAY, MARCH 31

Rod Simmons, our eminent regional field ecologist and registry chair, will lead a joint VNPS/MNPS Field Trip to visit the Pine Barrens Communities of the Washington area at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center on Saturday, March 31, from 10am to 2pm. We'll see extensive old-age, upland Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*) - Oak - Heath Forest and lowland Pitch Pine, seepage bogs and forest communities, all of which are globally rare. We'll also see dwarf Chinquapin Oak (*Quercus prinoides*), Chinquapin, lots of ericad species, and many other plants of sandy soils. The spring wildflowers of the sand barrens which may be in bloom are the wild lupine, american ipecac and vernal iris. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water and snacks or lunch. The walk will be cancelled for rain but not for light drizzle. *Directions: Take 295 north through D.C from Woodrow Wilson Bridge (495) until it becomes the BW Parkway (295) at the Maryland line. Stay on the BW Parkway north and look for the Powder Mill Road exit (past the Greenbelt exit). Exit onto Powder Mill Road and head east 2-3 miles and look for entrance to Patuxent Wildlife Research Center on the right. Turn into entrance and drive to main parking area. Meet in parking area.*

CHAPTER WALK AT SCOTT'S RUN NATURE PRESERVE, SATURDAY, APRIL 7

Cris Fleming, Potowmack Chapter Botany Chair, will lead a field trip at Scott's Run Nature Preserve on Saturday, April 7, 9:00am - 12:30pm. As we walk the woodland trails down to the river, we'll look for harbinger-of-spring, sessile trillium, bloodroot, twinleaf, and other early spring wildflowers. Participation is limited to 16 people and registration is required. To register, call Cris at (301) 657-9289 or email at cjfleming@aol.com. Be sure to leave your phone number. The walk will be cancelled in case of heavy rain but not for light drizzle. *Directions: From the Beltway exit at Rt. 193, Georgetown Pike toward Great Falls.. Meet at the lower parking lot for Scott's Run on Georgetown Pike (Rt. 193) which is 0.6 mile west of the Beltway. The parking lot is next to the creek and across from Swink's Mill Road.*



Mertensia virginicus (See bluebell walk on page 2)

FROM BALD CYPRESS TO BOLTONIA--NEW DISCOVERIES, THURSDAY APRIL 12, 7:30 P.M.

In 2005 a virgin, bald cypress-tupelo forest with trees over 1,000 years old was discovered in South Hampton County, VA. And just last November, a new species of *Boltonia* was reported in endemic sinkhole pond habitats of the Appalachian mountains in Augusta County. Learn about these exciting discoveries as we welcome Gary Fleming and John Townsend from the Virginia Natural Heritage Program. Gary Fleming, VANHP vegetation ecologist, will share the results of his comprehensive study of the vegetation and floristics of the bald cypress/water tupelo forest. John Townsend, VANHP staff botanist, will present an overview of the genus *Boltonia* including the newly named *Boltonia montana*. *Directions to Green Spring Gardens Park: (See above.)*

From Thomas Jefferson's *Notes on the State of Virginia*:

"There is an infinitude of other plants and flowers, for an enumeration and scientific description of which I must refer to the Flora Virginica of our great botanist, Dr. Clayton, published by Gronovius at Leyden, in 1762. This accurate observer was a native and resident of this State, passed a long life in exploring and describing its plants, and is supposed to have enlarged the botanical catalogue as much as almost any man who has lived."

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

Spring will be most welcome this year after such a cold February and I plan not to miss a minute of the spring wildflower season. In early April the Potomac Gorge Registry site will beckon. I'll start with Scott's, Difficult, and Turkey Runs for ephemeral heaven, then head upriver to Great Falls Park. A little farther upstream, it will be bluebell time at Riverbend Park in mid-April. That leaves early May for a wildflower pilgrimage to G. Richard Thompson WMA in Linden. One of the most renowned VNPS Registry Sites, the blooming of acres and acres of Trillium grandiflorum should be experienced at least once in everyone's lifetime.

Appreciation of Virginia's flora is one of our missions-- conservation of and education about native plants follow swiftly on the heels of appreciation. So get out and appreciate this spring with everyone you know.

Marianne Mooney

LEARN ABOUT NATIVE PLANTS FIRSHTHAND BY HELPING IN THE PROPAGATION BEDS

Want to learn about gardening with natives? Or maybe you want practice potting up plants? Or you're looking for fun and camaraderie with like-minded people? How about good snacks and the opportunity to take home orphan plants? We've got it all on Wednesday mornings. Starting on April 4th, the chapter's propagation committee swings into action in preparation for our native plant sale on May 19. We could really use some new volunteers to help out in the beds this year. It's an opportunity to help the chapter (plant sales earn money for us) and learn about native plants by working with them. Join us on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. You need not be an expert--none of us was when we began our work. Call me if you have questions or just come on out. Our beds are behind the Horticulture Center at Green Spring Gardens. **Laura Beaty** (703 534-8746)

WANT TO JOIN THE CHAPTER LISTSERV? Send an e-mail to 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>

BOARD OFFICERS

President	Marianne Mooney	534-8179
Vice President	Bob Yacovissi	641-8914
Secretary	Lee Ann Kinzer	768-4048
Treasurer	Leigh Pickering	532-4182

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Botany	Cris Fleming	301-657-9289
Conservation	Alan Ford	202-213-6196
Education	Cindy Gustafson	532-4182
Membership	Geoff Seymour	658-2289
Newsletter	Mary Ann Lawler	684-8622
Programs	Shirley Gay	920-1913
Propagation/Plant Sales	Laura Beaty	534-8746
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Publicity	Su Jewell	913-0139
Site Registry	Rod Simmons	
Garden Tours	Vacant	

(All numbers should include the 703 area code, unless otherwise noted.) *Potowmack News* 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 malawler@aol.com.

BULL RUN BLUEBELL WALK, SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Celebrate Virginia Bluebells on Sunday, April 12th at 2pm. The largest public festival of wildflowers in our area is the Bluebell Bonanza held at Bull Run Regional Park. A tradition for more than 30 years, it's a simple celebration that lets the flowers do the talking. Naturalists lead groups of oohing and aahing people down a mile and a half trail through rich, bottomland forest along Bull Run. The incredible sight of acres of bluebells wows everyone from wildflower novices to seasoned VNPS members. The sheer quantity of blooming bluebells in the park has to be seen to be believed! And the number of people who come out to view the blooms is inspiring. There is nothing like a grand spectacle to interest people in nature and, we hope, conservation. Plan to spend Sunday April 12th with family, friends and fellow bluebell lovers. No reservations are necessary; meet at the parking lot near the camp store. For information, call the park (703 631 0550). The address is 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville, VA.

Directions: To reach Bull Run, take I-66 to Exit 52 (Route 29) at Centreville, drive 2 miles south, turn left onto Bull Run Post Office Road and follow the signs to the park entrance.



AN AID TO IDENTIFYING VIOLETS by Richard Stromberg (Piedmont Chapt.) and Jack Thorsen (Potowmack Chapt.)

Spring is approaching—another opportunity to try to identify Violets. The US Department of Agriculture Plants Database (plants.usda.gov) says there are 115 species of Violet in the United States. About thirty of these are hybrids or non-natives. Newcomb’s Wildflower Guide lists 32 for its Northeastern North America area, and The Flora of West Virginia, 27. Four of Newcomb’s species are northern and one coastal, so they are not found in our area nor in West Virginia. One of them, the Green Violet, is in the genus Hybanthus (*H. concolor*). The others are all *Viola*. Green Violet is different, having small, green flowers hidden in leaf axes. *Viola* all have colorful flowers.

Identifying Violets has become easier because several species have been combined. For example, Three-lobed Violet (*V. triloba*) has been merged into Early Blue or Palmate Violet (*V. palmata*), which pleases me greatly because I have seen great variability in the leaves and have never been sure which was which. Newcomb says of the Three-lobed, “Some forms approach the Early Blue Violet.” The Ovate-leaved Violet (*V. fimbriatula*) has been designated as a variety of the Arrow-leaved Violet (*V. sagittata*), Large-leaved White Violet (*V. incognita*) as a variety of the Sweet White Violet (*V. blanda*) and Smooth Yellow Violet (*V. pensylvanica*), as a variety of the Downy Yellow Violet (*V. pubescens*). Primrose-leaved Violet (*V. primulifolia*) has been designated as a subspecies of Lance-leaved Violet (*V. lanceolata*). Since I have enough trouble distinguishing species, I am not going to worry about varieties and subspecies. Finally, Northern Blue (*V. septentrionalis*), Woolly Blue (*V. sororia*), Broad-leaved Wood (*V. latiuscula*), and Common Blue (*V. papilionacea*) (including its variegated variety, Confederate) have all been merged into *V. Sororia*. So that leaves 19 species in the Piedmont and mountains of Virginia.

Jack Thorsen designed a table to help identify our Violets. Jack co-leads hikes with William Needham, whose “Hikers Notebook” articles have often been reprinted in The Leaflet. Jack’s table had columns for four identifying parameters: leaves (basal only or on the stem), flower color, leaf shape, and stem (smooth or downy). After I had researched the species changes discussed above, I realized that not only were there fewer species to list, but Jack’s “stem” column could be eliminated because the species differentiated by hairiness of the stem had been merged.

The table is ordered the same way Newcomb and The Flora of West Virginia key Violets:

1. Are there leaves on the stems or only coming up at the base of the plant
2. Flower color
3. Leaf shape

I have called all the blue/ violet/purple ones violet because we just want to distinguish them from yellows and whites. Color is the primary color—they may have some other color streaks or patches. More details may have to be looked up to confirm an identification, but Jack’s table is a good, quick start. **Reprinted with permission from The Leaflet, the Piedmont Chapter Newsletter**

Virginia Mountain/Piedmont Violet Characteristics				
Common Name	Leaves	Color	Leaf Shape	Scientific Name
Southern Wood	Basal	Violet	Heart, Blunt	<i>Viola hirsutula</i>
Le Conte’s/Pale Early/Sand	Basal	Violet	Heart, Pointed	<i>Viola affinis</i>
Marsh Blue	Basal	Violet	Heart, Pointed	<i>Viola cucullata</i>
Common Blue	Basal	Violet	Heart, Pointed	<i>Viola sororia</i>
Arrow Leaved	Basal	Violet	Lance, Lobed	<i>Viola sagittata</i>
Early Blue/Palmate	Basal	Violet	Lobed	<i>Viola palmata</i>
Birdsfoot	Basal	Violet	Lobed	<i>Viola pedata</i>
Northern/Small White	Basal	White	Heart, Blunt	<i>Viola macloskeyi</i>
Sweet White	Basal	White	Heart, Pointed	<i>Viola blanda</i>
Lance-leaved	Basal	White	Lance	<i>Viola lanceolata</i>
Round-leaved	Basal	Yellow	Heart, Blunt	<i>Viola rotundifolia</i>
Green	Stem	Green	Lance	<i>Hybanthus concolor</i>
Dog	Stem	Violet	Heart, Blunt	<i>Viola conspersa</i>
Long Spurred	Stem	Violet	Heart, Pointed	<i>Viola rostrata</i>
Pale/Cream/Striped	Stem	White	Heart	<i>Viola striata</i>
Canada	Stem	White	Heart, Pointed	<i>Viola canadensis</i>
Wild Pansy	Stem	White	Lance	<i>Viola bicolor</i>
Halberd-leaved Yellow	Stem	Yellow	Heart, Lance	<i>Viola hastata</i>
Downy Yellow	Stem	Yellow	Heart, Pointed	<i>Viola pubescens</i>

GIFTS OF NATURE: CONSERVATION EASEMENTS ALONG THE POTOMAC GORGE

The National Park Service calls the Potomac Gorge: "one of the most significant natural areas in the eastern United States." Its rich diversity of flora is unmatched. It has one of the highest concentrations of globally rare plant communities in the country. Therefore, heartfelt and deep gratitude from the Virginia Native Plant Society goes to two private landowners for their incredible generosity and foresight in donating permanent conservation easements on their lands bordering the Potomac River in McLean. Fredette Eagle recently donated easements on 70 acres in McLean, Virginia, which now will never be developed. And 91-year old Katie Tiblin placed another 5 acres under a conservation easement near the Eagle property. Both easement donations were made through the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, an entity which was organized in 1994 to accept such easements. Katie Tiblin's easement was in partnership with the Fairfax County Potomac Conservancy assisted with a grant from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. It was the first conservation easement grant in Virginia under the coastal Estuarine Land Conservation Program. These two landowners are an inspiration to all those who value native plant communities.



LOCAL EVENTS AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:

Sat. Mar 3 Winter Tree Identification (9 am - 3 pm) **Leader: Cris Fleming** Using the clues of bark, fruit, buds, and twigs, we'll practice identifying trees in winter on the grounds of our Woodend Sanctuary in Chevy Chase, MD. We'll begin inside with a look at techniques of winter tree identification, then move outside to use our skills to identify the many species of woody plants that grow on our grounds. Audubon Naturalist Society \$39 for non-members. For Information call: 301-652-9188 x16

Sun. Mar. 4 Winter Lecture Series, Green Spring Gardens, Sunday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. \$11. Call for reservations, 703 642 5173. **Dr. Elizabeth Wells** will talk about her **historical research on the early folk uses of plants in Virginia**. Dr. Wells has done extensive research at Mt. Vernon on the history of colonial uses of plants---why the colonists brought certain plants here and how they used them. She has studied early floristics records in eighteenth century Virginia and has a deep knowledge of botanical history. Dr. Wells specializes in native and naturalized plants in eastern America and also in endangered plant species and habitats in the Mid-Atlantic States. She is an associate professor of botany at George Washington University and a longtime VNPS member.

Sat. Mar. 10 Make your Backyard a Wildlife Habitat 10-11am Hidden Oaks Nature Center, Annandale. Free. Reservations required. 703-941-1065.

Sat. Mar 24. Trillium Trek to Linden, VA. By van from the Hidden Oaks Nature Center, Annandale. Bring lunch. \$12 Reservations required. 703-941-1065.

Fri. Mar. 30 An Introduction to EcoSavvy Gardening 1:30-2:30 pm Green Spring Gardens. \$11. To register call: 703-642-5173

Sat. Mar. 31 Lahr Native Plant Symposium 9am to 3:30 pm National Arboretum Administration Building Auditorium. The 21st annual symposium explores why native plants are important to our natural and manmade landscapes. Registration materials and detailed program information available by calling 202-245-4521. Fee \$85 (FONA \$68). **Native Plant Sale 10am to 2pm** Start or supplement your garden with native plants from a variety of vendors. Sponsored by the Friends of the National Arboretum. Free.

Sat. Mar. 31 Early Spring Wildflowers. 9am – 3pm **Leader: Cris Fleming** Find early spring wildflowers often missed by those who don't get out until mid-April. We'll search for early bloomers such as harbinger of spring, purple cress, early saxifrage, dutchman's breeches, bloodroot, hepatica, trailing arbutus, and many other species. Our field trip will visit Great Falls Park and Difficult Run on the Virginia side of the Potomac River. Park entrance fee is waived for participants. Audubon Naturalist Society. Nonmembers: \$39 For Information call: 301-652-9188 x16

Sat. Mar. 31. Introduction to Wildflowers. 1-2:30 pm Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8155 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Free. Reservations required. 703-451-9588.

Sat. Mar. 31 Dyke Marsh Clean-Up/Invasives Alexandria 10AM until Noon. Register near the restrooms in Belle Haven Park (left of the parking lot). The National Park Service will provide all trash bags and gloves. Wear long pants, sturdy shoes, bug spray, and bring sunscreen. If working with invasive plants, wear a long-sleeve shirt. For more information please call Kathy Shinal of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program at 703 -549-0111 Ext. 129 (kshinal@campagnacenter.org)

Sat. Mar. 31 Earth Sangha event at Kimball Elementary School in Anacostia adding native pollinator species. For info. lbright@earthsangha.org

Sun. Apr. 1 Dyke Marsh Clean-Up/Invasives Alexandria 9AM until Noon. Register near the restrooms in Belle Haven Park (left of the parking lot). The National Park Service will provide all trash bags and gloves. Wear long pants, sturdy shoes, bug spray, and bring sunscreen. If working with invasive plants, wear a long-sleeve shirt. For more information please call Kathy Shinal of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program at 703 -549-0111 Ext. 129 (kshinal@campagnacenter.org)

Weds. Apr. 4 – May 23 Spring Wildflower Identification. Instructor: **Stan Shetler**. Learn to recognize common spring wildflowers as well as flower identification, the relationships of plants, and how they are classified. Gain an appreciation for the rich flora of the Central Atlantic region through study of the principal spring-blooming plant families in the area. Field trips emphasize practice in recognizing diagnostic characteristics and in using identification keys. The field trips feature some of the area's best wildflower locations. Field trips: Apr. 7, 14, 21 and May 6. Location: Capital Gallery (easy metro access) Tuition: \$335 For info. call: 301-652-9188 x16

Sat. Apr. 7, Earth Day Tree Planting 9:30am until finished. Help park rangers plant trees at High View park. Free. Meet next to the playground at High View Park, 1938 N. Dinwiddie St. Arlington. For more information or to register call 703-525-0168.

Sat, Apr. 7 Native Design for Natural Gardens 1pm. Free. Behnke's Nursery, 11300 Baltimore Ave (Route 1), Beltsville, MD

Mons. Apr. 9-May 7 Non-Native Invasives of the Mid-Atlantic, Instructor **Carole Bergmann**. Learn about organisms that are non-native to the mid-Atlantic region and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause environmental or economic harm, or harm to human health. Primary focus is on terrestrial and aquatic plants. Students will receive an overview of the issue, acquire understanding of the multiple impacts of non-native invasives, and gain specific information about species of concern in our region. Two field trips. Thursdays, 7 - 9:00 pm. Field Trip Dates: Apr. 22 and May 6. Location: Woodend Sanctuary Tuition: \$225 For Information call: 301-652-9188 x16

Wed. Apr. 11, Thurs. Apr.12, and Sat. Apr. 21 Spring Wildflowers 1-3 pm Audubon Society of Northern Virginia Instructor, Martin Ogle. Learn to identify common spring wildflowers at Potomac Overlook, Bull Run, and the upper Potomac. \$60 for non-members. Registration required. Call 703-256-6895 or info@asn.v.org.

Apr. 13 Spring Wildflowers of the Potomac Gorge—Carderock Recreation Area, MD. Leader: **Cris Fleming** Join us for one or more of these visits to three nearby natural areas to find and identify local wildflowers and to observe the seasonal progression of blooms. Our explorations will involve some steep, uneven, rocky, and/or muddy terrain, but we will proceed at a slow pace. . Nonmembers: \$22. All three walks Nonmembers: \$54 For Information call Audubon Naturalist Society: 301-652-9188 x16

Sat. Apr. 14. Lake Accotink Wildflower Walk 10-11:30am. Hepatica, trout lilies, wild ginger and more. Lake Accotink Park. Free. Reservations required. Call 703-451-9588.

Sat. Apr. 14. Fairy Spuds and Ramps – Edible and Medicinal Wildflowers of the Floodplain. Riverbend Park Visitor Center. 9:30-11:30am. Free. Reservations required. 703-759-9018.

Sat. Apr. 14 Wildflower Sale Long Branch Nature Center 1-3pm. No plants are removed from the wild. They will have a fine selection of both spring and summer bloomers and ferns. Payment by cash or check. Sunday is the rain date. No registration required. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd., Arlington, VA

Sat. Apr. 14. Earth Sangha event Canterbuy Woods in Fairfax, planting 200 native trees. For info. lbright@earthsangha.org

Sun. Apr. 15 Bluebell Hike, Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, Walney 1-3pm Free. Reservations required. 703-631-0013

Wed. Apr. 18 Earth Sangha event on the GMU campus in Fairfax. adding native wildflowers For info. lbright@earthsangha.org

Fri. Apr. 20 Growing Native in the Shade 1:30-3:00pm with Brenda Skarpohl. Green Spring Gardens. \$15. To register call: 703-642-5173

Sat. Apr. 21. Pohick Wildflower Walk. 10am-noon Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8155 Greeley Blvd. Springfield, VA. Free. Canceled if rain. Reservations required. 703-451-9588.

Sun. Apr. 22 Earth Sangha Earth Day Event at Hidden Pond Nature Center/Pohick Stream Valley Park planting 200 native trees. Includes a nature walk. For info. lbright@earthsangha.org

Fri. Apr. 27 Spring Wildflowers of the Potomac Gorge—Spring Bear Island, MD. Leader: **Cris Fleming** Join us for one or more of these visits to three nearby natural areas to find and identify local wildflowers and to observe the seasonal progression of blooms. Our explorations will involve some steep, uneven, rocky, and/or muddy terrain, but we will proceed at a slow pace. . Nonmembers: \$22. All three walks Nonmembers: \$54 For Information call Audubon Naturalist Society: 301-652-9188 x16.

Sat. Apr. 28. Plant Swap. Long Branch Nature Center. Noon -2:00pm. Bring some cuttings of your favorite native plants and you can swap with other area green thumbs. Learn about creating a backyard wildlife habitat from members of the Arlington Community Wildlife Habitat team. Free. No registration required. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd., Arlington, VA

Sat. Apr. 28 Balls Bluff and Red rock Wilderness Overlook 9am to 3pm. Leader: **Cris Fleming**. The Potomac River bluffs in Loudoun County, VA, are rich areas for botanists, birders, geologists, and historians. Our field trip will be an in-depth exploration of the diverse habitats and plant communities at two rustic parks near Leesburg. At Balls Bluff limestone bluffs now harbor uncommon wildflowers such as shooting star and green violet, and the bottomlands along the river display Virginia bluebells, sessile trillium, and many other species. At the nearby Red Rock Wilderness Overlook area, high red siltstone bluffs support wild pink, lyre-leaved rockcress, and cascades of wild columbine, while the ravines are carpeted with dutchman's breeches and squirrel corn. Nonmembers: \$39 For Information call Audubon Naturalist Society: 301-652-9188 x16.

Sat. Apr. 28 Earth Sangha event at its native arboretum (MBLP) removing English ivy. For info. lbright@earthsangha.org

Sat. Apr. 28 Earth Sangha event with Fairfax Releaf planting 100 natives in Folly Lick Park in Herndon. For info. lbright@earthsangha.org

Sun. Apr. 29. Wildflowers: What the Jamestown Colonists Found. 1-2pm Hidden Oaks Nature Center. \$3 Reservations and advance payment required. 703-941-1065.

May 11 Spring Wildflowers of the Potomac Gorge—Turkey Run Park, VA. Leader: **Cris Fleming** Join us for one or more of these visits to three nearby natural areas to find and identify local wildflowers and to observe the seasonal progression of blooms. Our explorations will involve some steep, uneven, rocky, and/or muddy terrain, but we will proceed at a slow pace. Nonmembers: \$22. All three walks Nonmembers: \$54 For Information call Audubon Naturalist Society: 301-652-9188 x16

FAIRFAX COUNTY'S INVASIVE MANAGEMENT AREA (IMA) PROGRAM

The new IMA website is up and running, so people should check it out to find more information about the program, the latest schedule of events, and activities at the sites at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/nrp-ima.htm.

IMA Outdoor Plant Identification Class: March 10 and March 17, 9-12 pm (rain date the following day from 1-4 pm). Join our IMA Volunteer Leaders past and present and Park Authority naturalists in an exploration of our local flora. Special emphasis will be given to the priority IMA species. Space is limited, reservations required, IMA Volunteer Leaders are given priority. RSVP: Katherine.Frederick@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703 324 8681.

ARLINGTON’S RiP PROJECT

Sun. Mar. 4 – Barcroft Park Magnolia Bog 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Help protect Arlington's only bog! Steps away from the restaurants of Shirlington, Arlington's magnolia bog is a true relict. Join in to remove some of the invasive plants that threaten it. Barcroft Park, 4200 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Meet in front of the parking garage. To register call 703-228-6406 or emailvolunteer@arlingtonenvironment.org. In case of bad weather, please call (703 228 6406) to determine status.

Sat. Mar. 10 - Second Saturdays at Bluemont Park 9 am to noon. Neighbors and RiP volunteers will continue to meet at Bluemont Junction Park on second Saturdays. Come help out for an hour or two. Park near bike trail at the bottom of Illinois St. Enter Illinois St. from Wilson Blvd. Meet at “the rocks” next to the bike trail. Contact John Huennekens at 524-3853, or jhuenn@gwu.edu.

Sat. Apr. 14 - Second Saturdays at Bluemont Park 9 am to noon (See above for details)

NOTE: Some training and tools provided. Long pants and long sleeves recommended. If you have your own clippers, loppers and/or gloves, please bring them along. For more information, please contact Jan Ferrigan at (703) 228-7636 or jferriga@vt.edu.

FALLS CHURCH INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL TASK FORCE

Please Join the Falls Church Invasive Plant Removal Task Force at our Upcoming 2007 Events:

- Sat. March 3 Crossman Park – Invasive Plant Removal Party 10am – noon Meet at the Van Buren St. entrance
- Sat. March 31 Hamlet Track – Invasive Plant Removal Party 10am – noon Meet at the end of Rollins St.

To learn more about these events or how to remove English Ivy or other invasive plants from your property, contact Jeremy Edwards, City of Falls Church Senior Urban Forester, 703-248-5016 or email: jedwards@fallschurchva.gov . To learn more about our plant sales contact Melissa Teates at melanite@verizon.net or 703-538-6961

Invasives Control Work Parties at Turkey Run Park along the Potomac!

The Potowmack chapter continues its work with The Nature Conservancy to help control invasive plant species on National Park Service lands in the Potomac Gorge at Turkey Run Park off the GW Memorial Parkway. Wear work gloves and boots or sturdy shoes, and bring water, snacks, and hand saws or loppers if you have them. You are always welcome to bring friends. Our schedule for March and April is below.

Sat. Mar. 17th, Thur. Apr. 5, and Sat. Apr 21st

For information: Alan Ford; cell: 202-213-6196; email: amford@acm.org



**Potowmack Chapter
Virginia Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 5311
Arlington, VA 22205**

Chapter Events Calendar

Mar	8	Board Meeting 6:45 Invasive Ornamentals 7:30pm Green Spring
Mar	31	Pine Barrens Chapter Walk 10am to 2pm
Apr	7	Scotts Run Chapter Walk 9am -12:30pm
Apr	12	Board Meeting 6:45 New Discoveries 7:30pm Green Spring

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