

POTOWMACK NEWS

Volume 25, No.5

Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

September/October 2007

POTOWMACK CHAPTER PLANT SALE SEPTEMBER 15 **AT GREEN SPRING GARDENS 11am to 3pm**



Cinnamon fern
Osmunda cinnamomea



Royal fern
Osmunda regalis



Ostrich fern
Matteuccia struthiopteris

These stately ferns will be available at the Potowmack Chapter Native Plant Sale, September 15. They are suitable for moist, shady locations. Each species has large attractive sterile fronds and separate spore-bearing fertile fronds.

The Potowmack Chapter will be selling native plants at Green Spring's Fall Fling Festival (see page 3) on Saturday, September 15, between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. The propagation volunteers have been working overtime this summer to keep the plants watered and ready for sale. Green Spring's special program will be on pollinators, and many of the natives we'll be selling will attract those pollinators and the other wildlife associated with them.

Since fall is the best time to plant--the warm soil promotes good root growth until the ground freezes-- this is a great opportunity to select from our wide variety of plants. We'll be offering over six varieties of ferns, some very large. Several new plants will be offered that are indigenous to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: *Gentiana clausa* (Bottle Gentian), *Liatris pilosa* (Shaggy Blazingstar) and *Scutellaria integrifolia* (Hyssop Skullcap). We're offering many good reasons to remove some of your time-consuming turf and plant some natives. Besides their beauty, you'll be giving back to the environment.

Anyone with native plants to share may donate them for the sale. Give us a call or bring them to our propagation beds behind the horticultural center at Green Spring. Anyone wanting to get more involved in natives plants is welcome to join us Wednesday mornings when we pot plants and weed beds. You don't have to be an expert, just interested in learning and helping out the chapter. Please call for further information: **Laura Beaty** 703-534-8746

Sunday Afternoon, October 14 **POTOWMACK CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING** **Green Spring Gardens, 1:30 to 4:00 P.M.** **25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

Please join in celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Virginia Native Plant Society. We will begin with a reception and light refreshments. After a brief business meeting, we will have several short presentations on the early history and mission of the Potowmack Chapter. We'll end the afternoon with the cutting of the 25th Anniversary cake. We especially hope to provide an opportunity for members who helped organize the Potowmack Chapter to renew acquaintances and to share with newer members our founding history as the Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society.

Commented [PC1]:

FALL FLING FESTIVAL—PLANTS AND POLLINATORS Sept 15 (See page 3)

VNPS ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE, SEPT 14-16, (Go to VNPS.org to register

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The lazy days of summer have ended and we've been flung headlong into fall. September rivals May in offering so many events that vie for our presence. An important Rock Outcrop Management Meeting is scheduled for Thursday evening, September 13th. Next, on Saturday, September 15th, we'll have our fall plant sale. That same weekend, the John Clayton chapter hosts the VNPS State Annual Meeting. It will be a fun and educational event; we truly apologize for the date conflict. Our own chapter's annual meeting will be on October 14th where we'll celebrate our 25th year of existence.

Twenty-five years would not have been possible without all the wonderful people who have kept the chapter going over the years, particularly those who have served on our chapter board. I'd like to welcome a new board member, Becky Super, who will be the chapter publicist. And we bid a sad goodbye to Geoff Seymour, our membership chair. A dedicated person, Geoff could be found at almost every chapter event with his stack of membership brochures, searching for potential new members. Geoff is heading back to his home state of Wisconsin and we wish him all the best. Marty Nielsen has agreed to serve as membership chair and we're grateful to him.

If you are interested in serving on the board, we welcome the help. We have many board members whose years of service are nudging up to the double digits. It's time we gave them a rest. Please call or email me if you are interested in contributing to the running of our great organization. I'd love to hear from you!!! 703 534 8179 or m.mooney@comcast.net.

Marianne Mooney

Update on Rock Outcrop Management Plan at Shenandoah National Park

In our last newsletter, we reported on work being done by staff at Shenandoah National Park to draft a management plan for preserving rare plant and animal communities that are found on the rocky cliffs in the park. An important component of that process is the public meeting and comment period. You will have an opportunity to learn about these fascinating communities and their flora at the next public meeting. And, you can lend your support in preserving these fragile places. Please plan to attend the next meeting. No reservations are necessary. For more information on rock outcrops, visit <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/publicHome.cfm> and choose Shenandoah National Park. Then click on Rock Outcrop Management Project.

Rock Outcrop Management Project Public Meeting Thursday, September 13, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

REI Store (703) 379-9400
3509 Carlin Springs Rd.
Falls Church, VA

BOARD OFFICERS

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(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.

From In the Presence of Fear—Three Essays for a

Changed World by Wendell Berry

"We should reconsider and renew and extend our efforts to protect the natural foundations of the human economy: soil, water, and air. We should protect every intact ecosystem and watershed that we have left, and begin restoration of those that have been damaged."

FALL FLING FESTIVAL—PLANTS AND POLLINATORS—SEPT 15 GREEN SPRING

The Humble Bee by Ralph Waldo Emerson

BURLY, dozing humble-bee,
Where thou art is clime for me.
Let them sail for Porto Rique,
Far-off heats through seas to seek;
I will follow thee alone
Thou animated torrid-zone!
Zigzag steerer, desert cheerer,
Let me chase thy waving lines;
Keep me nearer, me thy hearer,
Singing over shrubs and vines.

Insect lover of the sun,
Joy of thy dominion!
Sailor of the atmosphere;
Swimmer through the waves of air;
Voyager of light and noon;
Epicurean of June;
Wait, I prithee, till I come
Within earshot of thy hum,—
All without is martyrdom.

When the south wind, in May days,
With a net of shining haze
Silvers the horizon wall,
And, with softness touching all,
Tints the human countenance
With a color of romance,
And, infusing subtle heats,
Turns the sod to violets,
Thou, in sunny solitudes,
Rover of the underwoods,
The green silence dost displace
With thy mellow, breezy bass.

Hot midsummer's petted crone,
Sweet to me thy drowsy tone
Tells of countless sunny hours,
Long days, and solid banks of
flowers;
Of gulfs of sweetness without bound
In Indian wildernesses found;
Of Syrian peace, immortal leisure,
Firmest cheer, and bird-like pleasure.
Aught unsavory or unclean
Hath my insect never seen;
But violets and bilberry bells,
Maple-sap, and daffodils,
Grass with green flag half-mast high,
Succory to match the sky,
Columbine with horn of honey,
Scented fern, and agrimony,
Clover, catchfly, adder's-tongue
And brier-roses, dwelt among;
All beside was unknown waste,
All was picture as he passed.

Wiser far than human seer,
Yellow-breeched philosopher!
Seeing only what is fair,
Sipping only what is sweet,
Thou dost mock at fate and care,
Leave the chaff, and take the wheat.
When the fierce northwestern blast
Cools sea and land so far and fast,
Thou already slumberest deep;
Woe and want thou canst outsleep;
Want and woe, which torture us,
Thy sleep makes ridiculous.

Plants and Pollinators are the focus of the **Fall Fling Festival on September 15th at Green Spring Gardens** 9am to 4pm, co-sponsored by the **Virginia Native Plant Society**. The day will be full of educational and fun events that will highlight pollinators from the monarch butterfly to the secret pollinators of the night. For families, the popular **Monarch Magic** program will explore the wonders of metamorphosis with one of the animal world's most charismatic butterflies. Drop in between 10 a.m. and 3 pm. and learn about monarchs, do a craft and adopt a butterfly larva to take home and raise.

For adults, the morning begins with refreshments at 9:30 and a chance to bid on silent auction offerings. At 10 a.m., take a seat in the multi-purpose room to learn about the complexities of the relationship between plants and pollinators. **Dr. David Carr**, curator of the Orlando E. White Arboretum at Blandly, will share his research into the fascinating pollination game. **Dr. David Inouye**, a biology professor at the University of Maryland who specializes in plant-animal interactions and conservation biology, will profile the intriguing pollinators that inhabit the evening landscape.

At one o'clock, the buzz will be about honeybees during a delightful, and delicious, Tea at the Historic House program. The Green Spring Master Gardeners will be on hand all day at their habitat garden to offer advice on pollinator-friendly gardening. The Fall Fling Festival is an important fundraiser for the Friends of Green Spring; all proceeds support the educational programs at the gardens. Register early for the day's events by calling 703-642-5173.



Bumble bee on *Monarda*

fistulosa

TO SORT OUT WHO'S A BAD BUG:

Visit the Insect Identification Laboratory at Virginia Tech--A Service for County Agents and Citizens of Virginia for Identification of Insects and Mites, Insect Fact Sheets, Images and Identification Forms, Reports and Updates, Exotic Pests, and Other links <http://everest.ento.vt.edu/Facilities/OnCampus/IDInfo.html>

HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT

A wetland restoration plan for Huntley Meadows Park is in the concept/design phase. This undertaking will

require major work in the main wetland area and will permanently alter the nature of the park's wetlands. It's important for our chapter to be informed about the plan's options and to be aware of the opportunities for public comment. There are some serious issues regarding the plant community in the wetland. Part of the plan revolves around planting in the wetland. This is a somewhat controversial issue in native plant restoration projects. Since Huntley Meadows is a VNPS registry site, our chapter should be aware of the issues surrounding this plan.

Please try to attend one of the following meetings or visit the park and look over the draft plans which will be on display in the HMP visitor center after August 20th. Comments and concerns about the project can be emailed to Kevin Munroe at Kevin.munroe@fairfaxcounty.gov or sent to the park's address: 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria, VA 22306. To attend one of the following meetings, please RSVP to Kevin by email or call the park at 703-768-2525.

Public Meeting and Project Plan Presentation September 21, 7:00pm to 8:45pm, Groveton Elementary, 6900 Harrison Ln., Alexandria Please join us on this important and exciting evening as we present the plans for the wetland restoration project. The program will include plenty of time for comments, group discussion, questions and a "what's next" portion where we discuss the project schedule. Please bring all your questions and ideas.

Park Manager Walk & Talk October 6, 4:00pm to 5:30pm, Huntley Meadows Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria Take a walk in the wetland with Huntley Meadows new manager and spend the evening sharing your ideas and talking one-on-one about wetland restoration, or any other park topic of your choice.

LOCAL EVENTS AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Fri. Oct.5 Fall Flora of the C&O Canal Park--Violette's Lock 10am-12:30pm Leader Cris

LOCAL EVENTS AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:

Sat. Sept 8 Rain Gardens: Fix Your Backyard and Save the Bay. Green Spring Gardens. 9:30-10:30am A Green Spring Master Gardener discusses the damaging effects of run-off and provides some solution for homeowners. \$12. 703-642-5173

Sat. Sept. 8 Walk with a Naturalist Hidden Pond Nature Center. 10:30am to noon. Follow the seasonal changes of the Pohick Stream Valley during a nature walk. Free. 703-451-9588 (Cancelled if rain)

Sat. Sept 8 Late Summer Wings and Wildflowers 9am to 2 pm Leader: **Dr. Stan Shetler** and Joe Coleman The Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Studies in Loudon County has a mix of habitats, including meadow, forest, and wetlands. Non-members \$32. Registration required. Call 301-652-9188 x 16 or info@asnv.org.

Sat. Sept. 8 Make your backyard a wildlife habitat Hidden Oaks Nature Center. 1-2pm Make your yard school, or business property an official National Wildlife Federation certified backyard habitat. Learn how you can make a natural difference plus how to make a toad abode. Free. Reservations required. 703-941-1065.

Sat. Sept. 15 Late Summer Meadow Ft. CF Smith. 11am to noon. The meadow will be in full bloom as we look at the asters, goldenrods and other flowers as well as the insects that take advantage of this food source. \$2 fee. Registration required. Meet at Ft. C. F. Smith Program #612704B Call 703-228-4747.

Sat. Sept. 15 Fall Wildflowers—Goldenrods and Milkweeds Cub Run RECenter 10-11am Take a leisurely stroll with a naturalist gardener. \$4 Reservations required 703-817-9407

Sat. Sept 22 Goldenrods and Asters—Fall Wildflowers of Riverbend. 9:30-11:30am. Stroll along the riverbank in search of fall wildflowers. Riverbend Park Visitor Center. Free. Reservations required. 703-759-9018. Cancelled if rain.

Sun. Sept 23. Butterflies of Oxon Hill Farm Park 9:30am-4pm with Dick Smith and Stephanie Mason. Search for late-season specialties, such as Cloudless Sulphur and residents species including Viceroy over a couple of miles on foot visiting a variety of habitats abloom with tickseed sunflower, boneset, and wingstem. Nonmembers: \$36 Registration required. Call 301-652-9188 x 16 or info@asnv.org.

Wed. Sept 26 Midweek Meanders at Great Falls—Difficult Run Trail 10:15am-12:30pm Leader: Stephanie Mason Proceed at a "naturalist's shuffle" stopping to observe birds, wildflowers, and foliage. Bring a lunch and picnic afterwards. Nonmembers \$22 Registration required. Call 301-652-9188 x 16 or info@asnv.org.

Thurs. Sept. 27 Apprentice Naturalist—Planning a Wildlife Habitat Garden Cub Run RECenter 7-8:30pm Want to attract birds or butterflies to your yard? How about wildlife gardening? Find out about backyard habitats and how to create one. \$3 Reservations required. 703-817-9407

Sat. Sept 29 A Walk Among the Ancients 9am-noon Leader: **Dr. Stan Shetler** Learn about an ancient part of our flora, which preceded flowering plants and existed since the time of the dinosaurs. Learn about ferns and fern allies in their habitat at Great Swamp Trail in Great Falls Park. Nonmembers \$25 Registration required. Call 301-652-9188 x 16 or info@asnv.org.

Sat. Sept 29. On the Wild Side 10am-3pm Adults. Hike two of Arlington's wildest nature parks with a naturalist as your guide. You will observe many signs of active wildlife, **champion trees, and shrubs, and locally rare plant communities.** Transportation and buffet lunch at Joe's Pizza on Lee Highway included. Wear long pants and sleeves and footwear that can get wet. \$30 fee. Registration required. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center parking lot. Program #614604D. Call 703-228-4747.

Sun. Sept 30. Fall Flowers Hike 3-5pm Adults. On the Gulf Branch Potomac River Trail, white wood aster, bluestem goldenrod, and snakeroot are lighting up the forest floor. Join a walk with a naturalist to explore our fall wildflowers. Hike is rocky and steep in places. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a water bottle. Free. Registration required. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center. Program #613204B. Call 703-228-4747.

Fleming. Observe the progression of flowers turning to fruits. Study trees, shrubs, wildflowers, ferns and grasses. Nonmembers \$22 Registration required. Call 301-652-9188 x 16 or info@asnv.org.

Sat. Oct. 6 Walk with a Naturalist Hidden Pond Nature Center. 10:30am to noon. Join the naturalist to look for some of the seasonal happenings in the stream valley forest. Free. 703-451-9588 (Cancelled if rain)

Sun. Oct 7 Cardinal Flowers and Goldenrods Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, Cabill's Mill 10-11:30am Stroll with a Virginia Native Plant Society member to view splendid fall wildflowers along the stream and meadow. \$5 Reservations required. 703-631-0013

Wed. Oct. 10 Midweek Meanders at Great Falls—Upriver Patowmack Trail 10:15am-12:30pm Leader: Stephanie Mason Proceed at a "naturalist's shuffle" stopping to observe birds, wildflowers, and foliage. Bring a lunch and picnic afterwards. Nonmembers \$22 Registration required. Call 301-652-9188 x 16 or info@asnv.org.

Wed. Oct. 10 Fall Wildflowers: Confusing Composites 7:30-9:30pm Woodend Sanctuary. Study the Asteraceae plant family (asters, goldenrods, sunflowers, bonesets, bidens and others) with **Cris Fleming** Field Trip: **Sat. October 13** Nonmembers \$52 Registration required. Call 301-652-9188 x 16 or info@asnv.org.

Fri. Oct 12. Theodore Roosevelt Island 10am-2:30pm. Explore the freshwater marsh, shrub swamp, and bottomland woods. Metro accessible. Nonmembers \$29 Registration required. Call 301-652-9188 x 16 or info@asnv.org.

Fri. Oct. 19 Fall Flora of the C&O Canal Park—Great Falls 10am-12:30pm **Leader Cris Fleming.** Observe the progression of flowers turning to fruits. Study trees, shrubs, wildflowers, ferns and grasses. Nonmembers \$22 Registration required. Call 301-652-9188 x 16 or info@asnv.org.

Sat. Oct 20 Green Spring's Design Symposium: Designing with Native Plants 8:30am to 4pm. Horticulturalists, homeowners, gardeners and landscape designers are talking about planting "native." Examine contemporary garden designs featuring native plants and hear from those that are planning, planting and maintaining these gardens. Landscape designers and horticulturists who specialize in using native plants demonstrate how to transform a garden into a beautiful and environmentally- friendly place. Speakers featured are

C. Colston Burrell, an avid and lifelong gardener, garden designer and award winning author, Eileen Boyle, Education Coordinator at Mt. Cuba Center, landscape designer, and former Director of Horticulture at the New York Botanical Garden, Gregg Tepper, the Woods Path gardener at Mt. Cuba Center and landscape designer and Larry Weaner, founder of Larry Weaner Landscape Design Associates, Inc. author and active guest lecturer. Fee includes lectures, refreshments and lunch. \$89

Tues. Oct. 23-Wed. Oct. 24 Northern Limits—Restoring the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem in Virginia. Southeast 4-H Conference Center, Wakefield, Virginia. A broad panel of experts will present talks on the history, ecology, commercial and private forestry, rare and endangered species, federal and state assistance programs, and landowner testimonials on longleaf pine in Virginia. Please see the website <http://www.pitcherplant.org/SpecialEvents.html> to register. \$120 Registration includes meals, talks, social, and charter bus transportation to sites.

Wed. Oct. 24 Midweek Meanders at Great Falls—Matildaville Trail 10:15am-12:30pm Leader: Stephanie Mason Proceed at a "naturalist's shuffle" stopping to observe birds, wildflowers, and foliage. Bring a lunch and picnic afterwards. Nonmembers \$22 Registration required. Call 301-652-9188 x 16 or info@asnv.org.

Fri. Nov. 2 Fall Flora of the C&O Canal Park—Lock #10 10am-12:30pm **Leader Cris Fleming.** Observe the progression of flowers turning to fruits. Study trees, shrubs, wildflowers, ferns and grasses. Nonmembers \$22 Registration required. Call 301-652-9188 x 16 or info@asnv.org.

Wed. Nov. 7 Midweek Meanders at Great Falls—Old Carriage Road Trail 10:15am-12:30pm Leader: Stephanie Mason Proceed at a "naturalist's shuffle" stopping to observe birds, wildflowers, and

foliage. Bring a lunch and picnic afterwards. Nonmembers \$22 Registration required. Call 301-652-9188 x 16 or info@asnv.org.

Fri. Nov. 9 Turning a New Leaf, 2nd Annual Conference, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College Annandale, VA 2007 conference details <http://www.chesapeakelandscape.org/> **The Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council** is a coalition of individuals and organizations dedicated to researching, promoting, and educating the public about conservation-based gardening and landscaping practices in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The Council is committed to fostering changes in public attitudes and the implementation of practices that result in a cleaner, healthier and more beautiful environment benefiting residents and the region's biological diversity. For further information, call (410) 634-2847 ext. 24

FALLS CHURCH INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL TASK FORCE Upcoming 2007 Events:

Sept. 15 Fall Festival – come visit our booth 10am – 5pm City Hall, 300 Park Avenue

Sept. 29 Crossman Park – Invasive Plant Removal Party. 10am – noon Meet at the Van Buren St. entrance

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 jedwards@fallschurchva.gov. Contact Melissa Teates at melanite@verizon.net or 703-538-6961 for details on the native plant sales.

FAIRFAX COUNTY'S INVASIVE MANAGEMENT AREA (IMA) PROGRAM

These are the work days scheduled for September and October Please check the latest schedule of events, and activities at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/nrp-ima.htm.

Sat. Sept 1 Pohick Stream Valley 9:00 - 12:00

Sat. Sept 8 Annandale Community Park 9:00 - 12:00

Sat. Sept 17 Woodglen Lake Park 9:00 - 11:00

Sat. Sept 29 Annandale Community Park 9:00 - 12:00

Sat. Oct 6 Falstaff Park 9:00 - 12:00

Sat. Oct 13 Woodglen Lake Park 9:00 - 11:00

Every Wednesday Lake Accotink Park 9:00 - 12:00

For more information: Katherine.Frederick@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703 324 8681.

ARLINGTON'S RiP PROJECT

Sat. Sept. 8- 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. Oct. 13 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 Kasey Spriggs at Kspriggs@arlingtonva.us or Jamie Bartalon at 703-228-7747.

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

Help 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. Our schedule for September and October is: **Thurs. Sep. 13, Sat. Sep. 22, Thurs. Oct. 11, and Sat. Oct. 20.** Check on meeting location with Alan Ford; cell: 703.732.5291; email: amford@acm.org



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

Chapter Events Calendar

Sept. 12 Board Meeting
Green Spring
7:30pm
Sept. 15 Plant Sale
Green Spring
11am to 3pm
Oct 14 Chapter Annual
Meeting
Green Spring
1:30-4:00 pm

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