

# POTOWMACK NEWS

Volume 27. No.1

Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

January/February 2009

## **A BEE'S EYE VIEW OF POLLINATION: Exploring the Diversity of Bee Species and their Ecological Interactions in Eastern North America.**

**Thursday, January 8, 7:30pm, Green Spring Gardens**

**T'ai Roulston**, Associate Director of University of Virginia's Blandy Experimental Farm, will present a program on pollination by native bee species at our January 8 program at Green Spring Gardens. In addition to discussing the complexities of pollination, Dr. Roulston will focus on the rich diversity of native bee species in North America, their life histories, behaviors, and interactions. Although most people primarily think of bees as the honey bee, an aggressive, exotic species that lives in large colonies and forages on many plant species, most of the more than 900 bee species in eastern North America are docile and solitary, the females living alone in subterranean tunnels, the males camping out in flowers. Many of the native bees are specialists, only collecting pollen from a single genus of plant, and thus have their conservation tied up with that of their host plant.

Dr. Roulston is an Associate Professor and Associate Director Blandy Experimental Farm, University of Virginia, Charlottesville. His main research interests have been pollination, bee biology and ant foraging.

*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.*



## **WINTER BOTANY WALK – GREAT FALLS, Saturday, February 7, 10:30am to 1pm**

Although plant life may seem dormant in winter, one can still observe many things such as buds and twigs on trees, evergreen ferns and shrubs, winter rosettes of herbaceous plants, seed containers left on fall-blooming species, and skunk cabbage flowers coming up in swamps. Join **Cris Fleming**, Botany Chair of Potowmack Chapter, instructor of plant identification courses for the USDA Graduate School, and field trip leader for the Audubon Naturalist Society and other groups, at Great Falls Park to learn to identify many species in their winter habitat. This field trip will go in light snow, but will be postponed in case of cold rain or heavy snow. To register, call Cris at 301-657-9289 or email her at [cjfleming@aol.com](mailto:cjfleming@aol.com) and leave your name and phone number.

*Directions: From the junction of I-495 (Beltway) and Rt. 193 (Georgetown Pike), take Rt. 193 north/west toward Great Falls. Go 4 miles to Rt. 738 (Old Dominion Drive), turn right onto the entrance road into the park. The entrance fee is \$4 for each car unless someone has a National Park pass.*

## **FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT: THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE Thursday, February 12, 7:30PM at Green Spring Gardens**

Invasive plant management in Fairfax County has made leaps and bounds of progress in the last few years through the dedicated effort of the volunteers of the Invasive Management Area (IMA) program. Beyond the number of trash bags of invasive plants collected and number of volunteer hours donated, what, really, is the effect on parkland? What are reasonable goals and objectives? And what are our next steps? These questions and more will be addressed by **Meghan Fellows**.

Ms. Fellows has been the Park Authority's Natural Resource Specialist and Invasive Management Coordinator for the past four years. She also serves as the President of the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council. Her interests include issues of plant conservation and biodiversity. *Directions to Green Spring Gardens Park: See above*

**“Hence, a traveller should be a botanist, for in all views plants form the chief embellishment.”**

**Charles Robert Darwin, born February 12, 1809**

*Journal of Researches: into the Natural History and Geology of the Countries Visited During the Voyage of H.M.S. Beagle Round the World (1839), ch. XXIII, 604*

## **A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

Trails through our parks represent one of those easily ignored amenities whose existence makes our enjoyment and experience so much easier and pleasant. Yet they also serve as a critical vector for the transmission of invasive species into those same areas we treasure and want to protect. This dichotomy has been weighing on me the past few weeks as I try to understand and articulate my feelings.

Late last month about thirty brave folks showed up at Long Branch Nature Center for a walk led by Rod Simmons. The day was bright but cold, a little early in the season for that, by my book, but I was greatly impressed by the number of others who braved the temperature to learn from one of our great guides to the natural world. We spent the next four hours, yes four, looking at gaining a deeper understanding of the mixed mesic forest which dominated this region until mankind's arrival. The transition from floodplain to upland communities was clearly evident and the historical influence was visible in many of the Chestnut Oaks, showing multi-stemmed trunks--evidence, most probably, of having been harvested around the time of the Civil War and sprouting from the stump, growing undisturbed for the next 150 years.

For the significant bulk of this experience we were on trails and roads, asphalt, crushed stone, or concrete, evidence of the area in which we live, but also permitting us to move easily through the forest. We ventured off trail twice, once to look at a mature American Elm, that was dying from the Dutch Elm disease, and the second time to look at a County Champion tree, a massive Black Oak sitting above a natural seep. Here we tromped through the woods making and reinforcing a social trail. I had mixed emotions as we left the hardscape trails, regretting our heavy tread as it compacted the soil and crushed the plants underneath, then looking down to see we were walking on an almost unbroken mat of English Ivy. Knowing it was the only way for us to get in to see the tree, and frustrated by the Bush Honeysuckle we pushed through on our way out.

But those trails, and countless others, that permitted us to enjoy such beauty and learn of nature while in the nature are blazed, and planned, and maintained by dedicated, hard working individuals many of them volunteers. In state and county parks, in regional and federal parks, on private land via easements, many hours of effort have gone into making these trails go somewhere and keeping them open after dead falls and floods, in making them safer for pedestrians and others to be able to enjoy the beauty and tranquility given by a stretch of quiet and shade.

I am thankful for their efforts and believe deeply in their commitment and hope we can continue to cooperate in keeping trails open for our ability to access the bounty of our parks. We need to communicate the importance of protecting the sensitive habitats still surviving, by limiting access to some locations, moving or changing existing trails, minimizing the impact of trail construction and maintenance, and recognizing the consequence of trails in vectoring invasive species. We share this world and share in the responsibility and share in the joy provided by a good walk in the woods.

**Alan Ford**

**PHYLOGENETIC PATTERNS OF SPECIES LOSS IN THOREAU'S WOODS ARE DRIVEN BY CLIMATE CHANGE**

*Abstract from the National Academy of Sciences*

Climate change has led to major changes in the phenology (the timing of seasonal activities, such as flowering) of some species but not others. The extent to which flowering-time response to temperature is shared among closely related species might have important consequences for community-wide patterns of species loss under rapid climate change. Henry David Thoreau initiated a dataset of the Concord, Massachusetts, flora that spans ≈150 years and provides information on changes in species abundance and flowering time. When these data are analyzed in a phylogenetic context, they indicate that change in abundance is strongly correlated with flowering-time response. Species that do not respond to temperature have decreased greatly in abundance, and include among others anemones and buttercups [Ranunculaceae pro parte (p.p.)], asters and campanulas (Asterales), bluets (Rubiaceae p.p.), bladderworts (Lentibulariaceae), dogwoods (Cornaceae), lilies (Liliales), mints (Lamiaceae p.p.), orchids (Orchidaceae), roses (Rosaceae p.p.), saxifrages (Saxifragales), and violets (Malpighiales). Because flowering-time response traits are shared among closely related species, our findings suggest that climate change has affected and will likely continue to shape the phylogenetically biased pattern of species loss in Thoreau's woods. The complete article is available at: <http://www.pnas.org/content/105/44/17029.full>

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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:malawler@aol.com">malawler@aol.com</a>.</p>		

**NUTTY NEWS by Alonzo Abugattas**



Many of you may have noticed the articles that have been out lately regarding the shortage of acorns and other types of nuts in certain parts of the East. Not only are there fewer nuts, but in many areas there are none at all. Since hard mast (the reproductive plant parts used as animal food, such as acorns and other nuts) is vital to the survival of many species, this can critically affect wildlife. Among the many animals that feed on hard mast are gray squirrels, chipmunks, deer, voles, flying squirrels, bear, turkeys, jays, woodpeckers, and many others. Staff members at Long Branch Nature Center were among the people interviewed by the press about this phenomenon.

The disappearance of acorns and other nuts appears to be widespread but not universal. In many areas normal or even bumper mast crops have been produced. Yet many other areas are completely devoid of nuts. Reports have been coming to us from far and wide.

Here in Virginia, some numbers can help tell the tale. Kate McNamee from "Growing Native" (who collects nuts for use in growing native trees from local stock for reforestation projects) noticed the shortfall. Last year 25,000 pounds were collected (mostly acorns) but this year only about 10,000 (90% or so being black walnut).

The internet is full of all sorts of theories as to why there's an acorn shortage, with everything from alien abduction to the decline of bees. Since oaks and most nut trees (not almonds) are wind pollinated, the lack of non-native honey bees, any of our myriad of native bees, or any other insect pollinators is not likely to be the cause. As for the first theory, well, we should all be aware of the dangers of alien invasive species by now...

My own educated guess (as I related to some of the reporters) as to why there are fewer nuts this year in some parts of the Mid-Atlantic is that it is due to a combination of factors. First of all, last year was a bumper year for white oak acorn production and the white oak 'family' of oaks (which have their acorns mature in one year rather than 2 like the red/black oaks) used so much of their resources that this year they are weakened and not able to produce much. I also agree with experts like Rod Simmons that, for the white oaks, the very rainy weather that occurred during the time the wind was carrying their pollen simply washed most of the pollen out the air and it never got to another flower. May of this year was twice as wet as other years. Cold weather in other parts of the country could also result in tree damage.

That could help account for the white oak 'family' but not many of the other nut trees. What I think may have happened to the others is that every once in a while, oaks and other nut trees either produce so much mast that the nut predators can't eat them all, or perhaps just the opposite. By not producing much or any mast, the nut predator numbers go down and the following year they can produce nuts that actually germinate and don't just get eaten. For a tree that can live hundreds of years, one year of none production is nothing. I believe that this is a very rare event and it is quite unlucky (almost a perfect storm of combining conditions and timing) that most of the many different species of nut trees didn't produce nuts this year. The animals that depend on nuts will either have to eat other things (gardeners and bird feeders beware!), move, or die. Their numbers will bounce back though.

What is bad for them may be good for the nut trees next year. On the other hand, if this is not an isolated and rare event, if it repeats itself, then that would be very bad indeed. Oaks are incredibly important species in our woods with many animals depending on them. With over 600 known insect species that use them as host plants, unable to feed on anything else but the various parts of the oaks, more than just squirrels are at risk. Oaks have already been having problems recruiting new, productive trees. Various diseases and introduced invasive species such as gypsy moths have started to affect them. Any nuts that escape predation from squirrels and other small predators are still quite at risk. With the exploding deer population, many are chomped down and browsed before they can grow. It's tough for a little acorn to grow to a mighty oak. Let's just hope next year is a good one for the oaks.

*Alonso Abugattas has held several offices for the Potowmack Chapter, including being a past president, and is a local naturalist. He is currently the Acting Director of Long Branch Nature Center in Arlington.*

**AUTHOR! AUTHOR! POTOWMACK CHAPTER VEEP'S NEW BOOK!**

Title: **GATORS, GOURDHEADS, AND PUFFLINGS--A Biologist Slogs, Climbs, and Wings Her Way To Save Wildlife** by Susan D. Jewell

The book has been published by Infinity Publishing and can be ordered from <http://www.buybooksontheweb.com/product.aspx?ISBN=0-7414-4961-7> and toll-free at 877-BUY BOOK. \$14.95 cover price.

From back cover: **GATORS, GOURDHEADS, AND PUFFLINGS** is the true tale of the everyday life of a wildlife biologist—but it's far from mundane. With humor and drama, Ms. Jewell weaves vignettes of her work in the wilds from Maine to Florida, studying alligators, wood storks (gourdheads), puffins (babies are pufflings), and more. As a petite gal in a traditionally male occupation, the author deals with situations in a resourceful and captivating way. She brings the wild animals and the places they live to life and shows why biologists feel compelled to protect them.

Susan Jewell has studied wildlife from Maine to Florida by motorboat, airboat, canoe, airplane, helicopter, tree-climbing, scuba, and muddy feet. She has worked for the National Audubon Society, National Park Service, and others. She has been a biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since 1992. She has worked with such varied animals as bobcats, alligators, puffins, wood storks and other wading birds, marine fish, and gopher tortoises. Her previous books include "Exploring Wild South Florida" and "Exploring Wild Central Florida." In her spare time, she is a freelance writer of environmental issues. Su's contact information: naturewrite@yahoo.com



#### **Book Endorsements:**

"Susan Jewell writes with wit, warmth and devotion to wildlife. This book is in the great tradition of American nature writing—the kind of book I've always loved. It makes me want to go outside, get muddy, breathe pine-scented air and watch birds, deer and snakes." – David Fleshler, Sun-Sentinel

"I laughed as I imagined the author in a wood stork suit, was intrigued as I read her tale of raising an owl at a haunted house, and shuddered at her recounting of how she had to keep alligators at bay with a 10-foot pole. It's an adventure you won't want to miss." – Robert McClure, Seattle Post-Intelligencer

"Susan Jewell reminds us of the simple pleasures of a life committed to wild things and wild places. There is much fun, adventure, and satisfaction in discovering these truths. The world needs more itinerant biologists." –Ted Levin, Liquid Land

"One day, if I'm lucky, I'll get to hang out with Susan Jewell. We can creep around the marsh, catch frogs, look at alligators, tip-toe around the moccasins and maybe run barefoot through the poison ivy. If she says no way am I going to hang out with the likes of you, I'll be happy reading her wonderful collection of essays again." – Jeff Klinkenberg, Pilgrim in the Land of Alligators

#### **CLIMATE CHANGE OPENS NEW AVENUE FOR SPREAD OF INVASIVE PLANTS**

From **ScienceDaily** (Nov. 19, 2008) — Plants that range northward because of climate change may be better at defending themselves against local enemies than native plants. So concludes a team of scientists including a University of Florida geneticist. The team's findings, reported online in the journal *Nature*, suggest that certain plants could become invasive if they spread to places that were previously too cold for them.

"This paper is the first to suggest that the mechanisms that aid invasive species when they move from one continent to the next may actually work within continents when climate change gradually extends the distributional range of a species," said Koen J.F. Verhoeven, an evolutionary biologist at The Netherlands Institute of Ecology. "Plants may be able to outrun, so to speak, their enemies from the southern range."

Often, exotic plants and animals are introduced to new continents or geographic regions by travelers and commerce. Separation from their natural enemies can drive their invasive success in the new range. But, increasingly, the distribution of many species is shifting because of climate change (Continued on p. 5)

(Continued from page 5)

and changes in land use. Led by scientists Tim Engelkes, Elly Morriën and Wim van der Putten of The Netherlands Institute of Ecology, with collaborators from the University of Florida, Wageningen University and Leiden University, the researchers compared exotic plant species that had recently established in Millingerwaard, a nature preserve in The Netherlands, with related native plant species from the same area.

"We set out to see whether the native and exotics responded differently to natural enemies such as herbivores or microorganisms in the soil," said Lauren McIntyre, an associate professor of molecular genetics and microbiology in UF's College of Medicine and a member of the UF Genetics Institute. "UF helped develop a statistical model that took into account the experimental design and had good power to detect the effects of herbivory."

Scientists grew six exotic and nine native plant species in pots with field-collected soil from the Millingerwaard area, allowing natural soil pathogenic microbes to accumulate in the pots. Then they removed the plants and replanted the soils with the same plant species.

The growth of native plants was reduced far more than the growth of exotic species, indicating natives were more vulnerable to natural soil-borne microbes.

In addition, all plant species were exposed to North African locusts and a widespread species of aphid. These herbivores were not expected to show a preference for either the native or the exotic species. But they preferred the native plants and left the exotic ones relatively alone. Researchers say the findings help to better assess the ecological consequences of climate change. The success of exotic plants expanding their range in response to warmer climates may be comparable to invasive exotic plant species that arrive from other continents, representing an additional threat to biodiversity.

*University of Florida (2008, November 19). Climate Change Opens New Avenue For Spread Of Invasive Plants. ScienceDaily. Retrieved November 24, 2008, from <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/11/081119161125.htm>*

## **BARBERRIES AND TICKS**

Scott C. Williams a researcher at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station together with Jeffery S. Ward, Thomas E. Worthley, and Kirby C. Stafford from the University of Connecticut reported that the management of the invasive plant, Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) reduces blacklegged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*) abundance and could have human health ramifications. The native white-footed mouse (*Peromyscus leucopus*) is a primary host for larval and nymphal blacklegged tick. The researchers found that tick abundances were greatest in dense barberry. These ticks are a major vector for agents that cause Lyme disease, human granulocytic anaplasmosis, and human babesiosis.

The researchers found that questing adult ticks were most abundant in areas dominated by Japanese barberry, and that about 44% of the ticks found in barberry were infected with *Borrelia burgdorferi*, -- the spirochete causative agent of human Lyme disease. However, only 10% of the less abundant ticks from non-barberry areas were infected. These findings suggest a great probability of humans becoming infected with Lyme disease in barberry dominated areas.

The CDC reported in 2005 that human granulocytic anaplasmosis is a new tickborne rickettsial infection of neutrophils caused by *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*. "This zoonotic disease has a great capacity to infect and cause disease in humans while maintaining a persistent subclinical state in animal reservoirs." Because granulocytic anaplasmosis impacts immune system function, there is a potential that this infection could worsen other infectious diseases (see <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EiD/vol11no12/05-0898.htm>).

The CDC reported in 2007 that cases of human babesiosis have increased across the northeastern U.S., especially in coastal areas. Human babesiosis is a tick-transmitted, malaria-like infection caused by *Babesia microti* parasites. The *B. microti* parasite shares the same principal rodent reservoir (white-footed mouse) and tick vector (*I. scapularis*) as the Lyme disease spirochete (see [www.cdc.gov/eid/content/13/4/633.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/13/4/633.htm)) (Staff Contact Chris Dionigi).

--[www.tncweeds.ucdavis.edu](http://www.tncweeds.ucdavis.edu) The Nature Conservancy Wildland Invasive Species Program. Excellent resource for identifying and controlling invasive plant species.

--[www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/) - National Park Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service info on invasive plant id and control.

-- [http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural\\_heritage/invspinfo.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/invspinfo.shtml) Virginia's Natural Heritage Invasive Species Progra

**ARLINGTON'S RiP PROJECT**

**Second Saturdays @ Lacey Woods**  
1200 N George Mason Dr., Arlington, VA 22205  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
703 – 228 – 7636

**Second Sundays @ Gulf Branch Nature Center**  
3608 Military Road, Arlington, VA 22205  
12:00 PM – 2:30 PM  
703 – 228 – 3403

Work up a sweat as we get rid of unwanted invaders. Gear up and head out to remove some of these intruders from the park land. Work sessions at the nature center will include a warm-up indoors with some basic plant identification and find out why some plants are problematic. If you have your own garden gloves and tools, please bring them along. Some tools will be provided. Be sure to come dressed for work, wear long pants, long sleeves, and perhaps a hat. You may also want to bring along a water bottle. Pre-registration is not required but suggested

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



The flyer for the Invasive Management Area Volunteer Program features a title at the top with a logo on the right. Below the title are two questions: "Need COMMUNITY SERVICE hours?" and "Like WORKING OUTDOORS with FRIENDS?". A central photograph shows a group of volunteers working in a field. To the left of the photo are four small images of different plants. Below the photo is the text: "Help save trees and wildlife habitat Learn something new Make a difference". Underneath that is the word "INTERESTED?" followed by a URL: "http://fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/ima". At the bottom left is a wheelchair accessibility icon and text: "To request accessible accommodations please call, Gary Logan, 703-228-4544, TTY: 703-228-1129". At the bottom right is the Fairfax County logo.

The IMA (Invasive Management Area) 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!

- Sun. Jan. 11**, 10:00 - 12:30 pm **Marie Butler Leven Preserve** in McLean, email: amford@acm.org
- Sat. Jan. 17**, 9:00 – 11:00 am, **Laurel Hill** workday
- Sun. Jan. 25**, 10:00 - 12:30 pm **Marie Butler Leven Preserve** in McLean, email: amford@acm.org
- Sun. Feb. 8**, 10:00 - 12:30 pm **Marie Butler Leven Preserve** in McLean, email: amford@acm.org
- Sat. Feb. 14**, 9:00 – 11:00 am, **Laurel Hill** workday
- Sun. Feb. 22**, 10:00 - 12:30 pm **Marie Butler Leven Preserve** in McLean, email: amford@acm.org

For more information:  
**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.**

**FALLS CHURCH INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL TASK FORCE Upcoming 2008 Events:**

We're taking a break for the next couple of months resuming our events in March. For information regarding habitat restoration projects, contact Jeremy Edwards, City of Falls Church, Senior Urban Forester, 703-248-5016 or [jedwards@fallschurchva.gov](mailto:jedwards@fallschurchva.gov).

**LOCAL EVENTS AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:**

**Mon. Jan 26 – Apr. 6. Introduction to Ecology** 7 to 9:00 pm classes at Capital Gallery, L'Enfant Plaza, with two field trips: (two NATH credit) Leader: **Gary Evans**. A fundamental understanding of ecology and the physical and biological principles on which ecosystems depend is essential for any naturalist. Learn to interpret the patterns and processes of nature by studying energy flow, food webs, bio-geo-chemical cycles, population dynamics, communities, behavioral and evolutionary ecology, biodiversity, biomes and plant/animal interactions. Audubon Naturalist Society and USDA Graduate School.. \$355 tuition. For information or to register call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for a registration form. Or go to: <http://grad.usda.gov>

**Sun. Jan. 11 and Sun. Febr. 8 Take Action - Adopt an Area! Gulf Branch Nature Center** 12:00pm - 2:30pm. Free. Adults and teens. No registration needed. Make good on those New Year's resolutions.... spend more time outside and help improve the environment. Become a trained volunteer who keeps a special patch of the park free of noxious invasive plants. Join others a time or two, then step up to a small area of your own to maintain. Your reward? Seeing the steady recovery and return of healthy trees, wildflowers and wildlife. Training held the second Sunday of each month, beginning in January of 2009. Drop in and join anytime between 12:00 and 2:30. Basically, volunteers can :

- 1) help existing volunteers work on keeping their 'adopted' areas free of invasive plants,
- 2) help clear new areas of invasive plants, getting them ready for 'adoption'

Or, once they know what they're doing/ have cleared it with me

- 3) Adopt an area of their own, and come on their own, any time, and work keeping their area invasive free.

**For information call Jennifer Soles at 703-228-3403. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Rd, Arlington, VA**

**Thurs., Feb. 5. Endangered in Virginia** 7:30pm - 8:30pm. Adults. Virginia Sneezeweed in peril! Roanoke Log Perch in danger! Not all endangered species live glamorous lives in exotic locales. Join us on the anniversary of the Endangered Species Act to learn about some truly fascinating plants and animals struggling to survive, right here in Virginia. For more information: 703-228-3403. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Rd, Arlington, VA 22207. Free. Reservation required, register online <https://registration.arlingtonva.us/vsiwebtrac.html> or call 703-228-4747. Program # 623214B

**Sun. Feb 22 Backyard Bees** 3:30pm - 4:30pm Adults. Get a close-up look at the many types of bees you are likely to see in your garden at this informative lecture. We'll offer yard and garden management tips and planting suggestions to help you keep these native pollinators thriving in your landscape. For more information: 703-228-6535. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd., Arlington, VA 22204. Free. Reservation required. Program # 624514H. Register online: <https://registration.arlingtonva.us/vsiwebtrac.html> or call 703-228-4747.

**Sat. February 28 Winter Tree Identification** 9am-3pm Leader Cris Fleming Using the clues of bark, fruit, buds, and twigs, practice identifying trees on the ground of Woodend Sanctuary, beginning inside and then moving out. Non-members \$38. For Information call: 301-652-9188 x16

**Sat. Mar. 28. The 23rd Annual Lahr Native Plant Symposium and Plant Sale** Mark your calendar! This year's symposium, "Native Plants: In Design" features an exciting group of speakers who will present an array of topics related to designing landscapes with native plants. The annual Native Plant Sale will run concurrently, featuring a collection of local native plant nurseries offering an extensive selection of plants. Registration information will be available in January 2009 at [www.usna.usda.gov](http://www.usna.usda.gov). US National Arboretum, 3501 New York Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20002

**Mon Jan 19 BARCROFT PARK (1-3 pm)** 4200 S. Four Mile Run Drive. **Help preserve Arlington's globally rare magnolia bog, a chapter heritage site.** Meet by the parking garage off Four Mile Run. Wear sturdy footwear and bring pruners, hand saws and heavy gloves, if you have them (limited number available on-site). Contact Marty Nielsen ([mrtylnsn@gmail.com](mailto:mrtylnsn@gmail.com)).

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

Join 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. The schedule for November and December is: **Sat. January 17 and Sat. February 14.** Check on meeting location with Alan Ford: 703.732.5291; email: [amford@acm.org](mailto:amford@acm.org)

**CONGRATULATIONS TO “ARMED AND DANGEROUS” VNPS MEMBER STEVE YOUNG**

Steve Young has won the statewide “Armed and Dangerous” award from the Virginia Master Naturalist Program. This award is issued annually to folks for their efforts in controlling invasive species. Steve has done much of his work around the Long Branch Nature Center.

**SKUNK CABBAGE.** Where can you go to find **skunk cabbage** (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) in February in Arlington? Go to: Powhatan Springs Skate Park, Benjamin Banneker Park, Barcroft Park, C. F. Smith Historic Site, Gulf Branch Nature Area, Long Branch Nature Area, Upton Hill Regional Park (NVRPA), G. W. Memorial Parkway properties, and the Army Navy Country Club.



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

**Chapter Events Calendar**

- Jan 8 Board Meeting 6:45pm  
**Diversity of Bees** 7:30  
Green Spring Gardens
- Feb 7 Chapter Walk **Great Falls** 10:30am to 1pm
- Feb 12 Board Meeting 6:45pm  
**Invasives Program** 7:30  
Green Spring Gardens

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