

POTOWMACK NEWS

Volume 27. No. 3

Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

May/June 2009

POTOWMACK CHAPTER SPRING PLANT SALE, MAY 16 GREEN SPRING GARDENS

The Potowmack Chapter's first native plant sale of the year will be held on Saturday, May 16 from 9 am to 3 pm as part of Green Spring Garden Day. As in the past, we will sell plants from our propagation beds located behind the Horticulture Center. We will be offering natives for sunny, shady, dry and wet conditions, including perennials, ferns, vines, trees and shrubs. As you begin your Spring garden clean-up, focus on removing "Invasive Backyard Plants" as listed in the Stewardship Series #3 brochure prepared by Fairfax County. As you clean out those invasive plants, you'll have room for native plants that enhance your yard and our environment and, in so doing, support all wildlife. We will offer these brochures and assistance in selecting the right plants for your landscape.

Donations of locally native plants from members' yards would be gratefully accepted by us for the sale. Native plants can be delivered to our beds Wednesday mornings when we are working there, or anytime that is convenient for you. Just leave your name with the plants so that we can thank you. Please call if you have any questions regarding plant donations.

We always welcome new volunteers to help us maintain our propagation beds and help out at the sales. Working in the beds is a wonderful way to learn about native plants. Please call if you have any question about volunteering. You can reach **Laura Beaty** at 703-534-8746 or email at laurabeaty@mac.com.

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 the park entrance on the right.

PLANTS OF THE DYKE MARSH WILDLIFE PRESERVE Wednesday, May 13 at 7:30 pm Huntley Meadows Park

Join the Friends of Dyke Marsh and the Virginia Native Plant Society on Wednesday, May 13, at 7:30 pm at Huntley Meadows Park and learn about the Plants of the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. **Dr. Elizabeth Wells** will lead a visual "walk" through the preserve and discuss the many, varied wetland plants and zones of the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. Dr. Wells is Associate Professor of Botany at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and has studied the plants at Dyke Marsh with Field Botany and Plant Ecology students for 30 years.

Dyke Marsh is administered by the National Park Service. Friends of Dyke Marsh is a volunteer group dedicated to preserving and enhancing Dyke Marsh, the last enduring substantial freshwater tidal marsh in the Washington, D.C. capital area, located on the Potomac River just south of Alexandria, Virginia.

Location: Huntley Meadows Park Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Boulevard, Alexandria, VA 22306.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN ABOUT PROPAGATING NATIVE PLANTS? On Saturday, June 6, from 10 am - 12 noon, the Potowmack Chapter's propagation chair will demonstrate various techniques for increasing your native plants, from seeds to cuttings to division and layering. The session will take place at the chapter's propagation beds behind the Horticulture Center at Green Spring Garden Park, mist or shine. A nominal fee of \$5 will cover potting expenses. Reservations are required. Please email Laura Beaty to reserve a spot at the potting bench: laurabeaty@mac.com *Directions to Green Spring: See above*

INTRODUCTION TO OUR NATIVE FERNS Thursday, June 11. Walk at 6:45 pm, Program at 7:30pm. Green Spring Gardens

In the wild and in the garden, ferns are a wonderful part of natural landscapes. They vary widely in form, texture, habit, and habitat. Come learn more about our native ferns on Thursday, June 11, when we will welcome botany chair, **Cris Fleming**. At 6:45 p.m., Cris will lead a short walk along the Virginia Native Plant Garden Native Plant Trail at Green Spring Gardens, where we'll see a large and varied collection of native ferns. Later we'll return to Green Spring's multipurpose room for her presentation on our local ferns and fern allies. Brenda Skarphol of Green Spring Gardens will also be available to answer questions about growing ferns. Reservations are not necessary. For any questions, contact Shirley Gay at shirleywg@comcast.net or 703-920-1913.

Directions to Green Spring Gardens: See above

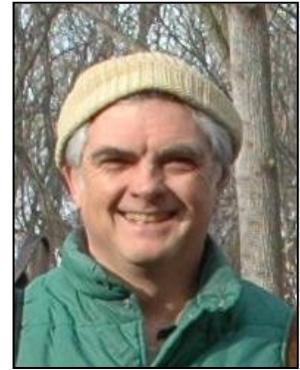
SUMMER SOLSTICE WALK, CHAPMAN FOREST SOUTH, Saturday, June 20 (see page 2.)

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I hope this May Day finds you well. Our issue this month is Invasive Species. We have tried to put together some useful information regarding the threat and challenge of invasive species in our native landscape.

Many plants we have appreciated as attractive, robust members of our gardens turn out to be aggressive and destructive when they escape into the natural areas of our parks and preserves. Now we know just how destructive they can be and, I hope, are beginning to do something to slow the advance and hopefully reverse the damage.

Our natural areas, more than ever, need our attention and support, so join me and many others on May 2, the statewide Invasives Removal Day, or anytime during the month at one of the many workday opportunities available. **Alan Ford**



VIRGINIA-WIDE INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL DAY, SATURDAY, MAY 2

The Virginia Master Naturalists and the Virginia Native Plant Society announce the first-ever, statewide Invasive Plant Removal Day. The program will take place at locations all over the state on Saturday, May 2, 2009.

Non-native, invasive plants are threatening habitats worldwide, from tropical ecosystems to polar regions. These plant invaders alter habitats and reduce biodiversity. They cause ecological and economic harm. Experts consider these plants to be the second most serious threat to the quality of our natural areas and their ability to support wildlife. Scientists estimate that 14 million acres of land (about half the size of Virginia) in the U.S. are newly infested each year!

Invasives have taken a firm foothold in many parts of the state and everyone's help is needed to reclaim our natural areas. Removing invasive plants and sowing native flora is a fantastic way to restore water quality and wildlife habitat.

Join volunteers at sites throughout Virginia. See page 6 for a list of projects in our area.

SUMMER SOLSTICE WALK, CHAPMAN FOREST SOUTH, Saturday, June 20 from 10 to 4

Jointly sponsored by MNPS, VNPS, and the Botanical Society of Washington. The south tributary of Chapman Forest South is a pristine, spring-fed stream that begins as a series of Magnolia Bogs and seeps and flows through steep, forested ravines to Mattawoman Creek. We will walk along the floodplain of this stream from near its convergence with Mattawoman Creek upstream to a large series of wet meadows formed by beaver dams. This is a wild and pristine area with a great diversity of wildlife (migratory fish spawn in the stream and evidence of bobcat has been observed, among many others). We should see the state-rare Deciduous Holly (*Ilex decidua*) and Camphorweed (*Pluchea camphorata*); extensive fern belts and clubmoss colonies and many species of ferns, including Adder's Tongue; numerous wildflowers and species of *Carex*; and a diversity of trees and shrubs. Most of the vegetation here is typical of the Coastal Plain, but some of the stream passes through beds of calcareous marine sands and marl, which give rise to a distinctive flora with montane elements. Moderate though lengthy walk on fairly level ground. Bring lunch, water, and good shoes. Some wet ground or occasional very shallow stream crossing may be encountered. Afterwards, a group of us will meet at Chinese restaurant in Bryans Road shopping center for dinner.

Directions: From the Capital Beltway (495), take Indian Head Highway (Rt. 210) south approximately 22 miles to the Rt. 227 intersection at Bryans Road (at the intersection and not surprisingly, a McDonald's and Burger King will be on your right and a builders supply will be on left - don't take PG County versions of Rt. 227 many miles before this intersection!). Turn left at Rt. 227 and proceed south for approximately 3-4 miles. Slow down as road begins to descend down big hill to Mattawoman Creek (Lamont's will be on left about here) and be prepared to turn right just after stream crossing at Buteaux Crossing and before abandoned railroad tracks. Parking area will be on right at railroad tracks. We'll meet in parking lot.

PROGRESS ON INVASIVES REMOVAL IN TURKEY RUN PARK by Susan Wexelblat

BOARD OFFICERS		
President	Alan Ford	703-732-5291
Vice President	Su Jewell	703-913-0139
Secretary	Pat Salamone	703-329-1748
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Programs	Shirley Gay	703-920-1913
Propagation/Plant Sales	Laura Beaty	703-534-8746
Publications	Roberta Day	703-560-5528
Publicity	Becky Super	703-477-2914
Site Registry	Rod Simmons	
At Large	Bob Yaccovissi	703-641-8914
<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 malawler@aol.com or assistant editor Susan Wexelblat at susanwexelblat@gmail.com</p>		

Beginning in 2005, VNPS and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) began working together to remove invasive plants from Turkey Run Park in the Potomac Gorge. Turkey Run is the largest intact forest within the 495 Beltway; it is part of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, a unit of the National Park Service (NPS). Two workdays per month are scheduled, bringing out between 2 and 20 volunteers depending on weather. The VNPS volunteers are a great resource, making the workdays more fun and educational for all volunteers by sharing their knowledge of plants, both invasive and native.

The first major target of the removal teams was *Viburnum dilitatum* or Linden viburnum, a large shrub or small tree from Asia, which was originally used for landscaping. Linden viburnum grows as dense thickets that gradually take over an area and push out the native plants. Because of the dedicated efforts of volunteers, all of the accessible stands of Linden viburnum have been cut down! Although there are places with Linden viburnum seedlings remaining, major areas have been reclaimed for other plants. In a once densely populated area, freed from viburnum (and any other recognized invasives) in 2005 and 2006, native plants are repopulating the area. Orchids, ferns, partridge berry, spicebush, holly, beech and others are enthusiastically reclaiming the sunlight.

Another target of the volunteers is Asian Wisteria. Turkey Run contains an old farm site above a stream called Wisteria Run because of the large number of vines covering the area. Workday volunteers and TNC Weed Warriors (many of whom are VNPS members) have learned that for rapid killing simply cutting wisteria is not enough; the vines should be painted with herbicide immediately or they will regrow. However, some of the dedicated Weed Warriors have been cutting back vines for several years and are starting to see a difference. This is an example of the unexpected lessons in invasives removal that are learned when many people concentrate on the task. In spite of the difficulties, wisteria has been well controlled in some areas, particularly with the support of the NPS Exotic Plant Management Team.

Many of the winter workdays have concentrated on vines, as you don't need leaves to distinguish between the native grape and the invasive English ivy, bittersweet and porcelainberry vines. One measure of the work done so far is that winter vine workdays have now moved out of Turkey Run and downstream along the Parkway. There just aren't enough concentrations of invasive vines in Turkey Run to keep a large group busy!

There are still large concentrations of garlic mustard remaining in Turkey Run. Dedicated, repetitive removal has reduced the coverage in several areas, allowing the native wildflowers to defend their space on the ground. However, the garlic mustard seed bank continues to sprout and there is more work to be done. So plan now to come out and make an impact—Prevent this year's garlic mustard from seeding!

Thanks to Mary Travaglini of TNC and Margaret Chatham of VNPS for information used in this article.

FACT SHEETS AND OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

Weeds Gone Wild: Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas is a web-based project of the Plant Conservation Alliance's Alien Plant Working Group. It provides information for the general public, land managers, researchers, and others on the serious threat and impacts of invasive alien (exotic, non-native) plants to the native flora, fauna, and natural ecosystems of the United States. This site provides a compiled national list of invasive plants infesting natural areas throughout the U.S.; background information on the problem of invasive species; illustrated fact sheets that include plant descriptions, native range, distribution and habitat in the U.S., management options, suggested alternative native plants, and other information; and selected links to relevant people and organizations. See: <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/index.htm>.

Virginia's Natural Heritage Program also provides a list of Invasive Alien Plant Species of Virginia with Fact Sheets on thirty of the worst species at http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/invspfactsheets.shtml. It also provides a list of native plants for conservation, restoration, and landscaping.

The **Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council** www.ma-epcc.org also has excellent links and useful information.



Weekend volunteers standing in a clearing that used to be full of Linden Viburnum.

HELPING PROTECT THE BARCROFT BOG FROM INVASIVES

One of the Potowmack Chapter’s great green heroes is **Marty Nielsen**, who has personally overseen the removal of invasive plants in the area of our globally rare plant communities at Barcroft Park in Arlington County. This magnolia bog is Arlington’s most significant natural plant community; it was first described by W. L. McAtee in the early 20th Century. Barcroft Park contains a floristically unique patchwork of wooded seeps with a remnant Acidic Seepage Swamp (S3) and the terrace gravel forest that produced the wetlands. Because the wetland communities at Barcroft Park are rare, small-patch types, their persistence in the heavily urbanized D.C. area is extraordinarily significant. The magnolia bog is a remnant ecotype that is extremely rare not only in Virginia, but in the entire world. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, in its letter to the County about the magnolia bog, placed it in the highest category of rarity: “Coastal Plain/Piedmont Seepage Bog (Northern Coastal Plain Terrace Gravel Bog Type). This vegetation type was assigned a rank of G1, indicating that it is critically rare and threatened throughout its global range.



“Coastal Plain/Piedmont Seepage Bog (Northern Coastal Plain Terrace Gravel Bog Type). This vegetation type was assigned a rank of G1, indicating that it is critically rare and threatened throughout its global range.

Marty Nielsen has worked on his own and has also conducted several removal work parties over the past several years. He has also consulted with Greg Zell, the county naturalist, to determine the important areas to protect. Much of the area is “blessed” with poison ivy whose berries benefit birds, so Marty usually works in winter and early spring. **Pam Weeks** and **Marion Jordan** display a pile of wineberry, Japanese honeysuckle vines and shrub-lings they helped remove from the park on March 8.



GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES INFORMATION

Because of budgetary considerations, the Nature Conservancy’s Global Invasive Species Team (GIST) was disbanded in March 2009. The GIST web site, many useful documents on invasive species control, numerous invasive species images, and the recently created INVASIPEDIA, were in danger of becoming lost.

The Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health at The University of Georgia, in collaboration with the Global Invasive Species Team, is pleased to announce that the GIST web site and INVASIPEDIA are now available through Invasive.org (www.invasive.org). All of Barry Rice’s 240 images and John Randall’s 911 images that were on the GIST web site have been incorporated into the Bugwood Image Database (www.ForestryImages.org and www.Invasive.org)

The GIST web site on Invasive.org is a static system with the content current to March 2009. Over time, the GIST web site content will be merged into the existing Invasive.org framework. INVASIPEDIA is fully integrated into Bugwood Wiki under Invasive Species at <http://wiki.bugwood.org/>. WIMS will be hosted by iMapInvasives and the Remote Sensing Tutorial will be hosted on Barry Rice’s sarracenia.com.

Please contact any of The Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health staff if you have questions or need additional information. Thank you, Keith Douce, Dave Moorhead, Chuck Bargeron and Joe LaForest at the Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health, The University of Georgia. P. O. Box 748, 4601 Research Way Admin. Bldg., Tifton, GA 31793 USA.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY? INVASIVE PLANTS AND THEIR NATIVE LOOK-ALIKES: AN IDENTIFICATION GUIDE FOR THE MID-ATLANTIC

This full-color, 62-page booklet is designed to facilitate the correct identification of confusingly similar invasive and native plant species. Targeted at land managers, gardeners, conservationists, and all others interested in plants, this booklet covers over 20 invasive species and their native look-alikes.

Higher quality 8meg file: http://www.nybg.org/files/scientists/rnaczi/Mistaken_Identity_Final.pdf

Lower quality 2meg file for dial-up connections: http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/documents/Mistaken_Identity.pdf

INSTRUCTIONS FOR REMOVING ENGLISH IVY By Rod Simmons and Steve Young, March 2009

We greatly appreciate volunteer assistance in the effort to remove English Ivy (*Hedera helix*) from parks and natural areas in the City of Alexandria. We have a few simple guidelines that we ask volunteers to follow when removing ivy.

Mainly, we want to make sure that the soil is not disturbed and that native ferns, wildflowers, seedlings, and saplings are not trampled or otherwise disturbed when ivy is removed. Therefore, we try to limit ivy removal efforts to fall and winter when most of these plants are dormant. For example, we would never want to pull ivy in spring when spring ephemeral wildflowers like Trout Lily, Spring Beauty, Mayapple, etc., have emerged and are intertwined with the ivy, rendering it virtually impossible to remove the ivy without destroying the native plants.

In areas smothered by ivy where native flora is not visible or is fairly sparse, removing the ivy is possible throughout the growing season. However, it is always important to protect any existing native plants from damage during ivy removal efforts. Also, as much as possible, leave rotting wood where it is and minimize disturbance to it except as necessary to remove ivy. The rotting wood is an important resource for native plants and animals.

Because soil disturbance damages a site and promotes the spread of invasive exotics, we don't allow digging in the soil. Moreover, digging is not necessary in removing English Ivy as it is very effectively removed by hand-pulling. (A trowel, however, is a useful tool for prying or loosening large or stubborn sections of vines from the ground, without digging a hole.) And pulling ivy vines when the soil is moist (not wet or just after a rain) is ideal, because the roots will not adhere as much to the soil. When there have been freezing and thawing cycles, winter ivy pulling can be much easier, and there are no insects and Poison Ivy is less of an issue. Do not try to pull ivy in the winter if the ground is actually frozen (which is fairly rare however). Ivy will be hard to pull and vines will frequently break with roots remaining in the ground when the soil is dry and hard during drought periods.

When pulling ivy runners that have spread out horizontally across the ground, pull one vine at a time, making sure that all pieces of the vine are removed (particularly the small roots that have a tendency to break off from the runner). In most cases, the ivy will be shallowly-rooted towards the recent growth at the end of the runner and more deeply-rooted along the thicker, older growth of the vine. Sometimes the ivy is so dense that different vines almost seem knotted together and are very hard or even impossible to pull. In these cases, a small folding saw can be used to cut areas where vines are too tangled together. If you see that a small root still in the ground has pulled off even a tiny section of vine stem, it can still resprout. Pull it up or use a tool to cut off the stem piece.

In cases where ivy has spread from the ground to the base of a tree and is growing vertically up the tree trunk, it is especially important to make sure that all the ivy roots are removed so they can't resprout. Where it is attached to the trunk, ivy can be carefully pulled off as long it doesn't remove sections of bark or otherwise damage the tree. You don't have to try to pull all sections of vine off the tree, just removing a foot or so of ivy from around the base is all that is necessary to kill the vines up the trunk. A trowel or large screwdriver comes in handy for gently prying or loosening (not digging) the vines from the trunk.

In cases where ivy vines are very old and thick and have rooted into the tree bark, hand-pulling is not recommended. Instead, the treatment would be to carefully (without cutting into the bark) sever the vines with a pruner or small saw by removing a several-inch segment of the vine. This will kill the vine from the point of cut up the tree. Later, City staff will treat these vines with herbicide.

Ivy vines can be piled in areas where they won't smother native vegetation or bagged. They will not resprout so long as they are not mixed with soil.

Be careful to not come in contact with the Poison Ivy vines (*Toxicodendron radicans*) or vertical shoots that often grow amidst the English Ivy patches. Poison Ivy is sometimes a nuisance to humans but is a native that is extremely valuable for wildlife, and therefore is not targeted for removal.

You will sometimes find other vines mixed in with English ivy. If you notice a vine that seems different, check to see whether it has the English Ivy leaves. If it doesn't, it may be a Poison Ivy or Virginia Creeper vine, or if it has spines, a Smilax (Greenbriar) vine – all valuable native plants! Try not to harm these and other important native vines, like Wild Grape species. Remember that not every vine is bad. Some other vines may be non-native Wisteria or Porcelainberry. When you have learned to identify these, they can be pulled if possible, or cut.



“Since the advent of European settlement in North America, over 50,000 species of plants alone have been introduced. While many enhance our landscaping and others provide 98 percent of our crops, some 5,000 have gone wild to compete with some 17,000 native plants. Estimates of how fast and how extensively they are replacing natives vary, but no one who has seen the blooms of garlic mustard in eastern forests, the broad yellow fields of star thistle in the West, the hair-thick stands of melaleuca in the Everglades, or the impenetrable mats of water chestnut on northern lakes and rivers can doubt that change is everywhere.” **Sylvan Ramsey Kaufman and Wallace Kaufman in *INVASIVE PLANTS: Guide to Identification and the Impacts and Control of Common North American Species.***

MAY 2 IS INVASIVES PLANTS REMOVAL DAY VIRGINIA-WIDE

Potowmack Chapter Area projects are listed below. **For the times and a complete list of projects and up-to-date information see: <http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/invasives/projects.html>**

Alexandria

Organization: City of Alexandria, Dept. RPCA, Hort./Natural Resources & T&ES

Site: Dora Kelly Park 5700 Sanger Avenue

Site: Holmes Run Park Intersection of Holmes Run Parkway & Pegram Street

Organization: Fairfax County Park Authority Invasive Management Area (IMA)

Site: Huntley Meadows Park Harrison Lane and 3701 Lockheed Boulevard

Annandale

Organization: Wellington Height Citizens Association

Site: Lamond Park Intersection of Ft. Hunt Road and Morningside Lane (enter at Morningside and Admiral)

Organization: Fairfax ReLeaf, Inc.

Site: Pine Ridge Park 3401 Woodburn Rd – FULL

Organization: Fairfax County Park Authority Invasive Management Area (IMA)

Site: Rutherford Park Guinea Road

Arlington

Organization: Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE) & Arlington Remove Invasive Plants (RiP)

Site: Thrifton Hill Park Spout Run Parkway & N. Edgewood St

Organization: Arlington Remove Invasive Plants (RiP) & Arlington Regional Master Naturalists (ARMN)

Site: Tuckahoe Park 2400 North Sycamore Street

Site: Zachary Taylor Park 2900 Military Road

Burke

Organization: Fairfax County Park Authority Invasive Management Area (IMA)

Site: Pohick Stream Valley Mason Bluff Drive, Burke

Fairfax

Organization: Fairfax County Park Authority Invasive Management Area (IMA)

Site: Rocky Run Stream Valley Entrance near 4375 Majestic Lane

Site: Woodglen Lake Park Zion Road

Site: Brentwood Park Goodwood Drive

Site: Royal Lake Park 5344 Gainesborough Drive

Site: Fraser Preserve Great Falls (See box on page 7)

Falls Church

Organization: City of Falls Church Habitat Restoration Team

Site: Cherry Hill Park 300 Park Avenue

McLean

Organization: Fairfax County Park Authority Invasive Management Area (IMA)

Site: McLean Hunt Estates Winter Hunt Road

Site: Bryn Mawr Park Tennyson Drive

Reston

Organization: Reston Association

Site: Old Trail Drive Natural Area 11550 Glade Drive

MAY 2 IS INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL DAY VIRGINIA-WIDE

The Potowmack Chapter of VNPS is sponsoring a full day of Invasives Removal at **Fraser Preserve** in Great Falls. Come join us anytime from 10am-4pm. We will break for a potluck lunch at 12-1pm, so bring something to share. Directions: From Route 7, turn on to Springvale Road headed toward the Potomac. Continue on Springvale – watch out for the left-right jog at Route 603. When you reach the end of the paved road, just keep going on into Camp Fraser. See Web site for further information <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/virginia/preserves/art1235.html>.

BEING ADOPTED BY A FOREST by Lorne Peterson

The naturalists in Gulf Branch park have begun an innovative “Adopt an Area” project to encourage residents to remove invasive exotic plants. The “adopters” will be trained and then play vital roles by first removing invasive plants, and then monitoring their areas for the re-growth of invasive exotics from seeds and rootlets. Each adopter’s name, or a group name, is being printed on a plant ID plaque that says:

**Area Adopted by
your name or group**

The park naturalists hope that when neighbors and visitors see the names on these signs they too will be moved to adopt an area of the forest.

As a longtime volunteer and resident in Gulf Branch, I welcomed the “adoption” idea. But I needed to think about whether to have my name on one of the signs. Would it be presumptuous for me to adopt an area of trees, shrubs, ferns and herbaceous plants? Can one person, or even a group, adopt a community of life? Or would it make more sense for the larger forest community to adopt someone as a native plant caretaker?

I suggested a different kind of sign for the area where I have been working to remove invasive exotics and restore native plants:

**This Natural Area
adopted
Lorne Peterson**

The park naturalist who is coordinating the “adoption” program, Jennifer Soles, is open to suggestions. She made a sign showing that the forest-community has adopted me. After asking the permission of the forest trees and smaller native plants, my adoption so far has been approved.

One of the inspirations for this perspective is the 1949 book *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold. He proposed extending the boundaries of what we call community by learning to live as a member and citizen of the “land-community”. Leopold noted: “When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.”

Many native peoples of North America have a similar relation with nature. “The land doesn’t belong to us. We belong to the land.” This relation with the land needs a continual renewal, especially in a society where nature has been viewed mainly as outside of us and our human communities. Working to restore native plant habitats in a forest and around our homes can maintain and renew a sense of belonging within the land-community.

When I take a break from removing invasive exotics and stand among native flora, I often feel what Thoreau expressed in his *Journal*.

“It would be well if we saw ourselves in perspective always, impressed with distinct outline on the sky, side by side with the shrubs on the river’s brim.”

Best wishes for participating wherever you live in the land-community.

Lorne Peterson lives in the Gulf Branch stream valley, Piedmont Hills, Arlington, mid-Potomac River region.

ARLINGTON AWARDED GRANT FOR AMERICORPS INVASIVES REMOVAL

Arlington's application for 10 AmeriCorps members to work in non-native invasive plant removal has been approved, contingent upon receipt of funding from a National Parks and Recreation Association grant, said Mike Kern, the deputy director for the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), according to Miguel de Dárrah y Ortega, Arlington County management specialist. The 10 AmeriCorps members will be with the county for two months beginning in May. Overall, this grant will provide 3,200 hours of labor toward the Four Mile Run Restoration at no cost to the County – the equivalent of more than one-and-a-half full-time employees for a year. The NCCC activity will also overlap with Deloitte's annual volunteer IMPACT Day on June 5th, potentially adding even more volunteer hours. The NCCC members will provide Parks and Natural Resources the opportunity to develop new skills in the support and management of volunteers and will also provide a strong base of experience in working toward the much larger three-year AmeriCorps State Four Mile Run Restoration Project.

LOCAL EVENTS AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:

Fri. May 1: Meadowood Recreation Area of BLM in Mason Neck 10 am to 1 pm. Earth Sangha will be planting another 200 native woody plants in the stream buffer forest behind the horse barn. In the Spring of 2008, the Environmental Science students of Lake Braddock HS planted about 200 native plants in bare, rock-hard soil and made great progress turning this 0.9 acre lot into a forest. We want to add another 200 plants to complete the restoration. Directions to Meadowood Recreation Area: take Route 1 South to Lorton; turn left on Gunston Road (Rt. 242); after passing Gunston ES to your left, a wooden fence and gate will appear to your right. Please drive slowly carefully once inside the gate, as there are a lot of horses grazing in the field.

Sat. May 2: at our Native Arboretum site (MBLP) in McLean 10 am to 1 pm. Earth Sangha will resume its forest restoration project on the half acre area starting from the witch hazel grove all the way towards the pond. It involves pulling out invasive horticultural plants and some stiltgrass and mile-a-minute. Earth Sangha will provide tools and lunch. Volunteers are asked to bring a pair of work gloves and a bottle of water. Contact Lisa Bright at www.earthsangha.org or 703-764-4830 or 571-213-8025 (cell) for more information.

Sat. May 2: Wilburdale Park in Annandale 10 am to 1 pm: Yes, we are holding two events on this day because this park has a lot of Garlic mustard seedlings. It's a day of reckoning for Garlic mustard in Wilburdale Park. Nikki Oteyza will lead the event. Please bring a pair of gloves and a plastic trash bag! Garlic mustard is easy to spot, easy to pull out, and easy to bag. A single plant left alone can produce thousands of seeds. Contact Lisa Bright, see above for contact information.

Sun. May 3: Trillium Trek 8:30AM-4PM. Adults. Travel to Linden, VA to see one of the largest Great White Trillium displays in the world (millions of plants)! This area is resplendent with many (often rare) wildflowers and trees including native orchids and a variety of wildlife to observe. On the two-mile trail we'll discuss plant folklore and ethnobotany. We'll stop to purchase local country crafts and apple products. Dress for hiking; bring water and a bag lunch to eat on the trail. \$25 fee due upon registration. Van leaves from Lubber Run Center parking lot, 300 N Park Dr., Arlington, VA 22203 or will pick up from Ballston Metro Station with advance request to 703-228-6535. Registration required, register on-line at <https://registration.arlingtonva.us/vsiwebtrac.html> or call 703-228-4747. Program # 632504D.

Sun. May 3 & Sunday, May 10: Earth Sangha's Wild Plant Nursery in Springfield Stretching shade clothes over the entire nursery plots, and plus other nursery duties. Directions provided for confirmed volunteers. Please bring a bottle of water, sun-screen lotion and snacks. Contact Lisa Bright at www.earthsangha.org or 703-764-4830 or 571-213-8025 (cell).

Sat. May 9: Butterfly Gardening for Beginners 6 to adult Hidden Oaks Nature Center 10am. Discover how easily you can attract butterflies and hummingbirds to your backyard by providing the host and nectar plants for native butterflies. Learn how to create your own backyard habitat and start host plants for monarch butterflies. Classroom and garden experience included.

Sun. May 10: Nature for Beginners: Caterpillars 3-4pm. Adults. Gulf Branch Nature Center. For you and adults like you who enjoy the outdoors and want to know more about the natural world but are just beginners. Every second Sunday of the month we'll master the ten most common items in a different nature category. You'll learn not only names, but enough natural history to make you feel like a naturalist superstar. Don't let your kids or grandkids show you up or have all the fun! Join us to enhance your enjoyment and knowledge of the world around you. Information: 703-228-3403. Free. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Rd., Arlington, VA 22207. Registration required, call 703-228-4747 or register on-line <https://registration.arlingtonva.us/vsiwebtrac.html>. Program # 632404G.

Sun, May 17: Remove Alien Plant Invaders Ages 9 to adult. Long Branch Nature Center. Not all plants are good for the environment. Invasive plants crowd native ones out for space and light and some can even grow a "mile-a-minute"! Kids will learn what these troublesome beasts look like and can help rescue the park from these alien invaders! Information: 703-228-6535. Free. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd., Arlington, VA 22204. Registration required, register on-line <https://registration.arlingtonva.us/vsiwebtrac.html> or call 703-228-4747. Program # 632502PP.

Wed. May 20: Book Talk: City of Trees. 6:30-8:30pm. Shirlington Library (Arlington). Join the author of *City of Trees: The Complete Field Guide to the Trees of Washington, DC* for a slide lecture on the history and botanic diversity of the capital city's trees. Author Melanie Choukas-Bradley will highlight the history of Washington's trees from George Washington and Thomas Jefferson's time to the present day. Learn how Washington, DC came to be known as the "City of Trees" and why our historic canopy is more essential than ever in the 21st century. Some of the original botanical art work from the book will also be shared. Books will be available for sale (\$20 check or exact cash only) and signing at the event. The lecture is free to attend but donations are appreciated. Pre-registration is required by calling 703-228-6400.

Wed. May 27: Invasive Ornamentals and Sustainability 6:30-8:30pm. Central Library Auditorium. Speaker: John Peter Thompson. When it comes to invasive species, it's important to bring all points of view to the discussion. Come learn about invasive plants, their role in the ornamentals trade business, and their impact on sustainability. Sponsored by: Arlington's Invasive Species Control Program & Arlington Regional Master Naturalists. Pre-registration required. Call 703-228-6400 to register. Fee: \$10/person.

LOCAL EVENTS AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES (Continued from previous page)

Thur. Jun 18: Public Meeting: Discussion of Arlington County’s Donaldson Run Stream Restoration Project. 7-9pm. Arlington County Central Library (1015 North Quincy Street, Arlington). Learn about the challenges and benefits of stream restoration in urban forests. We’ll cover the social, economic, and environmental aspects of the Donaldson Run Restoration Project and its contribution to Chesapeake Bay water quality. Community leaders, homeowners and concerned citizens should attend. Visit www.cnr.vt.edu/vleaf for more information.

Fri. Jun 19: Urban Stream Restoration Conference 8:30am-4:30pm. Arlington County PRCR Conference Center (2700 S. Taylor Street, Arlington). Learn about the challenges and benefits of stream restoration in urban forests of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed using Arlington County’s Donaldson Run Restoration Project as a case study. The daylong technical conference covers the ecology and techniques of urban forest stream restoration, and presents the accomplishments and lessons learned from the Donaldson Run project. Developers, builders, urban foresters, arborists, park managers, planners and landscape architects should attend. Lunch and Refreshments provided. Registration: \$30.00 per person. Registration deadline is June 15, 2009. Visit www.cnr.vt.edu/vleaf for more information.

Sat June 20 - July 11: Butterflies and their Conservation 9:00am - 3:30, pm classes at Capital Gallery, DC. (one NATH credit). Instructor: Patricia Durkin. Small-scale conservation projects can do much to help butterflies whose populations are increasingly impacted by urbanization and other factors. Participants will learn to identify butterflies of the region and study the principles of butterfly conservation. They will work on plans for their own conservation projects, based on an expanded understanding of butterfly biology, behavior and habitat. This course will meet for three double-session days: 9-11:30 AM and 1-3:30 PM each Saturday, with a working lunch in between. Field Trip Dates: June 20 and June 28, 2009. Audubon Naturalist Society and USDA Graduate School. \$259 tuition. For information call: 301-652-9188 x16 or to register visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for a registration form. Or go to: <http://grad.usda.gov>.

FAIRFAX COUNTY’S INVASIVE MANAGEMENT AREA (IMA) PROGRAM

(Note: May 2 events are listed on page 6)

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!

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| May. 9, 10:00 – 12:00, Piney Branch workday | Jun. 7, 9:30 – 12:00, Huntley Meadows workday |
| May. 16, 10:00 – 12:00, Pohick Stream Valley | Jun. 27, 9:00 – 12:00, Nottoway Park workday |
| May. 23, 9:30 – 11:00, Woodglen Lake workday | Jun. 27, 9:30 – 12:00, Woodglen Lake workday |
| May. 30, 9:00 – 12:00, Nottoway Park workday | Jun. 27, 10:00 – 12:00, Pohick Stream Valley |

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.

ARLINGTON COUNTY RiP PROGRAM (Note: May 2 events are listed on page 6)

Free. For ages 9 to adult. Not all plants are good for the environment. Invasive plants crowd native ones out for space and light and some can even grow a "mile-a-minute"! Come learn what these troublesome beasts look like and help rescue our parks from these alien invaders! We meet monthly at the locations listed below. If you have your own garden gloves and tools, please bring them along. Some supplies will be provided. Be sure to come dressed for work, wear sturdy shoes, long pants, long sleeves, and perhaps a hat. You may also want to bring along a reusable water bottle. Register at jtruong@vt.edu or 703-228-7636.

Second Saturdays @ Lacey Woods 1200 N. George Mason Dr., Arlington, VA May 9, June 13 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM Meet at the N. Frederick St. & 11th St. N. entrance. Site leader: Nora Palmatier	Third Saturdays @ Tuckahoe Park 2400 N. Sycamore St., Arlington, VA May 16, June 20 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Meet in front of Tuckahoe Elementary Site leader: Mary Mclean
Second Sundays @ Gulf Branch Nature Center 3608 Military Road, Arlington, VA 22205 May 10, June 14 12:00 PM – 2:30 PM Site leaders: Jen Soles, Lorne Peterson	Third Sundays @ Long Branch Nature Center 625 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington, VA 22204 May 17, June 21 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM Site leaders: Matt Neff, Steve Young

FALLS CHURCH HABITAT RESTORATION TEAM Upcoming Events:

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

May 2 Cherry Hill Park 10am-Noon

June 6 Hamlett/Rees Track 10am-Noon

June 6 Native Plant Sale – Cherry Hill Park 1pm – 4pm

For more information: contact Jeremy Edwards, City of Falls Church Senior Urban Forester, 703-248-5016 or email jedwards@fallschurchva.gov. For Native Plant sale information: contact Melissa Teates, 703-538-6961 or melanite@verizon.net. The City of Falls Church is committed to the letter and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request a reasonable accommodation for any type of disability call 703-248-5016 (TTY 711).

Event Locations:

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

Cherry Hill Park – From West Street head east on Broad Street/Rt. 7. Turn left onto Little Falls Street. Turn left into the Community Center entrance then park in the rear. Walk behind the basketball courts towards the wooded area of the park.

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. **May 14, May 16, June 11, June 20.** We will focus on garlic mustard in May, and likely wisteria and mile-a-minute in June. May 2 is the big workday at Fraser Preserve. Check on meeting location with Alan Ford: 703.732.5291; email: amford@acm.org

Chapter Events Calendar



- May 13 **Plants of Dyke Marsh**
7:30pm
Huntley Meadows
- May 16 **Plant Sale 9-3**
Green Spring Gardens
- Jun 6 **Learn Propagation**
10am to noon
Green Spring VNPS beds
- Jun 11 **Fern Walk 6:45**
Ferns and Fern ID 7:30
Green Spring Gardens
- Jun 20 **Solstice Walk**
Chapman Forest
10am to 4pm

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

Please verify your address information and your renewal date on the mailing label.

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