

POTOWMACK NEWS

Volume 27. No.5

Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

September/October 2009

FIELD TRIP: SUITLAND BOG, SEPTEMBER 12, 9 am - 12 noon, Registration required

Mark Strong, taxonomic botanist with the Smithsonian Institution, will lead this visit to Suitland bog, which is a prime example of a Magnolia seepage bog, a very rare plant community, high in species diversity. Once common throughout the fall line, these bogs are found only in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States. Among the plants we will see are *Eleocharis tortilis* (twisted spikerush), *Eriocaulon decangulare* (pipewort or bog buttons), *Eriophorum virginicum* (cotton grass), *Juncus longii* (Longs rush), and *Sarracenia purpurea* (purple pitcher-plant). Boots are not needed as we will travel through the bog on a boardwalk. Participation is limited, so registration is required. The trip will be cancelled only in the case of severe weather.

Mark Strong has been employed as a Museum Specialist in the Department of Botany, The Smithsonian Institution, since 1988. A specialist in New World sedges (Cyperaceae) and the flora of the eastern United States, Mark's current projects include a study of Magnolia seepage bogs in the Washington, DC, area.

To Register: Contact Shirley Gay, shirleywg@verizon.net or 703-920-1913. Please include your telephone number when you contact her so that Shirley can confirm your registration.

Directions: Follow I-395 north into Washington D.C. Continue on the SW Freeway 2.2 miles to a slight right onto Pennsylvania Ave SE. After 2 miles, turn right onto Southern Ave Continue 0.2 miles to the entrance of the bog at Suitland Road in Suitland, MD.

POTOWMACK CHAPTER PLANT SALE, OCTOBER 3, Green Spring Gardens, 9 am – 3 pm

The Potowmack Chapter will be selling native plants donated by our members or propagated at our horticulture beds. Our VNPS volunteers have been working overtime this summer to get plants ready for the sale. As fall is the best time to plant, this event is a wonderful opportunity to select native plants for your garden. We're offering perennials, shrubs, and trees, grown from local seed. Besides their beauty, native plants increase the biodiversity of your garden and neighborhood.

Anyone with native plants to share may donate them for the sale. You can drop them off on Wednesday mornings when we're there or any other time. Give us a call if you want more information, or bring them to our propagation beds behind the horticulture center at Green Spring Gardens. Woodland plants and ferns are always needed. Please leave your name so we can thank you in the newsletter. Anyone who would like to get more involved in the chapter and learn about native plants at the same time is welcome to join us Wednesday mornings between 9:30 am and 1:00 pm. We pot up plants to sell and work on our propagation display beds full of glorious, blooming natives. You don't have to be an expert, just interested in learning and helping out the chapter, as well as meeting a great group of people. For more information, call our propagation chair, **Laura Beaty** at 703-534-8746.

Directions to Green Spring Gardens: From Interstate 395, exit at Route 236 West (Little River Turnpike); turn right at Braddock Road and go one block north to park entrance: 4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria.

OCTOBER ANNUAL MEETING: SHOW US YOUR STUFF! Sunday, October 18, 1:30 – 2 pm Social time and member displays, 2 - 4 pm Short business meeting followed by member presentations. Plant walk at 4 pm in Turkey Cock Run, led by regional ecologist, Rod Simmons.

At the annual meeting, in addition to the yearly business of electing officers and approving the budget, please take the opportunity to show your fellow members what plant-related projects you are doing. We will have tables set up if you want to bring in posters, pictures, plants or other things to see and touch (no poison ivy please). Or you can bring some PowerPoint pictures and do a 5-10 minute talk. Show off your garden, your invasive plant removal projects, the new plants you discovered on vacation, the propagation work you are doing, or anything else!

If you want to show a PowerPoint presentation, please bring it on a CD or USB drive, we will have a laptop available. When you decide what to show us, please email Su Jewell at naturewrite@yahoo.com so we can start the presentation list and figure out how many tables to set up. Show us what you are doing and learn what your fellow Potowmack Chapter members are doing as well! (But you don't have to bring something to come to the meeting, we need an audience too.)

Directions to Green Spring Gardens: From Interstate 395, exit at Route 236 West (Little River Turnpike); turn right at Braddock Road and go one block north to park entrance: 4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria.

Nothing is more beautiful than the loveliness of the woods before sunrise. –

George Washington Carver (1864-1943)

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

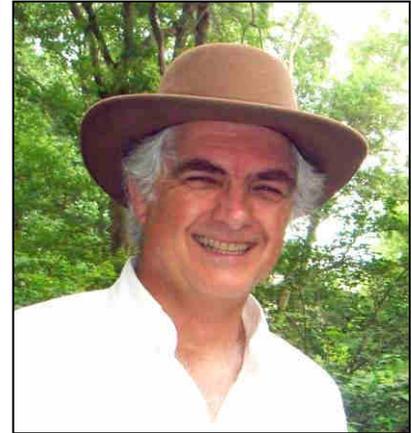
Fall is arriving, faster than we might believe with the temperature outside. But arrive it will, and with it the perfect time to plant native trees. The fall is an absolutely tremendous time to be planting. As the weather cools the ground stays warm allowing the roots to recover from the transplant shock and start to spread out in search of moisture and nutrients. It is also a great time to take stock in your landscape and identify the changes you would like to make.

Here is one I would encourage you to consider. The American lawn is an outmoded anachronism. It costs money to seed, fertilize, water, and apply various chemicals to control pests from fungus to voles. Then we spend money, time, and fossil fuel to cut the plants we just fertilized. Why are we doing this? Childhood memories, social pressure, neighborhood covenants? Well I respect this, but would love to help you craft another path. If children need a place to play then lawn is worthwhile. Otherwise begin the process to leave the lawn behind.

One challenge with trees is the difference between the small whip we buy and the majestic specimen that will develop from it. Easily the most frustrating aspect is planting a plant too large for the location. Getting good information about size, spread, habit, and time to maturity is essential to correct placement. Making a plat, a diagram of your property, is a valuable and substantial tool for helping professionals provide competent guidance. Selecting trees and woody shrubs becomes a process of thinking years, even decades, ahead. Any tree we plant may still be providing food, shelter, and shade for a hundred years. Choosing native species is key to providing home and habitat for our native songbirds and butterflies. Many sources exist for information about selecting appropriate specimens. VNPS maintains a list of commercial vendors who stock native plants including woody shrubs and trees.

For more information check out the website at: <http://vnps.org/growing.html>.

Alan Ford



WHAT IS THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF A TREE?

(from a Northern Virginia Urban Forestry listserve discussion.)

Based on the data I gathered for the City of Chesapeake, using the formulas I derived from American Forests urban tree canopy studies, I come up with a figure ranging from \$28,200 - \$56,000 per acre, depending on densities of 300-600 trees per acre. These quantified benefits are based on stormwater management, pollution uptake, and energy conservation. The many other benefits of the urban forest, social, aesthetic, functional, economic, and recreational, should also be considered as having at least an equal monetary value, if not more than those quantified above.

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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 or assistant editor Susan Wexelblat at susanwexelblat@gmail.com

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack gave a major speech on national forests on August 14: "Our shared vision begins with restoration. Restoration means managing forest lands first and foremost to protect our water resources, while making our forests more resilient to climate change. Forest restoration led by the dedicated people at the Forest Service opens non-traditional markets for climate mitigation and biomass energy while appropriately recognizing the need for more traditional uses of forest resources." For the entire speech see <http://www.fs.fed.us/fstoday/>

THE STATE OF CHESAPEAKE FORESTS

Chesapeake forests are crucial to maintaining the water quality of the Bay and its tributaries. They also safeguard wildlife habitat, contribute billions of dollars annually to local economies, protect public health, provide recreation opportunities, and enhance the quality of life for the watershed's 15 million residents.

Despite these benefits, forests in the Chesapeake Bay watershed are at risk. Nationally, by 2050, more than 23 million acres of forestland across the nation may be lost to other land uses, principally development. In the Bay watershed alone, some 750,000 acres—equivalent to 20 Washington, D.C.s—have been developed since the 1980s. Over roughly the same time period, the Bay watershed has experienced a net loss of forestland at the rate of 100 acres each day. Chesapeake forests also lack regionally coordinated forestland conservation, restoration, and stewardship plans, making them more vulnerable to fragmentation, haphazard development, and invasive species, as well as less likely to be well managed.

To better understand and address these challenges, The Conservation Fund and the USDA Forest Service have partnered to assess and report on the state of Chesapeake forests. This first-of-its-kind report synthesizes more than a decade's worth of data from public and private sources, highlights current forest conditions, forecasts future trends, and outlines key goals and strategies necessary to conserve and restore the forests of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The report calls for a strategic, long-term approach that identifies and focuses on forests with the highest environmental, economic, and social values. Together, public and private partners can help preserve the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its residents through a concerted effort to protect its forests.

Download the entire report at: <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/watershed/socf.shtm>

EXCERPTS FROM THE 2008 ANNUAL REPORT ON VIRGINIA'S FORESTS

- Sixty-two percent of the Commonwealth of Virginia, more than 15.7 million acres, qualifies as forest land.
- Of this forest land, 15.2 million acres are categorized as commercial timberland.
- 500,000 acres are reserved forest land.
- The net loss of forest land is 27,000 acres per year.
- Most of this loss is from development. Some land use is reverting back to forests.
- Much of the forest land is "under siege by a host of invasive insects and plants."
 - Gypsy moths defoliated more than 112,000 acres in Virginia's western mountains.
 - The hemlock wooly adelgid continues "its quest to eliminate hemlock trees."
 - The emerald ash borer has been found in northern Virginia.
 - Chinese privet, kudzu, and multiflora rose are "wreaking havoc in our forests" and will likely change entire ecosystems where they are found.

Read the entire report at <http://www.dof.virginia.gov/info/index-forms-docs.shtml>

Your Household Carbon Diet



American Forests developed a climate change calculator, which estimates the number of new trees that need to be planted each year to offset a household's annual carbon emissions. Using data on average house and population size, energy use, garbage production, and travel behavior, from a variety of sources, the calculator indicates that each household in the Chesapeake Bay watershed needs to plant between 86 and 116 trees each year in order to support its carbon "diet" and be "carbon neutral."

In Virginia:

- **116 trees needed per household per year**
- **77,400 lbs total CO2 (lbs) produced per household per year.**
- **2,750,000 Total number of households**

THE IMPORTANCE OF FORESTS NEW AND OLD AS CARBON SINKS

Restoring lost forests is an important part of how countries can address global warming, based on scientific findings that young forests serve as carbon sinks, consuming more atmospheric carbon dioxide than they produce. These findings were corroborated by carbon monitoring at the Harvard Forest in Massachusetts, which has shown that the "midlatitude forests of the United States (the forests stretching up from the Carolinas into New England and Canada and the Midwest) are reducing the global increase in carbon by more than 10 percent. . . . When you balance out the carbon taken in and released, the Northeast forest retains two to four tons of carbon per hectare every year, in part because the Northeast, with relatively young trees, isn't creating as much carbon in the form of decomposing trees and foliage. . . . In the East, in fact, as forests hold more and more carbon, the rate of new carbon storage uptake is surpassing the Amazon's. . . . The forest of the East, back from devastation, is a big and important player in global carbon storage." And there are those who argue that while protecting designated wilderness, we should continue to log forests sustainably at the same times as restricting development to avoid forest loss, encouraging conservation easements and farmland conversion, and use forests for recreation.

However, a study reported in *Nature* challenges the assumption that young forests absorb more carbon and that old growth forests are carbon neutral. Based on data measuring the annual difference between carbon dioxide uptake and release from 519 different studies in boreal and temperate forests, old growth forests continue adding to their carbon stores for centuries. The findings showed that forests of all ages are much more likely to store carbon than to release it. "While carbon storage slows somewhat in forests beyond 80 years of age, it continues to occur in forests that are 300 to 800 years old." The authors note that "carbon-accounting rules for forests should be revised to give credit for leaving old-growth forests intact."

Editors note: From articles on "The Working Forest" in the New York Times magazine April 2009, and Conservation magazine Jan/March 2009.

FIVE INVASIVE PLANTS THREATENING SOUTHERN FORESTS IN 2009 IDENTIFIED

U.S. Forest Service Southern Research Station (SRS) Ecologist Jim Miller, Ph.D., one of the foremost authorities on nonnative plants in the South, today identified the invasive plant species he believes pose the biggest threats to southern forest ecosystems in 2009.

"Cogongrass, tallowtree, and Japanese climbing fern are among the fastest moving and most destructive nonnative plant species facing many southern landowners this year," said Miller. "Rounding out the top five invasive species that I'm very concerned about would be tree-of-heaven and nonnative privets. While our forests are besieged by numerous invasive plants, these and other nonnative species present serious financial and ecological threats to the South and its forests in 2009."

Nonnative species often out-compete native forest plants and may degrade forest productivity, wildlife habitat, recreational values, and water quality. Invasive species also greatly increase expenses as public and private land managers work to combat their spread and deal with their effects (such as increased wildfire risk and severity).

Nonnative plants can be introduced and spread by wildlife or through other natural means. Humans also spread invasive species by planting them in their gardens and yards and by seeds hitchhiking on their clothes. Additionally, tractors and mowers used in multiple locations without being cleaned often spread nonnative plants.

In an effort to inform forest managers, landowners, and others about where the most threatening invasive plants are in the South and to help them prepare for these threats, Miller collaborated with SRS Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) scientists to develop maps showing the spread, county-by-county, across the Southeast of more than 30 of the most serious nonnative plant species. The invasive plant data were collected on FIA plots throughout the southern United States in cooperation with State forestry agencies. In partnership with the University of Georgia's Center for Invasive Species Science and Ecosystem Health, SRS researchers recently posted the maps and occupation levels online. Maps posted at <http://www.invasive.org/fiamaps/acres.cfm> show the number of acres in a county covered by each nonnative species.

Miller hopes government agencies, forest managers, natural resource professionals, landowners, students, and others will use the information to help combat the spread of nonnative plant species in southern forest and grassland ecosystems. Details on the five invasive plants mentioned above can be found online via: http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/gtr/gtr_srs062/.

Reprinted from: Southern Research Station - USDA Forest Service (2009, January 20). Five Invasive Plants Threatening Southern Forests In 2009 Identified. *ScienceDaily*. Retrieved July 27, 2009, from <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/01/090112201210.htm>

FALLS CHURCH HABITAT RESTORATION TEAM UPCOMING EVENTS:

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

Sat. Sept. 5 **Hamlett/Rees Track** 10 am-Noon

Sat. Oct. 3 **Crossman Park** 10 am-Noon

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.

Crossman Park – From the intersection of rt. 7 and rt. 29, head north on rt. 29. Turn right on to East Columbia Street then take a left onto Van Buren Street. Enter park from Van Buren Street near the playground.

For more information: contact Jeremy Edwards, City of Falls Church Senior Urban Forester, 703-248-5016 or email jedwards@fallschurchva.gov

FAIRFAX COUNTY'S INVASIVE MANAGEMENT AREA (IMA) PROGRAM

The IMA 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 during the following workdays:

Sat. Sept. 12, 9:00 – 12:00, Nottoway

Sat. Sept. 12, 9:30 – 11:30, Woodglen Lake

Sat. Sept. 12, 10:00 – 12:00, Holmes Run SV

Sat. Oct. 24, Volunteer Fairfax Volunteer Fest Day

Annandale 9:00 – 12:00

Fred Crabtree 9:00 – 12:00

Huntley Meadows 9:30 – 12:00

Sat. Sept. 19, 9:30 – 12:00, Huntley Meadows

Sat. Sept. 26, 10:00 – 12:00, Pohick SV

Nottoway 9:00 – 12:00

Woodglen Lake 9:30 – 11:30

Sat. October 31, Volunteer Fairfax Volunteer Fest Day

Pohick Stream Valley workday with N. VA Comm. College 10:00 – 12:00

Laurel Hill workday 10:15 – 11:30

For more information contact: 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 REMOVE INVASIVE PLANTS (RIP) VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Not all plants are good for the environment. Come learn what these troublesome beasts look like and help rescue our parks from alien invaders. 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.

For more info: jtruong@vt.edu or 703-228-7636.

Second Saturdays @ Lacey Woods Park. Sept 12 & Oct 10, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Meet at the N. Frederick St. & 11th St. N. entrance. Site leader: **Nora Palmatier**

Third Saturdays @ Tuckahoe Park. Sept 19 & Oct 17, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Meet in front of Tuckahoe Elementary School.

Second Sundays @ Gulf Branch Nature Center. Sept 13 & Oct 11, 12:00 – 2:30 pm.

3608 Military Road, Arlington. Site leaders: **Jen Soles, Lorne Peterson**

Third Sundays @ Long Branch Nature Center. Sept 20 & Oct 18, 2:00 – 5:00 pm.

625 S Carlin Springs Road, Arlington. Site leaders: **Matt Neff, Steve Young**

Fourth Saturdays @ Benjamin Banneker Park. Sept 26 & Oct 24, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Meet at the dog run parking lot off N. Sycamore St.

LOCAL EVENTS AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:

Sun. Sept. 6: Early Fall Tour of the Potomac Valley Native Plant Collection beginning at 2 pm at Meadowlark Gardens. Park fee \$5. Enjoy a walk below the cool canopy of the large trees in the native plant collection, and learn about perennials such as goldenrod, sunflowers, wild senna and other late bloomers. Details: 703-255-3631. Also see www.nvrpa.org/parks/meadowlark/.

Sun. Sept. 13: Take Action – Remove Invasive Plants at Gulf Branch 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Adults and teens. No registration required. Help keep the park free of litter and destructive invasive plants. Work parties held the second Sunday of each month from 1 to 3pm. Your reward? Seeing the steady recovery and return of healthy trees, wildflowers, and wildlife. For more information: 703-228-3403. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road, Arlington, VA 22207. Free.

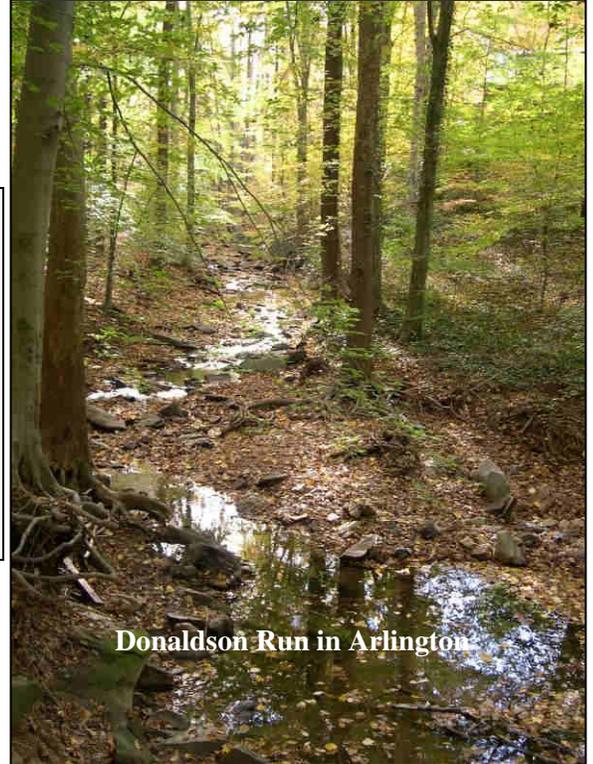
Sun. Sept. 13: Nature for Beginners: The Forest Understory 3:30 - 4:30 pm. Adults. This program is for adults like you who enjoy the outdoors and want to know more about the natural world but are just beginners. Every second Sunday of the month we'll master the ten most common items in a different nature 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. For more information: 703-228-3403. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Rd, Arlington, VA 22207. Program #613641-29. Free. Registration required, call 703-228-4747 or register on-line <https://registration.arlingtonva.us/>.

Thurs. Sept. 17 and Sun. Sept. 20: Fall Wildflowers: Confusing Composites Leader: Cris Fleming. 7:30 – 9:30 pm Thursday at Woodend. Sunday field trip to **Scott's Run and Great Falls** on the VA side of the Potomac. Most of our fall-blooming wildflowers in the mid-Atlantic region belong to the composite (Asteraceae) plant family. With 26 species of asters and 17 of goldenrods, not to mention the sunflowers, bonesets, bidens and others, it's no wonder that identifying composites in the Washington area can be difficult. Thursday's class will include the study of special characteristics of the Aster family, distinctions among the different genera, and practice identifying live specimens. Sunday's field trip will give many opportunities to observe and identify these abundant late-season wildflowers. Audubon Naturalist Society Members: \$38; Nonmembers \$52.50. For info. call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for a registration form.

Sat. Sept. 19: Late Summer Wings and Wildflowers 8 am to noon. Leader: Stephanie Mason. Lois Green Conservation Area. A relatively new park in upper Montgomery County, MD, the Lois Green Conservation Area offers open meadows, pond and stream, and forested edges as ideal spots for broad based nature exploration. We'll look butterflies and other insects, and migrant and resident birds, against the backdrop of late-summer, sun-loving wildflowers and fruiting trees. Several miles at a leisurely pace. Audubon Naturalist Society Members: \$23; Nonmembers \$32. For information call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for a registration form.

Sat. Sept. 19: Gardening with Butterflies beginning at 10 am at Meadowlark Gardens. Park fee \$5. Horticulturist Laurie Short will tour the Butterfly Garden as she describes its function. Participants will receive tips to help increase the butterfly populations, and learn types of plants to grow and their upkeep. Details: 703-255-3631. Also see www.nvrpa.org/parks/meadowlark/.

Sat. Sept. 19: Fall Plant Sale at Long Branch 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Adults. No registration required. Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to help wildlife by growing native, and support Long Branch Nature Center at the same time! The vast majority of our plants are native, propagated right in our own gardens and our prices can't be beat! Many new types are available this year. We will feature sun-loving and butterfly-attracting plants, and also have a nice selection of spring bloomers, shade lovers, ferns, and even a few shrubs. Rain date is Sunday, September 20, same time. Fee per plant as marked. Payment can be made by cash or check (sorry no credit cards). For information call 703-228-6535. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd, Arlington, VA 22204.



Donaldson Run in Arlington

Sun. Sept. 20: Pollination Ecology, 1:00 - 3:30 pm. Adults ages 16 and up. Long Branch Nature Center. The relationship between plants and pollinators seems like a model of cooperation, but it's fraught with competition and deception. Find out who "plays by the rules" and who cheats as we explore the ecology of pollination with a lecture and field exploration. Information: 703-228-6535. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd., Arlington, VA 22204. Program #613741-02. \$5 fee payable upon registration. . Registration required, call 703-228-4747 or register on-line <https://registration.arlingtonva.us/>.

Mon. Sept 21 to Mon. Nov. 30: Eastern Forest Ecosystems 6 to 8 pm. Classes at Capital Gallery (L'Enfant Plaza) with Field trips: 10/3, 10/17, 10/24-25, and 11/14 (two NATH credits). Leader Gary Evans. Field studies of the deciduous and coniferous forest ecosystems (biomes), with a focus on the mid-Atlantic deciduous and coniferous forests. This course focuses on the oak-hickory, oak-chestnut (mixed oak), mixed mesophytic, and bottomland deciduous forest communities, as well as coniferous forests of the Atlantic Coastal Plain, Eastern Piedmont, and Blue Ridge, and will survey the Southern, Southwestern, Rocky Mountain and Pacific NW provinces. Relationships of forest ecosystems to local environments as well as various successional states will also be studied. Field studies will augment class sessions. 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. Sept. 20: Herndon Naturefest 1 - 5 pm at Runnymede Park. Free. Fun for the whole family. Enjoy fourteen stations which lead you through the park that include hands on activities, educational events, wildlife visitors and arts. See www.herndon-va.gov/Content/Parks_rec/Special_events/Nature_Fest.aspx for more details.

Sun. Sept. 20: Remove Alien Plant Invaders! Long Branch. 2:00 - 05:00 pm. Ages 9 to adult. Free. 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: 703-228-7636. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd., Arlington, VA 22204. No registration required.

Wed. Sept. 23: Midweek Meanders at Great Falls—Difficult Run. Leader: Stephanie Mason. 10:15 am to 12:30 pm. Enjoy one or all of these leisurely autumn walks on Wednesdays through a variety of habitats in Great Falls Park, VA. We'll proceed at a naturalist's shuffle pace, stopping often to observe birds, fall wildflowers and foliage, butterflies, snakes, turtles, etc. Bring a sack lunch and picnic with the leader after the walks. Audubon Naturalist Society. One walk: Members: \$17; Nonmembers \$24. (Discounts for more than one midweek meander.) For information call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for a registration form.

Sat Sept. 26: PARKFAIRFAX NATIVE PLANT SALE 9 am to 2 pm. 3601 Valley Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302. This fall marks the 6th anniversary of the Parkfairfax Native Plant Sale! Over twelve vendors from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia will be there, making this event, the largest native plant sale in the D.C. metro area, even larger than ever before! If you have enjoyed this big sale in the past, please visit it again—the number of vendors in future sales will stay only as high as is supported by local demand!

The selection at the sale is broader than ever before, too! Several vendors carry native trees and shrubs as well as perennials, and several specialize in some aspect of native plants, such as fruiting shrubs, wetland plants, carnivorous plants, or native azaleas. A few vendors do not come to our area for any other sale. For a list of vendors, and links to their websites, visit the plant sale website at <http://www.home.earthlink.net/~sknudsen/> and click on the "vendors" page.

Sun. Sept. 27: Late Summer Butterflies of the National Arboretum Leaders: Stephanie Mason and Dick Smith. Full day field trip. Located in the heart of Washington along the Anacostia River, the National Arboretum provides garden areas with fall blooms that make it a local hotspot for butterflies this time of year. While Monarchs are heading south, many southern species are still expanding their range northward. Members \$30. Non members \$42. For information call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for a registration form.

Sun. Oct. 4: Mid Fall Tour of the Potomac Valley Native Plant Collection beginning at 2 pm at Meadowlark Gardens Park fee \$5. See this remarkable native plant collection change with the seasons and the mature trees in their varied fall colors. Enjoy late blooming perennials such as white wood aster, goldenrod and Joe Pye weed, and learn how to grow and care for them. Details: 703-255-3631. Also see www.nvrpa.org/parks/meadowlark/.

Wed. Oct. 7: Midweek Meanders at Great Falls—Upriver Patowmack trail. Leader: Stephanie Mason. 10:15 am to 12:30 pm. Enjoy one or all of these leisurely autumn walks on Wednesdays through a variety of habitats in Great Falls Park, VA. We'll proceed at a naturalist's shuffle pace, stopping often to observe birds, fall wildflowers and foliage, butterflies, snakes, turtles, etc. Bring a sack lunch and picnic with the leader after the walks. Audubon Naturalist Society. One walk: Members: \$17; Nonmembers \$24. (Discounts for more than one midweek meander.) For information call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for a registration form.

Sat. Oct. 10: Ornamental Grasses Tour beginning at 10 am at Meadowlark Gardens Park fee \$5. Tour the gardens with horticulturist Laurie Short and discuss the use, care and propagation of fall-peaking ornamental grasses. Details: 703-255-3631. Also see www.nvrpa.org/parks/meadowlark/.

Wed. Oct. 21: Midweek Meanders at Great Falls—Matildaville Trail Leader: Stephanie Mason. 10:15 am to 12:30 pm. Enjoy one or all of these leisurely autumn walks on Wednesdays through a variety of habitats in Great Falls Park, VA. We'll proceed at a naturalist's shuffle pace, stopping often to observe birds, fall wildflowers and foliage, butterflies, snakes, turtles, etc. Bring a sack lunch and picnic with the leader after the walks. Audubon Naturalist Society One walk: Members: \$17; Nonmembers \$24. (Discounts for more than one midweek meander.) For information call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for a registration form.

Wed. Nov. 4: Midweek Meanders at Great Falls—Old Carriage Road Leader: Stephanie Mason. 10:15 am to 12:30 pm. Enjoy one or all of these leisurely autumn walks on Wednesdays through a variety of habitats in Great Falls Park, VA. We'll proceed at a naturalist's shuffle pace, stopping often to observe birds, fall wildflowers and foliage, butterflies, snakes, turtles, etc. Bring a sack lunch and picnic with the leader after the walks. Audubon Naturalist Society One walk: Members: \$17; Nonmembers \$24. (Discounts for more than one midweek meander.) For information call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for a registration form.

Thurs. Sept. 24 to Nov. 12: Fall Woody Plant Identification 7 to 9:15 pm. Classes at Woodend Sanctuary with Field trips: 10/3, 10/24 and 11/12 (two NATH credits). Leader **Cris Fleming**. Autumn's glory is created by colorful trees and shrubs, so fall is the ideal time to study techniques of woody plant field identification. Participants study the major woody plant families and species found in the Central Atlantic's forest communities. Field trips feature the use of recognition characteristics and botanical keys. Audubon Naturalist Society and USDA Graduate School. \$355 tuition. For information call 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for a registration form. Or go to: <http://grad.usda.gov>

Sun. Oct. 4: Fall Flowers and Fungi Hike 2:00 - 4:00 pm. Adults. On the Turkey Run Trail, autumn wild flowers are in bloom, and fantastic mushrooms, fungi and lichen abound. Join us on a walk with a naturalist to explore our fall wildflowers and fungi. Hike is rocky and steep in places. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a water bottle. For more information: 703-228-3403. We'll contact registrants with directions to our meeting site at Turkey Run Park. Program # 613641-01. \$3 fee payable on the day of the program. Registration required, call 703-228-4747 or register on-line <https://registration.arlingtonva.us/>.

Sun. Oct. 11: Take Action - Adopt an Area! Gulf Branch 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Adults and teens. No registration required. Help keep the park free of litter and destructive invasive plants. Work parties held the second Sunday of each month from 1 to 3 pm. Your reward? Seeing the steady recovery and return of healthy trees, wildflowers, and wildlife. For more information: 703-228-3403. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road, Arlington, VA 22207. Free.

Sun. Oct. 11: Nature for Beginners: Nuts, Seeds, and Berries 3:30 - 4:30 pm. Adults. This program is for adults like you who enjoy the outdoors and want to know more about the natural world but are just beginners. For more information: 703-228-3403. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Rd, Arlington, VA 22207. Program # 613641-08. Free. Registration required, call 703-228-4747 or register on-line <https://registration.arlingtonva.us/>.

Sun. Oct. 11: Fall Mushroom Walk 2 to 4 pm. Free. Instructor: David Farr. The diverse fungi that occur in our region are important parts of the ecosystem, yet they remain mysterious and unidentifiable to many of us. Some species are edible, but a few deadly ones make proper ID essential. We'll walk several trails in Greenbelt Regional Park, just inside the Beltway in Prince George's County, under the guidance of our Natural History Field Studies instructor in mushrooms. We'll stop to ID common mushroom groups, while discussing their natural history and ecology. (This will NOT be a collecting trip for edibles.) Audubon Naturalist Society. For info. call: 301-652-9188 x16 or: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for a form.

Sun. Oct 18: Galls: Natural History and ID 1:00 - 3:30 pm. Adults ages 16 and up. Galls are strange growths on leaves, stems, twigs or other plant parts. They are formed when an insect or other organism hijacks part of a plant for its own purposes. Discover the natural history of galls through a lecture and field trip. Information: 703-228-6535. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd., Arlington, VA 22204. Program # 613741-04. \$5 fee payable upon registration. Registration required, call 703-228-4747 or register on-line <https://registration.arlingtonva.us/>.

Sun. Oct. 18: Remove Alien Plant Invaders! Long Branch. 2:00 - 5:00 pm. 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"! Kids will learn what these troublesome beasts look like and can help rescue the park from these alien invaders! Information: 703-228-7636. Free. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd., Arlington, VA 22204.

Sat. Oct. 24: Make-A-Difference Day Arlington 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. Please join us for the annual Make-A-Difference Day Invasive Plant Control events at multiple locations throughout Arlington County. Make-A-Difference Day is a unique program that inspires and rewards volunteers through a national day of helping others. To volunteer as a site leader, pre-register or get more information about this event, contact Jenn Truong at jtruong@vt.edu or 703-228-7636. Free.

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 dates are: Sept. 10, Sept. 19, Oct. 8, Oct. 17. Check on meeting location with Alan Ford: 703.732.5291; email: amford@acm.org

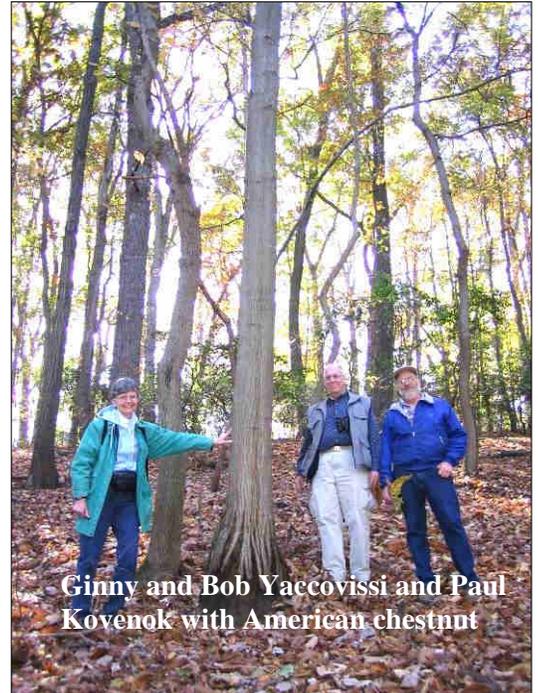
THE LOSS OF A CHAMPION TREE

An Arlington County champion American Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) in Glencarlyn Park is now dead, finally succumbing to the Chestnut Blight—*Endothia*. It was estimated to be 60 or 70 years old or more and was producing fruit. And unfortunately, a healthy replacement champion American Chestnut within the same Oak-Heath hillside forest was reported by volunteers from the American Chestnut Society to be knocked down not long after. That tree appeared to have been accidentally pushed over by equipment on an adjacent trail. After hanging on for a year, the tree finally died in 2009.



Arlington County has two known American Chestnut specimens of any size remaining. One smaller specimen is growing in Glencarlyn Park, not far from the former champions, and a new replacement County champion has been found growing on Northern Virginia

Regional Park Authority property at Potomac Overlook Park. The NVRPA specimen was measured by Rich Bailey from the Potomac Overlook Nature Center and Greg Zell, a Natural Resource Specialist with the County, and placed on GIS within the past month.



Ginny and Bob Yaccovissi and Paul Kovenok with American chestnut

Please note: If you renewed your membership several months ago, but this is your first newsletter, please email mrtylnsn@gmail.com or malawler@aol.com; our system has a glitch.

Chapter Events Calendar



- Sept 9 **Board meeting**
7:15 pm
Green Spring
- Sept 12 **Suitland Bog Walk**
9 am to noon
- Oct 3 **Chapter Plant Sale**
9 am
Green Spring
- Oct 18 **Chapter Annual Meeting**
1:30 pm
Green Spring

**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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