

POTOWMACK NEWS

Volume 22, No 5

Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Sept/Oct 2004

GREEN SPRING PLANT SALE: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

The Potowmack Chapter's native plant sale will be held on Sept. 25 at Green Spring Gardens. This fall the format is different. It will be a "Fall Fling" and not a "Garden Day." At a fling, you show up from 12 noon to 4 pm to buy some great native plants. Please keep this change in format in mind. Sleep in that Saturday and come out at noon for a wide assortment of native perennials, ferns, and woody trees and shrubs. The location is the same. We will sell the natives at our propagation beds located behind the "hort" center. Donations of plants from our members are always welcome. We ask that you bring them to our beds at least two weeks before the sale to ensure a healthy plant on sale day. If you need help getting the plants to our holding beds, just give either of us a call and we will assist you. Anyone interested in volunteering at the beds please give us a call. Thank you and all the volunteers; we look forward to seeing you at the sale.



Laura Beaty 703 534-8746 Beth Smith 703 644-1760

Orange coneflower (*Rudbeckia fulgida*)

Save this Date! Wednesday, OCT. 20

POTOWMACK CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING

Green Spring Gardens; Reception: 7:15 Meeting Begins at 7:30

PROGRAM: BOTANY IN THE WASHINGTON, D.C., REGION: A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Featuring: J. Douglas Ripley. The plants and ecological habitats of the Washington, D.C., region have long been studied by residents and visitors alike. American Indians relied on many native plant species, as well as farm crops such as corn and squash that came from elsewhere in North America. In 1607, Captain John Smith marveled at the Potomac's rich, dense forests with many unfamiliar kinds of trees. Early botanists such as John Clayton, David Warden, and Samuel Rafinesque, described many of the Washington area's plants scientifically. More comprehensive views of the local flora emerged by the late 19th Century, and have been refined to the present day. For more than a hundred years, the Botanical Society of Washington has provided a forum for local botanists, addressing both diverse aspects of the local flora as well as the wide-ranging, worldwide interests of many Washington botanists.

SAVE OUR GREENWAYS: W&OD TRAIL AND THE ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION LINE

Save the Trail, Inc., a grassroots citizens organization fighting Dominion Virginia Power's proposal to extend 230KV electric transmission lines over 11 miles of the Washington & Old Dominion (WO&D) Trail between Leesburg and Purcellville in western Loudoun County has a new website (<http://www.savethetrail.com>) where folks can learn about the issue and sign STT's online petition.

Dominion Virginia Power's proposed transmission route would require clearing a 100-foot swath through the historic W&OD Railroad Regional Park. Removing the 26,000 mature trees now canopied over this segment of the W&OD would severely degrade a historic greenway and bikeway. The W&OD, with more than 2 million annual visits, is cherished by many, both within and well beyond Loudoun County.

Meanwhile, in Arlington, those wishing to be involved in restoration efforts on that part of the trail where extensive tree-removal has already occurred may contact Carl Hallinan (703) 812-4797 or carlhallinan@comcast.net.

On invasive non-native plants, pests, and pathogens: "Whatever we're doing now, it's not working," says Richard Kinney of the Florida Citrus Packers, a veteran of several federal advisory panels. "We've got a Band-aid over a cancer that is eating us up. Long-horned beetle? We ought to be enraged in this country over the potential devastation."

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

At our last board meeting, Stephanie Flack of the Nature Conservancy joined us in a discussion of how we could assist in the conservation of the Potomac Gorge. After the fascinating talk Gary Fleming gave in April on the Gorge, the many walks we've had to various sites there, and the fact that part of it is a VNPS Registry Site, our board felt a more active role was called for by our Chapter. The Potomac Gorge is unique in Virginia and Maryland with rare plants, unusual plant communities, rich species diversity, and incredible natural beauty. And it's in the backyard of our chapter. We hope you'll share our enthusiasm and participate with VNPS members in protecting this beautiful area. Board members will be at the park for Great Falls Day on October 2nd sharing information about both native and invasive plants. We'll keep you posted on future events, and we hope you'll come join us! **Marianne Mooney**



Fern Walk with Cris Fleming at Green Spring

MAGNOLIA BOG MANAGEMENT PLAN

Since discovery of the Barcroft Magnolia Bog two years ago by field ecologists Rod Simmons and Lou Aronica, how to preserve and protect it has been a concern of park staff, VNPS and local botanists. Gary Fleming, vegetation ecologist with the Virginia Division of Natural Heritage, surveyed the bog area last November and assigned it a rank of G1, indicating that it is a critically rare plant community and threatened throughout its global range. Endemic to the D.C. area, only ten magnolia bogs still survive in somewhat degraded conditions. Plant surveys at the Barcroft Bog have turned up state rare plants and magnificent specimens of Sweetbay magnolia. It is a unique and precious site and is unbelievable that it has passed notice in an out-of-the-way corner of an Arlington park for so many years.

On June 24th, Greg Zell, natural resource specialist at Long Branch Nature Center in Arlington, held a meeting to review the Barcroft Magnolia Bog Draft Management Plan. In attendance were Arlington County employees, a biologist with the National Park Service, Jan Ferrigan, Arlington's invasive species coordinator, Dr. Elizabeth Wells of George Washington University, John Strong of The Smithsonian Institution, Rod Simmons, Lou Aronica and Marianne Mooney. First on the agenda was a brief presentation on the nature of magnolia bogs followed by a fascinating trip to the bog. Water flow problems were evident due to a major storm only two days before that had buried, we hope temporarily, the false hellebore that was seen on a VNPS walk in May. When the meeting reconvened at Long Branch, a discussion ensued on how to best manage and preserve the bog. Some recommendations discussed included targeting invasives, planting pines on an adjacent ball field, removing some overgrowth from the bog and stopping runoff from above the bog. Other issues included how to handle interpretation at this unique site and how to educate the public about it.

The County and the staff of Long Branch Nature Center deserve thanks for their foresight and dedication in striving to preserve the bog. Our chapter has been very involved with the bog, and we're thrilled that it will soon be listed on the VNPS Site Registry as one of the only remaining Magnolia bogs in Virginia.

BOARD OFFICERS		
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Vice President	Rob Aldrich	526-0535
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Garden Tours	Billie Trump	960-1476

(All numbers should include the 703 area code, unless otherwise noted.) *Potowmack News* is published 6 times per year, in Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, and Nov. 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.

BALLOT 2004/2005 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee of the Potowmack Chapter VNPS is presenting the following slate of officers for the 2004-2005 year, which begins on November 1. This slate will be voted on at the Annual meeting on October 20.

President: Marianne Mooney Vice President: Rob Aldrich
Secretary: Lee Ann Kinzer Treasurer: Vivian (Dusty) Dukes

Nominating Committee:

Jessica Strother, Urban Forester, Fairfax County, former VNPS Conservation Chair
Jan Ferrigan, Invasives Species Program Coordinator, Arlington County

-----First fold back here-----

2004-2005 Potowmack Chapter Ballot

_____ I approve of the slate of nominees (For use of spouse in family membership)
_____ I approve of the slate of nominees
Signature _____ Signature _____

IF YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 20, PLEASE FOLD, SEAL, STAMP, AND MAIL THIS BALLOT BY OCTOBER 15 TO THE CHAPTER SECRETARY.

-----Then fold over here-----

From:

Place
Stamp
Here

Lee Ann Kinzer
2100 Pickwick Lane
Alexandria, VA 22307

(Please seal using tape)

NEW METHOD ASSESSES IMPACT OF INVASIVE PLANTS ON NATIVE ECOSYSTEMS

Which non-native species pose the most serious threats to native species and ecosystems? NatureServe, in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy, has developed a new scientific method to help answer this question. The method is published in a NatureServe report released in June, An Invasive Species Assessment Protocol: Evaluating Non-Native Plants for Their Impact on Biodiversity.

"Nearly everywhere we look, natural places are being degraded by invasive non-native plants," said Larry E. Morse, Ph.D., NatureServe's North American Botanist and lead author of the report. "To control them, land managers will need to set priorities, recognizing that not all invasives can be eradicated everywhere. This protocol is the first systematic way to separate the worst of the invaders from the rest, so it's a big step forward for conservation."

Invasive species now constitute the second-leading threat to imperiled native species, behind only habitat destruction. They can affect native biodiversity in several ways, including out-competing native species for food or habitat, changing the food web or physical environment, and preying directly on native species. Rare species with limited ranges, small numbers, and restricted habitat requirements are often particularly vulnerable, as are rare habitat types. As global trade and travel increase, the problem worsens, with invasive species able to establish themselves in places where they have no natural checks on their population. Among plants alone, at least 3,500 non-native species are now found outside of cultivation in the United States.

The new Invasive Species Assessment Protocol is a valuable tool for natural resource managers in government agencies and conservation groups. It provides a systematic, science-based way to evaluate the threat from non-native species, based on objective criteria, and with full documentation of sources--aspects missing from previous efforts. The protocol lays out a series of 20 related questions pertaining to four key issues: Ecological Impact, Current Distribution and Abundance, Trend in Distribution and Abundance, and Management Difficulty. Detailed instructions and examples are provided to guide any knowledgeable land manager through the impact assessment for a particular species. Sub-ranks for the four issues are combined to yield an overall Invasive Species Impact Rank (I-Rank) of High, Medium, Low, or Insignificant. These results summarize the impact of each species over large portions of its range -- such as states, provinces, eco-regions, or nations—as opposed to localized impact such as in a single park.

NatureServe has recently begun to use the protocol to assess a sampling of more than 300 non-native plants. Results will help to focus scarce management resources on the very worst invaders. Examples of plants assessed as high impact include miconia (*Miconia calvescens*) and saltcedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*). Giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) and skunk vine (*Paederia foetida*) rank as medium impact. Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*) is assessed as low impact, while Chinese mustard (*Brassica juncea*) is an example of a plant causing insignificant impact.

The report and supporting data, including assessments for more than 300 other non-native plants, are available on the NatureServe website at www.natureserve.org/getData/plantData.jsp. Additional plants will be assessed as funding becomes available.

Development of the Invasive Species Assessment Protocol was made possible through charitable support from the Turner Foundation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, with additional funding from the U.S. Air Force and the Federal Highway Administration. The protocol is authored by a team comprising Larry Morse, Nancy Benton, and Stephanie Lu of NatureServe, John Randall of The Nature Conservancy's Wildland Invasive Species Team, and Ron Hiebert of the National Park Service.

NatureServe is a non-profit conservation group dedicated to providing the scientific information and technology needed to guide effective conservation action. It represents a network of 75 natural heritage programs and conservation data centers in the United States, Canada, and Latin America that collect and analyze information on plants, animals, and ecosystems. NatureServe is a leading source for detailed scientific information about rare and endangered species and threatened ecosystems. Visit its website at www.natureserve.org.

NATIVE PLANT SALE AT PARKFAIRFAX, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2004, 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.

This third native plant sale in Parkfairfax will be the biggest and best one yet! Nine vendors will be gathered in the parking area near the corner of Gunston Road and Valley Drive, selling native trees, shrubs, and perennials. It will be a special opportunity to purchase from some vendors located several hours away in Pennsylvania and western Maryland. The nurseries at the sale will be:

Atlantic Star Nursery	Hyla Brook Farm	Sassafras Farm
Doyle Farm Nursery	Natural Landscapes Nursery (from	Maryland Natives Nursery
Elk Ridge NatureWorks (from far	central PA)	Mostly Edibles
western MD)	Nature By Design	Toad Hall Gardens

The plant sale is entirely run by volunteers. No fees or percentages are paid by the vendors, helping to keep their prices low (in spite of the long drive). Our mission in holding these plant sales is to bring native plant vendors and gardeners together--to make native plants easier for area gardeners to find and to encourage a greater demand for native plants in the nursery industry. The sale is a big draw for novice gardeners and those unfamiliar with natives.

Directions: Parkfairfax is located within the I-495 Beltway, directly across I-395 from Shirlington. From I-395, exit at the Shirlington/Quaker exit onto Quaker Lane. At the first light on Quaker, turn left onto Preston Road. Follow Preston to where it joins Valley Drive. Cross Gunston Road; look for the parking lot on your right. The parking lot entrance is across from 3602 Valley Drive.

Recommended reading: *Locust: The devastating rise and mysterious disappearance of the insect that shaped the American frontier* by Jeffrey A. Lockwood (2004, Basic Books)

You'd think with a title that long, the title would say it all, but that's not the half of this book. Lockwood explores the times, places, and people that gave rise to "economic entomology" and speaks of some of the early successes of looking for environmental solutions to introduced-species problems. All sorts of things went on in the past that we tend to think of as our own personal, brand-new problems. Fascinating!

From Margaret Chatham

LOCAL EVENTS AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:

Sat. Sept. 11 Habitat Workshop Long Branch Nature Center, Arlington 10am to noon. Adults. Explore the many exciting ways that you can make your landscape wildlife friendly. Learn what plants to use and other elements needed to provide habitat for birds, butterflies and other animals. Learn how you can create a backyard sanctuary and find out how to have your property certified by the National Wildlife Federation as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carling Springs Rd., Arlington, VA 22204. Free. Reservations required, call 703-228-4747.

Sat. Sept. 18 Butterflies in the Garden Green Spring Gardens Park 10-11:30 a.m. Fee: \$9 Dr. Desiree DiMauro, a local butterfly expert will talk about plants that lure butterflies. Includes garden walk. Registration required. 703-642-5173.

Sun. Sept. 19 Help with Plant Identification Wolf Trap Farm Park 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Led by Joe Metzger. We will continue to develop a list of plants occurring naturally at Wolf Trap. The list was 139 species before the June trip. We added 24 species on June 20. Moderate walk; bring water; meet at the parking lot below the Filene Center. For information e-mail: jmetzger50@hotmail.com
Directions to site: from I-495 (Washington Beltway) take VA 7 west (away from the beltway) about 4 miles to the light at Fairfax County 676 (Towlston Road on the right and Wolf Trap Road on the left, there is a brown sign for Wolf Trap just before the light, allow about 15-20 minutes from the beltway because of traffic lights and low speed limit) and turn left on Wolf Trap Road. Follow Wolf Trap Road about a mile and turn left into the parking lot just below the Filene Center; or take VA 267 west (Dulles Toll Road), \$.50 to the Wolf Trap exit. Once on the exit you have go right and follow Wolf Trap Road a short distance and turn right into the parking lot just below the Filene Center; or join the regular monthly (3rd Sunday) walk at Great Falls, VA, (fee or pass) at 10:00 am at the picnic tables at the visitor's center.

Wed. Sept 22-Nov 24 Fall Woody Plant Identification (10 classes and 3 field trips). USDA Graduate School; Capital Gallery, D.C. Wed. 6:30-8:30pm. Classes plus field trips: \$315 Call 202-314-3320 or register online: www.grad.usda.gov

Sat., Sept. 25, 2 p.m. Mushrooms of Potomac Overlook Regional Park 2845 N. Marcey Road, North Arlington, Virginia. Get acquainted with the variety of fungi at this nature preserve and learn about their role in the forest on a free, guided hike. Reservations required; call 703-528-5406. *To reach NVRPA's Potomac Overlook Regional Park, take I-66 to the Lee Highway-Spout Run exit; turn left on Lee Highway, right on Military Rd., continue on Military and turn left when it divides; turn right on Marcey Rd. and park at the end of the cul-de-sac in the Potomac Overlook Regional Park lot.*

Sun., Sept. 26, 2 p.m. Tree Identification Hike Potomac Overlook Regional Park, 2845 N. Marcey Road, North Arlington, Virginia Learn to identify trees in their fall grandeur at this free indoor and outdoor program. Reservations are required; call 703-528-5406. *See directions above.*

Sat. Oct 2. Great Falls Day 11 am to 5 pm. Join VNPS and others as Great Falls Park celebrates Great Falls Day along the Potomac Gorge.

Sat. Oct 2. Invasive removal/cleanup Dyke Marsh, Alexandria, 10am to noon Call Brooke Andrews of the Northern Virginia Senior Environment Corps at 703 -549-1607 Ext. 141 for information. Registration: All volunteers need to register upon arrival. The registration table is near the bathrooms in Belle Haven Park (left of the parking lot). Individual volunteers will need to fill out a National Park Service Volunteer Agreement Form. Volunteers under the age of 18 need a parental approval form signed by a parent or guardian. The National Park Service will provide all trash bags and gloves. Volunteers should wear long pants, sturdy shoes, bug spray, and bring sunscreen if needed. If working with invasive plants, please also wear a long-sleeve shirt.

Wed. October 13 Chesapeake Bay Ecology. 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Adults. Our scenic streams and waterways provide us numerous recreational activities as well as a bountiful harvest. However, the Potomac River and the Bay used to be much more productive for wildlife and for us. The Chesapeake Bay's 64,000 square mile watershed encompasses a wide array of land uses. Utilizing a slide show and demonstrations, we will find out how our actions on land can have an impact on improving water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608. N. Military Rd., Arlington, VA 22207. Free. Reservations required, call 703-228-4747.

ARLINGTON'S RiP PROJECT

Sat. Sept. 11 - Second Saturdays at Bluemont Park 9am to noon. Neighbors and RiP volunteers will continue to meet at Bluemont Junction Park on second Saturdays. Come help out for an hour or two. Park near bike trail at the bottom of Illinois St. Enter Illinois St. from Wilson Blvd. Meet at "the rocks" next to the bike trail. Contact John Huennekens at 524-3853, or jhuenn@gwu.edu.

Sat. Sept 11 - Arlington Village Invasive Plant Removal Day, 9 am - noon Volunteers are needed to continue clearing English ivy in the wooded common area of Arlington Village condo and to plant native plants in some of the cleared areas. Meet at the stairway to the wooded area about 100 feet north of the intersection of South Edgewood and South 16th Streets in Arlington. (Arlington Village is located south of Columbia Pike about 2 miles west of the Pentagon. South Edgewood Street intersects with Columbia Pike one block east of South Walter Reed Drive.) Tools will be available, but feel free to bring your own (i.e., pruning shears, flathead screwdrivers). Pizza afterwards! For information, contact Lisa Larimer (202-566-1017; larimer.lisa@epa.gov) or Joanne Wagner (703-907-7896; jwagner@exadata.com)

Sat. Oct 23 - MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY Get set for a county-wide invasive plant removal day on Oct 23rd! October 23rd is National Make A Difference Day! You and your neighbors can make a difference in Arlington by removing non-native, invasive plants and cleaning up trash from local parks and natural areas. See the list below to find a work location near you. Meet at your location between 9 - 10 am. Work parties finish at noon. Locations listed below and on following page:

Arlington Village, (near S. Edgewood and S. 16th St.) S Edgewood intersects with Columbia Pike one block east of S. Walter Reed Dr.) Meet at the stairway to the wooded area about 100 feet north of the intersection of S. Edgewood and S. 16th St. Sponsored by Arlington Village Condo Association. Call Lisa Larimer 202-566-1017 or Joanne Wagner 703-907-7896 if you need more info.

Bluemont Park, 601 N Manchester St (Wilson Blvd and N Manchester St) Sponsored by Friends of W&OD trail. Meet beside bike trail, opposite the caboose.

Sat. Oct 23 - MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY (Continued from previous page)

Benjamin Banneker Park, 1701 N Van Buren St. (near N. Van Buren and 18 St N.) From East Falls Church Metro, walk west on 19th St N to Van Buren St and then walk south to the park. Meet by the park sign near the Van Buren St entrance.

Douglas Park, 1718 S Quincy St. (corner of S. Quincy St. and 16th St.) Meet on grass near the corner.

Hillside Park, 1601 N Pierce St (at the corner of Pierce St. and 16th Rd., enter Pierce St. from Clarendon Blvd) Limited parking. From Rosslyn Metro, walk uphill on Wilson Blvd to Pierce St. Left on Pierce to N. 16th Road. Meet at bottom of hill near the trail.

Fort Bennett Park, 2220 N Scott Dr. (near N. Scott Dr & 21st Rd. N) Meet near the park entrance at the end of Scott Dr.

Fort Scott Park, 2800 Fort Scott Dr. (near Fort Scott Dr and S. Grant St) Meet at the playground.

Glencarlyn Park/Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S Carlin Springs Rd (North of Columbia Pike near hospital) Meet at the Nature Center.

Gulf Branch Natural Area, 3608 N Military Rd. Meet at the Nature Center. Limited parking in Nature Center parking lot, volunteers are encouraged to park across the street on N. 36th Rd and walk to the Nature Center.

Lacey Woods Park, 1200 N George Mason Dr. (corner of George Mason and Washington Blvd). Meet at the playground.

Madison Manor Park, (N. Quintico St & 12th Rd N.) Meet in the parking lot beside the tennis courts on N. Quintico St.

Oakcrest Park, 1020 S Oakcrest Rd (near Oakcrest Rd and S Joyce St). Meet at park entrance on Oakcrest Rd.

Spout Run/Lorcom Lane County Property. (where Spout Run and Lorcom Lane intersect). Park in shopping plaza parking lot off west side of Spout Run just south of 66 bridge over Spout Run.

Stratford Park, (near Lorcom Lane and N. 23rd St.) Park in Stratford Park parking lot near HB Woodlawn High School. Enter parking lot from N. 23rd St.

Swanson Park, (Patrick Henry Dr. near Washington Blvd) Meet near school trailers.

Upton Hill Regional Park, 6060 Wilson Boulevard (near Wilson Blvd and N. Livingston St.) Sponsored by Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, Call Julie Kuttruff, Park Manager at 703 534 3437 if you need more info about this site.

Zachary Taylor Park, Meet at Upton St entrance to park. (near Upton St and N. Vermont St.) Sponsored by Donaldson Run Civic Association and Friends of Donaldson Run. Meet near the park sign.

Note: Some tools provided. If you have your own gloves, clippers, loppers or dull flat screwdrivers, please bring them along to removal events. Long pants and long sleeves recommended. For information about any of these events, please contact Jan Ferrigan, Invasive Species Program Coordinator at (703) 228 7636 or jferriga@vt.edu or Kasey Spriggs at (703) 228 6401

GREAT FALLS DAY, OCTOBER 2, 11am to 5pm. Join VNPS and others to celebrate the rich diversity of the Potomac Gorge. *Directions: From the Beltway, take Route 193 West and proceed about 2 miles. Turn right at the sign for Great Falls Park and proceed another mile to the park entrance.*



Chapter Events Calendar

Sept.	25	VNPS Plant Sale Green Spring
Oct	20	Chapter Annual Meeting Program: Botany in the Washington D. C. Area J. Douglas Ripley 7:15 Green Spring
Nov	11	Program: Oak Hybridization Alan Whittemore US Arboretum 7:30 Green Spring

**Potowmack Chapter
Virginia Native Plant Society
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