

POTOWMACK NEWS

Volume 23, No 5

Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Sept/Oct 2005

OUR LOCAL POLLINATORS

THURSDAY OCTOBER 6, 7:00 PM

Green Spring Gardens

Come join the annual meeting of the Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society!

Dr. Edward Barrows, a biology professor with the Laboratory of Entomology and Biodiversity at Georgetown University, will present a talk on our local pollinators, including information on pollination as major force in Earth's ecology, the many pollinator species in our area, and their associated plant and habitat needs.

The Washington, D.C. area has about 660 species of pollinating animals. They include ants, bees, bee flies, beetles, butterflies, flower flies, moths, thrips, and the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. While much of the area is consumed by urban sprawl, many notable private and public pollinator havens have been discovered. Come see an excellent presentation with gorgeous photos of these interesting creatures and the plants that support them.

Dr. Barrows' current main research work is in biodiversity and ecology of arthropods, and scientific communication. He and his graduate students are working on the arthropods of Dyke Marsh Preserve of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Past field study subjects include the alien invasive plants and soil arthropods, Owllet Moths (*Noctuidae*), Ichneumon Wasps (*Ichneumonidae*), soil mites, and Springtails (*Collembola*) of the Preserve. Dr. Barrows is also working on the third edition of his book: Animal Behavior Desk Reference: A Dictionary of Animal Behavior, Ecology, and Evolution.

Directions to Green Spring Gardens Park: From Interstate 395, exit at Route 236 West (Little River Turnpike); turn right at Braddock Road and go 1 block north to park entrance

Agenda

7:00 - 7:30 - Reception (light snacks and refreshments)

7:30 - 7:45 - Chapter Business (announcements, election of officers, and awards)

7:45 - 8:45 - Feature Presentation

FALL PLANT SALE AT GREEN SPRING **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, noon to 4.**

September 10 will be here before the temperature cools, and so will the Fall Fling event at Green Spring Gardens. It has been a very demanding summer for the volunteers at the Potowmack Chapter's propagation beds. The rains made the weeds abundant, the humidity made for trying conditions, and the heat made it challenging to keep the potted plants adequately watered. For those plants in the wild, however, it's been a good summer.

Plan to attend the events at Green Spring this month and then join us Sept 10 behind the horticulture center between 12 and 4pm for our last plant sale this year. Fall is truly the best time of the year to plant, so come out for a visit. We'll have a number of exotic invasives for you to identify for subsequent removal from your garden, and lots of ideas for native replacements. We'll help you select just the right native for your conditions. Any plant donations you would like to make for the sale should be brought to the beds by August 27. If you have any questions please call us. We are looking forward to seeing

Coastal Plain Native Plant Conference and VNPS Annual Meeting **Norfolk Botanical Garden** Friday, September 16 and Saturday, September 17

Norfolk Botanical Garden, Old Dominion University, and the Virginia Native Plant Society-SHR chapter are partnering to present a conference on native plants of the Atlantic coastal plain. Look for the registration form in the VNPS Bulletin, contact Brenda Huff at BFHuff@cox.net, or 757-482-9120 or visit: www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org.

many members there. Laura Beaty 703 534-8746

Henry David Thoreau, "Walden" On Wilderness: We need the tonic of wildness, to wade sometimes in marshes where the bittern and the meadow-hen lurk, and hear the booming of the snipe; to smell the whispering sedge where only the wilder and more solitary fowl builds her nest, and the mink crawls with its belly close to the ground. We can never have enough of nature. We must be refreshed by the sight of inexhaustible vigor, vast and titanic features, the sea-coast with its wrecks, the wilderness with its living and its decaying trees, the thundercloud and the rain which lasts weeks and produces freshets. We need to witness our own limits transgressed, and some life pasturing freely where we never wander.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE: The National Park Service has submitted for public comments a proposal to extend the Mount Vernon Bike Trail from Roosevelt Island north to I-495. Unfortunately, this proposed bike path would cut through one of the most pristine forests in our area at Turkey Run Park. Turkey Run is known for incredible displays of spring wildflowers, beautiful upland woods, bluebell-laden floodplains and picturesque streams. Biologists from the Department of Natural Heritage have surveyed the proposed paths through the park and are strongly opposed to the routing that would cut through undisturbed forest and a rare plant community. Cris Fleming, our chapter’s botany chair, considers the forest at Turkey Run Park the best example of a Piedmont upland forest in our region. Much of the forest growth is mature, with pockets that could be considered "old-growth". Some of the trees on the steep bluffs are known to be greater than 200 years old based on ring counts. Turkey Run Park contains the largest individual specimens recorded in the Potomac Gorge of sugar maple, tulip-tree, white oak, American beech, and several other tree species.

The flagged route of the proposed bicycle trail would entail cutting many of these huge trees and would open up this pristine forest to invasion from non-native exotic species such as Garlic mustard and Stilt-grass. Our chapter has spent many hours in the park this year working with the Nature Conservancy to remove invasives like wisteria and linden viburnum. Also, the construction of the proposed route through several steep ravines would create extensive erosion and silting of the streams flowing into the Potomac River.

In addition, the proposed route of the trail runs right through several colonies of a very rare plant, Coville's phacelia (*Phacelia covillei*). This small wildflower, which may be globally rare, is known mainly from the Potomac Gorge and Turkey Run Park contains the largest population in the region. Routing a bike trail through colonies of this very rare species is surely not consistent with the policies of the National Park Service.

Other alternatives for a bicycle route are being considered. We hope that public opinion, along with a strong environmental assessment against paving a 9 foot swath through the park, will convince Park personnel and bikers that this path would severely damage the park. ***Please take a few moments to fill out the comment sheet we’ve included in the newsletter and mail it back, postage free, to the Park.*** And we’d also appreciate your sending in our proposed slate for 2005-06. Our by-laws state that the slate must be approved by a certain percentage of our members so please return yours today.

Marianne Mooney



BACKYARD HABITAT—NEW TV SERIES ON ANIMAL PLANET

The National Wildlife Federation has teamed up with Animal Planet to create BACKYARD HABITAT, a new television series that makes the planet a better place for animals, one backyard at a time. Hosted by David Mizejewski of the National Wildlife Federation and TV personality Molly Pesce, each episode presents fun and simple ways to attract wildlife to your property, whether it's a balcony in the city or a large backyard.

From butterfly gardens to turtle ponds to bird feeders, learn how to build, landscape and create a certified habitat at home where you can enjoy the simple pleasures nature has to offer every day. Premieres August 15 and airs weekdays at 11:00 AM E/P through September.

BOARD OFFICERS		
President	Marianne Mooney	534-8179
Vice President	Rob Aldrich	526-0535
Secretary	Lee Ann Kinzer	768-4048
Treasurer	Vivian “Dusty” Dukes	938-7912
COMMITTEE CHAIRS		
Botany	Cris Fleming	301-657-9289
Conservation	Lisa Palmer	526-0535
Membership	Geoff Seymour	658-2289
Newsletter	Mary Ann Lawler	684-8622
Programs/Education	Shirley Gay	920-1913
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Site Registry	Rod Simmons	256-7671
Garden Tours	Vacant	

(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 2005/2006 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee of the Potowmack Chapter VNPS is presenting the following slate of officers for the 2005-2006 year, which begins on November 1. This slate will be voted on at the Annual meeting on October 6.

President: Marianne Mooney
Secretary: Lee Ann Kinzer

Vice President: Bob Yacovissi
Treasurer: Vivian (Dusty) Dukes

Biography of Bob Yacovissi: A resident of Fairfax County, Bob has been very active in Potowmack Chapter events since joining VNPS in 2003. He is also a member of the Maryland Native Plant Society. Bob retired from the U.S. Navy after a long military career and currently works as a contract employee with the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

Nominating Committee: Rob Aldrich, Former Potowmack Chapter Vice President
Sally Sieracki, Former Potowmack News Editor

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2005-2006 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 ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 6, PLEASE FOLD, SEAL, STAMP, AND MAIL THIS BALLOT BY OCTOBER 1 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)

PAVING A TRAIL THROUGH TURKEY RUN?

As a background to the current issue over the proposed biking trail proposed along the GW Parkway, we offer the following quick bullets. Additional information is available by calling Park Planner, Deborah Feldman at 703 289-2512 or Park Superintendent Audrey Calhoun at 703 289-2500.

*Studies on the possibility of extending the existing Mount Vernon Trail (started in 1972) began in 1995 with a feasibility study that was completed by the National Park Service in 2002. In 2003 a regional bikeway and trail study was done by the Virginia Department of Transportation. In short, many studies have been done at the request and pressure of Virginia and Washington area biking associations.

*While a parkway plan began in 1888, the 1932 plan recommended foot paths and bridle paths as part of the planned landscape. Planners in 1932 could not possibly envision our reality today--that the green strip of protected lands along the Potomac River, the Potomac Gorge, is all that remains of the wild lands west of the Capitol.

*Many noted botanists value highly the natural systems of rare and endangered plant communities found within Turkey Run Park. There is no question about the botanical treasures within the Park. Unfortunately, the width and grade standards for bike trails would require extensive construction, severely altering the landscape and creating erosion on the steep terrains that make up most of the Park.

*Proposed Alternatives A through F offer various options for routes from the existing trail at Theodore Roosevelt Island to just south of the American Legion Bridge. Alternative A is the "No Action" alternative, leaving any extension of the trail up to local governments to determine. The other alternatives would be a combination of local roads and Federal park land, but mostly Federal park land. The local citizen's association in northern Fairfax prefers that the trail stay on Federal park lands and out of its neighborhoods.

*An environmental assessment and historical/archeological protection report on the effects of the proposed project on the parks resources have yet to be completed. These reports must take into account the mission of the National Park Service -- to protect all natural and cultural resources within their boundaries. The results of these reports may recommend against any trail construction within the Park. **However, the importance of the public process is to gain insight into the opinions of the public -- YOU. In selecting the Alternative A option, you will be supporting protection of all of the resources within the GW Parkway by taking those properties out of consideration for a future bike trail. The deadline for comments is Sept. 21.**

*Please read Marianne Mooney's President's message on page 2 about this proposal in this newsletter.

NEW! INVASIVE PLANT RESOURCE GUIDE

Developed by the Center for Invasive Plant Management, the online "Invasive Plant Resource Guide" is a reference for materials (fact sheets, handbooks, booklets, etc.) that support invasive plant management and education. The materials cover a wide array of topics ranging from weed management strategies to natural resources to "working with people" skills. For each item, a description is provided as well as a link to the source. Most items are available for download or in hard copy at no cost.

Find the Resource Guide at http://www.weedcenter.org/resource_guide/rg_cover.html.

ARLINGTON'S RiP PROJECT

Sat. Sept. 10 - Second Saturdays at Bluemont Park 9am - Noon. Neighbors and RiP volunteers will continue to meet at Bluemont Junction Park on second Saturdays. Come help out for an hour or two. Meet along the Bluemont bike trail between N Jefferson and N Illinois streets. Parking is available at the end of either street. Enter from Wilson Blvd. Contact John Huenekens at 524-3853, or jhuenn@gwu.edu.

Sat. Oct. 9 - Second Saturdays at Bluemont Park 9am - Noon. pm (See above for details)

Sat. Oct. 15 - Sparrow Swamp invasives removal, 9am-Noon (or as long or short as you like). Help remove invasive plants in Sparrow Swamp near the Long Branch Nature Center. We will be removing some cat-tails, black willow, porcelain berry, and Ludwigia. It will be a great "get wet" day. Arlington County will supply the waders. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center (or directly at the Swamp on the W&OD Trail) Directions: Rt 50 W; Carlin Springs Rd. South past hospital; turn left to Center.

Sat Oct. 15 and Sat. Oct 22 are county-wide invasive plant removal dates in Arlington County with several locations participating. Call 703 228 7636 or visit the Invasive Plant Program pages on the Arlington County website to find a location near you.

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

LOCAL EVENTS AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:

Sat. Sept. 10. Butterflies and Blossoms Ft. C.F. Smith, Arlington. 1-2:30pm \$6 fee Learn some tricks and tips of identification as we enjoy the colors of late summer with a slide show and walk. Bring binoculars. Reservations required: call 703-228-4747 or register on-line <http://registration.co.arlington.va.us/> and reference program # 614451A. Meet in the Hendry House (main house) at Fort CF Smith Park & Historic Site, 2411 N. 24th St., Arlington, VA 22207. For more information call 703-228-3403.

Sat. Sept. 10. Wildflower folklore Long Branch Nature Center. 4 - 5:00 pm. Free. Join us for a leisurely walk as we discuss plant identification, folklore, ethnobotany, medicinal, edible, and other plant uses. Reservations required: 703-228-4747 or register on-line <http://registration.co.arlington.va.us/> using program # 614452A. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd., Arlington, VA 22204; 703-228-6535.

Sun. Sept. 11. LONG BRANCH NATURE CENTER NATIVE PLANT SALE. 2-4 pm. We did a good job cleaning out our spring wildflower beds, but now we have to seriously thin our summer and fall blooming beds. Expect a large quantity and nice selection of sun-loving native wildflowers – many that either attract or serve as host plants for butterflies. We will also have a selection of native shrubs and trees for sale. All plants will be hardened off so even if they are past peak bloom, the rootstock should be strong for spring growth. Rain or shine. For information, call Long Branch at 703-228-6535.

Mon. Sep.12-Dec.12 Forest Ecosystems (10 classes and 3 field trips). USDA Graduate School; Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase Mondays 7 – 9pm. Classes plus 3 field trips: \$335 Instructor, Gary Evans. Call 202-314-3320 or register on line at www.grad.usda.gov

Tues. Sept. 13, 20, 27. Audubon at Home and Beyond 7-9pm Field Trip Sept 25 \$60 non-members. The five principles of Audubon at Home — conserve water, protect water quality, reduce or eliminate chemical pesticides and fertilizers, remove invasives and plant natives — can lay the groundwork for this important effort. This workshop will give you the "how-to" to put Audubon at Home into practice at your home and beyond. Packard Center, 4022 Hummer Road, Annandale Instructor: Carol Hadlock, Robin Rentsch and Ray Smith, Audubon Society, Northern Virginia. For information: 703-256-6895 and e-mail is fas@fairfaxaudubon.org.

Wed. Sep.14-Nov.16. Fall Woody Plant Identification (10 classes and 3 field trips). USDA Graduate School; Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase Wednesdays 7 – 9pm. Classes plus 3 field trips: \$335 Instructor, Cristol Fleming. Call 202-314-3320 or register on line at www.grad.usda.gov

Sat. Sep. 17 Fall Wildflower Walk Riverbend . 9:30-11:30am Free; reservations required. Wear sturdy shoes/ hiking boots. 703-759-9018

Thurs. Sept. 22 Virginia's Rare Butterflies 7:30 – 9:00 pm. Free Join the Washington Area Butterfly Club and guest speaker Steve Roble, from the VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation for an informative evening about the State's butterfly conservation efforts. Reservations required: call 703-228-4747 or register on-line <http://registration.co.arlington.va.us/> and reference program # 614455A. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd., Arlington, VA 22204; 703-228-6535.

Sat. Sept. 24. Barcroft Magnolia Bog Walk 10-11:30 am Free. We will identify the "signature" bog vegetation, observe the seeps that feed the wetland community, and discuss how geology and hydrology come together to form a bog. Wear long pants and sleeves. Be prepared to encounter poison ivy and sumac. Reservations required: call 703-228-4747 or register on-line <http://registration.co.arlington.va.us/> and reference program # 614457A. Meet at the entrance to the parking garage at Barcroft Sports & Fitness Center, 4200 S. Four Mile Run Dr., Arlington, VA 22206. For more information: 703-228-6535.

Fri. Sep. 30. Fall Flora of the C&O Canal (Glen Echo) 10am-2:30pm Audubon Naturalist Soc. \$21 for non-members. Call: 301-652-9188 x16 (*Note: discount for more than one walk)

Sat. Oct. 1. Parkfairfax Native Plant Sale 9am to 2pm, 3601 Valley Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22302. The sale features many top-quality nurseries from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia offering beautiful and uncommon native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade! You can view a flyer for the sale, containing the list of vendors and a map of the neighborhood, at http://www.parkfairfax.info/content/NativePlantSale_Oct1.pdf. If you have questions, call Scott Knudsen at 703-671-8416 or sknudsen@earthlink.net. If you send an email, put "Native Plant Sale" in the subject line.

Fri. Oct 7-Sun. Oct 9 Botanical Art Workshop: Botanical illustrator Lara Call Gastinger will be conducting a weekend workshop in botanical art at Flower Camp in Buckingham County in October. Creator of illustrations for the Flora of Virginia, Lara will be teaching a form of watercolor painting that is more expressive than technical illustration but equally responsive to botanical detail. Her emphasis is on observing and depicting plants at all stages of their development and on helping participants observe more closely, sketch and paint more accurately. This workshop also includes opportunities for wildflower identification, informal instruction in basic botany, and guidance in plant collection processes. Participants learn dry brush techniques, color mixing, and how to apply gradual layers of color. Tuition of \$275 (10% donated to The Flora of Virginia Project) includes instruction, five meals, two-nights' overnight accommodations, and the inspiration of the Piedmont countryside. For more information or to register, contact Nancy Ross Hugo at 804-798-6364; nancy@flowercamp.org. Or visit www.flowercamp.org

Fri. Oct. 14. Fall Flora of the C&O Canal (Great Falls) 10am-2:30pm Audubon Naturalist Soc. \$21 for non-members. Call: 301-652-9188 x16 (*Note: discount for more than one walk)

Sun. Oct. 16. Native Plant Garden Stroll Green Spring Gardens Guided tour of Virginia Native Plant Garden. 1-3pm \$24. 703-941-7987.

Sat. Oct. 22. Adults Gone Wild II 9am to noon. \$20 fee. Join an experienced field naturalist for an off trails hike through one of our wilder local parks. Participants should wear long pants, long sleeves, and footwear that can get wet. Bring whatever you are willing to carry - binoculars, water bottle, snack, field guides, etc. Reservations required: call 703-228-4747 or register on-line <http://registration.co.arlington.va.us/> and reference program # 614465A. Van trip departs from Long Branch Nature Center parking lot, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd., Arlington, VA 22204. For more information call 703-228-6535.

Sat. Oct. 22 Fall Tree Hike Riverbend Visitor Center. 9:30-11:30am Free; reservations required. Wear sturdy shoes/ hiking boots. 703-759-9018

Sat. Oct. 22 Autumn Tree Trek. Huntley Meadows 1-3:30pm \$5 Learn basic tree id. Reservations required. 703-768-2525.

Thurs. Oct. 27. Monarch Butterflies. Long Branch. 7:30-9:00pm. Free. Join the Washington Area Butterfly Club and guest speaker, Suzanne Holland from the Fairfax County Park Authority, for an informative evening about monarch butterflies. Reservations required: call 703-228-4747 or register on-line <http://registration.co.arlington.va.us/> and reference program # 614404A. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd., Arlington, VA 22204; 703-228-6535.

Fri. Oct. 28 Fall Flora of the C&O Canal (Glen Echo) 10am-2:30pm Audubon Naturalist Soc. \$21 for non-members. Call: 301-652-9188 x16 (*Note: discount for more than one walk)

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. Check the expiration date on the label on this newsletter. Mail this form to: VNPS, Membership Chair, 400 Blandly Lane, Unit 2, Boyce, Virginia 22620. Make checks payable to VNPS.

Potowmack Chapter: Name and Address: _____

Individual: \$30	Student: \$15	Assoc. (group) \$40	Life: \$500
Family: \$40	Patron: \$50	Sustaining \$100	Renewal Amount: _____

"Plant Conservation: A Natural History Approach," edited by Gary A. Krupnick and W. John Kress, both of The Smithsonian Institution is now available from the University of Chicago Press or online commercial sources. The book contains a chapter written by Stan Shetler on "Grassroots Conservation," which deals in part with native plant societies. The publication particulars are: University of Chicago Press, Chicago and London, 346 pp., 2005 [July]. The soft-cover edition costs \$30. The hard-cover edition costs \$75.

Join the Party in the Park

Chapter volunteers have been making a lot of headway (and headroom) in the battle against Linden viburnum at **Turkey Run Park**. The forest is opening up and the small, struggling native saplings crowded by the viburnum will now have a fighting chance at some sun and space. And, equally important, the spread of viburnum will be stopped before it reaches more pristine areas of the park.

Mary Travaglino, our Nature Conservancy coordinator, has been fantastic to work with; her energy and enthusiasm motivates volunteers even in the middle of summer. Several chapter members have even taken Mary's certification course in invasives i.d. and can now go out on their own to do battle in the War of the Weeds. We've had a dedicated core of reliable workers banding together on this chapter project including Ginny Yacovissi, Margaret Chatham, Shirley Gay, Laura Beaty and others. More hands would increase our effectiveness and I ask anyone who can to come out and join us. It's not overly strenuous work and we have a great time working together. Cooler weather is in the forecast and fall will be a fine time to get out in the park and do some good. Make a plan to come out on one of the following work days. We meet in parking lot B; Mary will have pruners and saws; bring gloves and water. Any questions, call Mary at 301 897 8570 and watch the listserve for any updates.

Fall Schedule:

- Sunday September 11th, 1 to 4 p.m.**
- Thursday September 22nd, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**
- Saturday October 8th, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**
- Thursday October 27th, 1 to 4 p.m.**



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

Chapter Events Calendar

Sept	8	Board meeting 7:30 Green Spring
Sept	10	Plant Sale Noon-4 Green Spring
Sept	16 & 17	Coastal Plain Native Plant Conf. Norfolk
Oct.	6	Annual meeting Pollinator Program Green Spring 7pm
Nov.	10	Program on Earth Sangha's native plants. 7:30 Green Spring

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