

# POTOWMACK NEWS

Volume 29. No. 2

Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

March/April 2011

## **THE HABITATS OF VERNAL POOLS,** **Thursday, March 24, 7:30p.m., Green** **Spring Gardens**

A vernal pool is a form of temporary, freshwater wetland that contains water for a portion of the year and supports a fantastic array of wildlife and plants, some specially adapted for these habitats and many being rare species in Virginia. Vernal pools are often found in the floodplain of a stream, in seasonally-flooded woodlands, as sinkhole ponds, or where rainwater and snow collect in forest depressions. Call them vernal pools, disappearing ponds, or just big wicked puddles, these temporary wetlands are critical habitat for some of our most interesting and mysterious creatures. Our March program will feature vernal pool expert Mike Hayslett.



Mike Hayslett is naturalist-in-residence and director of the Virginia Vernal Pools Program at Sweet Briar College. Mike is also a Virginia Master Naturalist and president of the Central Virginia chapter. His career as a wildlife biologist and conservation educator has focused primarily on his expertise with amphibians and "vernal pool" wetlands.

We hope to have an opportunity to sponsor another walk and will let you know through our newsgroup and facebook should we be able to do so.

***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***

## **UNDERWATER PLANTS RESTORING THE CHESAPEAKE BAY Thursday, April 14,** **7:30p.m., Green Spring Gardens plus Volunteer Day, Saturday, April 16.**

Our conservation efforts are not just terrestrial; we have a role in understanding, restoring, and advocating for the conservation of our underwater plants as well. More than 16 species of underwater bay grasses — also called submerged aquatic vegetation or SAV — are found in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Bay grasses are an excellent measure of the Bay's overall condition because they are not under harvest pressure and their health is closely linked to the overall health of the Bay.

Nancy Rybicki is a researcher at the U S Geological Survey who conducts studies to understand the ecology of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) and the role of SAV in aquatic systems. She will focus her talk on results of studies she conducted on dynamics of submerged aquatic vegetation in the Potomac River over the last few decades, a time when managers have made great efforts to restore the rivers in the Chesapeake Bay.

We will also be announcing an opportunity to volunteer at a "Grasses for the Masses" planting workday near Mason Neck on Saturday, April 16.

***Directions to Green Spring Gardens: See above.***

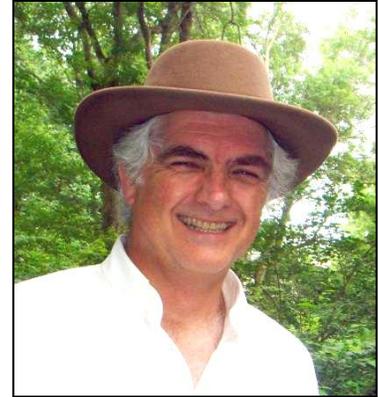
"Here are mountains, hills, plains, valleys, rivers, and brooks all running most pleasantly into a faire Bay compassed but for the mouth with fruitful and delightsome land."

**Captain John Smith on the Chesapeake Bay in 1608**

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

Welcome to the Spring. We are all eager to return to the outdoors and there are too many activities planned for the next few months for us to enjoy them all. Our fascinating Chesapeake Bay watershed is full of wonders and challenges and I invite you to learn more about two less well explored topics in our next few meetings.

Vernal Pools are intermittent wetlands, wet in late winter and spring and gradually drying out over the summer. They are not ponds or even necessarily identified as riparian as they do not have to be directly connected with a stream valley. However, their unique nature makes them invaluable to many amphibians and reptiles as breeding habitat. In March, Professor Mike Hayslett from Sweet Briar College, an acknowledged expert on Vernal Pools, will be in the region leading some awareness training and exploration. I am proud we are co-sponsoring his work here with two of our colleague organizations, the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia and Lands & Waters, an educational and stewardship organization. ASNV will be hosting an all day seminar on Vernal Pools on March 12th. If you are interested please check out their website. This will fill fast.



<http://www.audubonva.org/index.php/environmental-education/adult-education-classes> Prof. Hayslett will be speaking at our monthly meeting on March 24th. We hope to have an opportunity to sponsor another walk and will let you know through our newsgroup and Facebook should we be able to do so.

The Chesapeake Bay itself contains vast areas of underwater grasses and other flora. These species are critical for the growth and development of crabs and fishes as their juvenile stages use the grass beds to hide from predators. These grasses also generate oxygen. On April 14th our speaker will be Nancy Rybicki from the United States Geological Service. She will introduce us to this relatively unknown domain of native Virginia plants and speak of her research. There is an engaging opportunity to get involved as the following Saturday the Chesapeake Bay Foundation will be holding a Grasses for the Masses planting workday near Mason Neck. Please check out their website at: <http://cbf.org/Page.aspx?pid=457> **Alan Ford**

**ARE WE A COOL CHAPTER OR WHAT!!**

Find us on Facebook under:  
Potowmack Chapter - VA Native Plant Society  
Look up our website: [www.vnps-pot.org](http://www.vnps-pot.org)  
Try out our mobile tag by scanning this image on your smart phone. Becky Super created this QR Code for the Chapter.



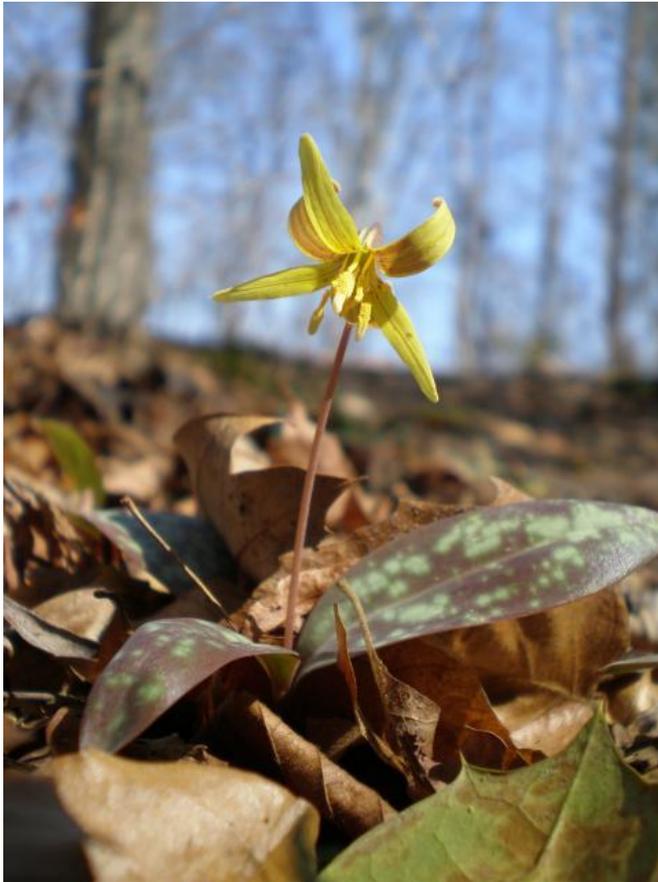
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*Potowmack News* is published 6 times per year, in January, March, May, July, September, and November. The deadline for submissions is the 15th day of the month prior to publication. Call Mary Ann Lawler for more information or e-mail her at [malawler0@gmail.com](mailto:malawler0@gmail.com) or Susan Wexelblat at [susanwexelblat@gmail.com](mailto:susanwexelblat@gmail.com)

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## **THE YELLOW TROUT LILY**

### **ERITHRONIUM AMERICANUM**

**By Alonso Abugattas.** This plant goes by a variety of different names: Dogtooth Violet, Fawn Ears, Fawn Lily, Adder's Tongue, Yellow Lily, Yellow Bells, Yellow Snowdrops, Rattlesnake Violet, Rattlesnake Tooth, Yellow Snakeleaf, Lamb's Tongue, Snake Root, Star-striker, and Scrofula Root to name a few (and thanks to author Jack Sanders for compiling most of them). The variety of names is due to several reasons. See if you can figure out which ones listed above are due to the fish-like mottling of the leaves (along with its appearance when the fishing for trout was said to be the best)? How about the snake-like mottling of the leaves? Others think the pattern is more fawn-like. How about the supposed dog-like shape of the roots (corms), at least in Old World members of the genus? Since only those plants with 2 leaves bloom you get the comparison to ears. The last name hints at its use to treat a skin condition. They are true lilies and not violets though despite some common names. The genus name refers to the red color of some of the European species. Naturalist John Burroughs is said to be the first to use the names Trout-lily and Fawn-lily. All in all, quite a few names it can go by.

Although they can be quite abundant and form an ephemeral groundcover, very few plants produce flowers. Some say the secret supposedly lies, not only

in how healthy and old the plant is, but also that it must make contact with a hard surface like a rock. Some can therefore go very deep (going deeper each year up to a foot down) and few in a colony actually flower. It also is believed that it takes plants 4 or more years to store up enough energy to bloom. It spreads quickly though by underground 'runners'. Like many flowers, they close up when it gets dark and point downwards anyways to protect the nectar and pollen stores. It is a spring ephemeral and some colonies are said to be centuries old.

For when it actually does produce seed, this plant relies on ants to help disperse it. Like about a third of our spring wildflowers, this is a myrmecochorous plant. It grows an elaisome on its seed coat which certain ants find delectable. They take the treat and discard the seed, often in a rich and protected area where it will have a better chance of growing.

As for ethnobotany, the genus had lots of uses besides treating scrofula. Country lore says a tea could be made to rid yourself of hiccups. It was often used in North America to induce vomiting and has been used in many types of poultices to treat ulcers and tumors. A tea was made by some tribes for stomach ailments and some roots were eaten as food (the Japanese species is said to be used quite a bit in food dishes). Ethnobotanist Daniel Moerman adds that the Cherokee used the root as a fever reducer and for fits of fainting while the crushed leaves to treat wounds. They would also use it ritually, supposedly chewing it and then spitting it into the water to help them catch fish. Moerman also relates that various Iroquois tribes used the roots as a contraceptive in addition to its use as a skin treatment. Old world species were supposedly used by Roman soldiers for sore feet.

Truly there's more to this wildflower than meets the eye, no matter which name you choose to call it. So keep an eye out for it this spring now that you know a bit more about this wild neighbor who carpets our forests but only hangs around in the spring.

## Annals of the City of Alexandria Herbarium: Ancient Outliers of the Fall Line Flora

By Rod Simmons, February 2011

[A regular series featuring field botany updates, notable collections, and scientific contributions largely from the City of Alexandria, Arlington County, and Fairfax County, Virginia, but occasionally including other locales in the Washington, D.C. area as well]

### Clinton's Wood Fern (*Dryopteris clintoniana*) (D.C. Eaton) Dowell:

In an attempt to verify the historical status in northern Virginia and southern range extension of *Dryopteris clintoniana*, pteridologists extraordinaire, Carl Taylor and Jim Montgomery, met with Rod Simmons at US – D.C. and Vicinity Collection in June 2010 to examine the sole specimens of *Dryopteris clintoniana* collected from the greater Washington, D.C. region. Because D.C. and vicinity populations of *Dryopteris clintoniana* are disjunct from its primary range in the northeastern U.S., some discrepancy remained as to the identification and status of the local specimens (Virginia Botanical Associates 2011, Shetler and Orli 2000). Moreover, *D. clintoniana* is an allohexaploid from *Dryopteris cristata* and *Dryopteris goldiana* and hybridizes with six species (Montgomery and Wagner 1993).

Spanning nearly 100 years of collecting, only four stations for *D. clintoniana* are represented in the collection. The oldest and most numerous collections are by William Palmer from the late 1800s in the Lincolnia area in the City of Alexandria, Virginia. This station also produced two natural *clintoniana* hybrids.

A total of eleven specimens are represented from the City of Alexandria: six of *Dryopteris clintoniana* and five natural hybrids between *clintoniana* and *D. cristata* and *D. marginalis*. All were collected from woodland seepage habitat - probably not from a Magnolia Bog but springheads and seepage braids along lower slopes of forested ravines - at the western edge of the City:

*Dryopteris clintoniana* (D.C. Eat.) Dowell Clinton's Wood Fern  
(W. Palmer [two specimens *s.n.*; and 311a,311e,311h] 9 Jul 1899, "Lincolnia, cold spring bog, well shaded";  
W. Palmer *s.n.*, 2 Jun 1902, "Lincolnia, one colony in cold spring bog")

*Dryopteris clintoniana* x *D. cristata*  
(W. Palmer *s.n.*, 9 Jul 1899, "Lincolnia, cold spring bog, well shaded")

*Dryopteris clintoniana* x *D. marginalis*  
(W. Palmer [one specimen *s.n.*; and 311c,311f,311i] 9 Jul 1899, "Lincolnia, cold spring bog, well shaded")

Unfortunately, much of this once-remote area was destroyed long ago with extensive sand and gravel mining, the construction of Shirley Highway (I-95), and widespread housing development. Some natural areas with woodland seeps do remain, but *D. clintoniana* is considered extirpated from the City of Alexandria. (See <http://alexandriava.gov/recreation/info/default.aspx?id=22560> for more information on the historical occurrence of this taxon in the City of Alexandria, Alexandria geology and soils, and keys to various notations on referenced historical collections in Alexandria.)



**Fig. 1. Jim Montgomery and Carl Taylor identifying ferns at US – D.C. and Vicinity Collection. Photo by R.H. Simmons.**

## Annals of the City of Alexandria (Continued)

Fig. 2. *Dryopteris clintoniana* x *D. marginalis*. Photo by R.H. Simmons.

Two specimens from distinct stations in Fairfax County are also represented in the D.C. and Vicinity Collection, one from the Burke area in the southern part of the county and one from the western section of the county in Reston:

*Dryopteris clintoniana* (D.C. Eat.) Dowell  
(H.G. Deignan 1094, 22 Jun 1946, "Fairfax, 5.5 m. from Fairfax Courthouse; originally growing in rich woods on right bank of Cherry Run [ca. 6.25 m. from Fairfax Courthouse], but transplanted in summer of 1942 or 1943 to Deignan's land near cabin. This frond suffered injury from a fallen branch and fruited abnormally early")

*Dryopteris clintoniana* (D.C. Eat.) Dowell  
(Bruce Aitken s.n., 10 Jun 1980, "Reston: in weedy open clearing with *Lonicera japonica*, *Rubus*, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, *Dryopteris spinulosa*, and Poison Ivy")

The collection from a weedy, meadowy glade in Reston is the most recent and raises the potential of this taxon's persistence in Fairfax County. (Similar habitats also occur in nearby Prince William County and Stafford County.) The above specimens represent the first reporting of *Dryopteris clintoniana* in Virginia, including the two natural hybrids.

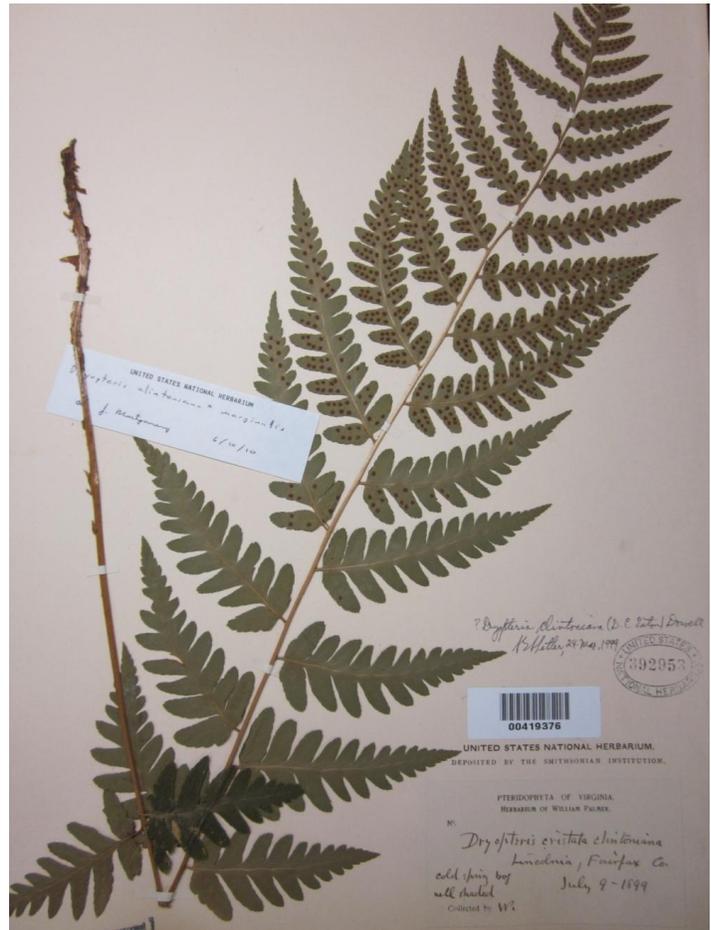
No specimens were noted from Washington, D.C., but four specimens were collected by William Palmer in 1899 from one station at Glen Echo in Montgomery County, Maryland:

*Dryopteris clintoniana* (D.C. Eat.) Dowell  
(W. Palmer s.n. [two specimens], 20 Jul 1899, "Glen Echo, cold spring bog, well shaded"; W. Palmer 322, 322a, 20 Jul 1899, "Glen Echo, cold spring bog in deep shade")

*D. clintoniana* was confirmed several years ago for Maryland from a location on the Eastern Shore (Chris Frye and Wes Knapp pers. comm.) by Jim Montgomery, with the Glen Echo occurrence adding an interior station to the known distribution within the state. (Maryland botanist Clyde Reed extensively collected throughout Maryland and documented *D. clintoniana* from several stations within the state. However, the Reed Herbarium was dismantled after his death and the locations of those collections may only remain in his fern guide, *The Ferns and Fern-Allies of Maryland and Delaware Including District of Columbia*.)

### Evergreen Wood Fern (*Dryopteris intermedia*) (Muhl. ex Willd.) Gray:

Long considered extirpated in the City of Alexandria and well over a hundred years since its last collection in the City, Evergreen Wood Fern (*Dryopteris intermedia*) was rediscovered in virtually its original station and habitat at Rynex Nature Area in the Lincolnia area at the western edge of the City. A single specimen was noted in late winter 2010 by Rod Simmons, with Jennifer Millwood, Jane Yeingst and Mary Alexander of the Ford Nature Center, growing on the (now-steep) upper bank of the spring-fed seepage tributary that runs through Rynex.



## Annals of the City of Alexandria (Continued)

Lincolnia, as well as other sandy-gravelly locales in Franconia/Springfield, South Arlington, and D.C., contains numerous springs, woodland seeps, spring-fed seepage stream valleys (**Fig. 3**), and historically Magnolia Bogs (**Fig. 4**) - all of which emanate from the abundant aquifers arising from vast deposits of porous sands and gravels of the Potomac Formation. A comparison of today's location and habitat with William Palmer's 1899 collections below illustrates the tenacity of many plant species and the importance of habitat preservation:

*Dryopteris intermedia* (Muhl. ex Willd.) Gray

(*W. Palmer 211a*, 30 Apr 1899, "Lincolnia, streambank in partly open ravine"; *W. Palmer 312*, 9 Jul 1899, "Lincolnia, rather open ravine")

*D. intermedia* is often confused with the tetraploid *Dryopteris carthusiana* (Villars) H.P. Fuchs (syn. *D. spinulosa*), though it can be distinguished from *carthusiana* by having the basal pinnules of lowest pinnae "shorter than adjacent pinnules"; having mostly evergreen fronds vs. semi-evergreen in *carthusiana*; and having the upper frond, rachis, and indusia finely glandular vs. non-glandular in *carthusiana* (Montgomery and Wagner 1993).



**Fig. 3. Spring-fed seepage braids with associated wetland flora and main tributary of lower forested ravine at Rynex Nature Area. Photo by R.H. Simmons.**

**Fig. 4. The aptly-named "Fern Belt" at the northeastern edge of the former Winkler Botanical Preserve - also in the Lincolnia area - as it appeared in the early 1990s. This pristine wetlands was regionally famous as one of the best remaining examples of the globally-rare Fall Line Magnolia Bog community (*Nyssa sylvatica* - *Magnolia virginiana* - (*Pinus rigida*) / *Rhododendron viscosum* - *Toxicodendron vernix* / *Smilax pseudochina* Woodland; USNVC - CEGLO06219). This was also Alexandria's last remaining Magnolia Bog, which was sadly destroyed in the mid-1990s during massive development at Mark Center that continues today with the Washington Headquarters Services (WHS) building construction. Photo by R.H. Simmons.**



## Annals of the City of Alexandria (Continued)

### Literature Cited

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### WHAT FOUR MILE RUN AND HOLMES RUN FLOODPLAINS ONCE LOOKED LIKE

Pictured below is of the mostly pristine, broad alluvial floodplain on the south side of the Patuxent River in upper Prince George's County, Maryland, just west of the BW Parkway in the coastal plain near the eastern margin of the fall line. Swamp Chestnut Oak (*Quercus michauxii*) is a co-dominant in the canopy of this old-age forest community, along with

Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), American Elm (*Ulmus americana*), and others. Also occurring within the extensive floodplain - in slight depressions over thick lenses of clay - are a mosaic of bottomland backswamps, which are floristically less diverse and are dominated by Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*) and Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*). This is likely how the historical lower **Four Mile Run and Holmes Run** floodplains would have once appeared, both still containing some rare relics of this community today.



Patuxent River backswamp with Swamp Chestnut Oak (*Quercus michauxii*), Prince George's County, Maryland. Photo by R.H. Simmons.

Accotink Creek - the next major east-west stream south of Holmes Run and associated streams - is also very much the same, with a mixture of Swamp Chestnut Oak and Swamp White Oak (especially in the area of Eakin Park east of Rt. 50).

**Rod Simmons**

Here's an interesting site. **The National Tree Benefit Calculator**, <http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator/index.cfm>. All you need is your zip code to start, then input / select the species, diameter, and location, and the website does the rest.

### **Saturday April 10 ECO-SAVVY EXPO AT HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK Noon-4pm**

#### **Native Plant Sale, Bee Boxes, Rain Barrels, Native Seed Mixes and How-to Presentations**

In cooperation with Green Spring Gardens yearly Eco-savvy Gardening Symposium and the Audubon at Home in Northern Virginia program, Huntley Meadows offers an afternoon of backyard conservation tips and take-home materials. Join us and we'll send you home with the best native plants - sold by Nature-By-Design, Northern VA's only native plant nursery, located in the DelRay-Alexandria area.

Bee boxes, wren boxes, rain barrels (including set-up info), and wildflower seed mixes will also be available for sale, as well as lots of FREE info from Pollinator Partnership, VA Native Plant Society, Fairfax ReLeaf, Trout Unlimited and the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia. Wildlife gardening and backyard conservation experts from Audubon Society will also be on hand for consultation. Schedule of Events:

\*Butterfly Gardening Tips – 1:00-2:00pm (\$6)

\*Bee Boxes and Bee Gardening – 2:30-3:30pm (\$6)

### **Saturday, April 16 SPRING PLANT SALE AT LONG BRANCH 1:00pm-3pm**

Join Long Branch for its highly anticipated native plant sale! The vast majority of their plants are propagated on site. There will be a variety of spring and summer bloomers along with ferns, vines and shrubs. Cardboard boxes will be provided for transporting your new purchases. Rain date: Sunday, April 17, 1-3pm. Payment can be made by cash or check (sorry, no credit cards). Plant advice is free, fee per plant as marked. Information: 703-228-6535. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd., Arlington, VA 22204.

### **Saturday, April 30 PARK FAIRFAX NATIVE PLANT SALE 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

12 to 14 vendors from 4 or 5 states (VA, MD, PA, WV & SC) will be there, making this event the largest native plant sale in the D.C. metro region! If you have enjoyed this sale in the past, please come again--the number of vendors in future sales will stay only as high as supported by local demand!

Come find native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade! Several vendors specialize in some aspect of native plants, such as native azaleas, fruiting shrubs, or wetland plants. A few do not come here for any other plant sale. A list of the vendors can be downloaded from the sale website at <http://www.home.earthlink.net/~sknudsen/>

The sale is entirely organized and run by volunteers. No one makes money on it except the vendors. Its purpose is to promote native plant gardening in our area to benefit our watershed, wildlife and neighborhood woodlands. Bringing together a variety of growers makes it easier for local gardeners to find quality plants and encourages greater demand for natives in the nursery industry.

These twice-a-year sales continue to attract a large and growing crowd. At the April 2010 sale, well over 800 people came to the sale to purchase plants from 14 vendors. It was our largest sale and turnout yet! For anyone interested in volunteering to help at the sale, please contact Scott Knudsen at 703-671-8416 or [sknudsen@earthlink.net](mailto:sknudsen@earthlink.net). For everyone else, please just come! **3601 Valley Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302**

**Save the date: Saturday, May 14, VNPS Plant Sale at Green Spring Gardens**

### **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:

Wed. Mar. 2, 2:00-5:00 Lake Accotink

**Tues. Mar. 8, 3:00-5:00 Ellanor C. Lawrence\***

Wed. Mar. 9, 2:00-5:00 Americana

Wed. Mar. 16, 2:00-5:00 Lake Accotink

Wed. Mar. 23, 2:00-5:00 Lake Accotink

Sat. Mar 26, 9:00 - 12:00 Nottoway

Wed. Mar. 30, 2:00-5:00 Lake Accotink

Wed. Apr. 6, 2:30-5:30 Lake Accotink

Sun. Apr. 10, 10-noon Holmes Run

Wed. Apr. 13, 2:30-5:30 Americana

Sat. Apr. 16, 9am-noon various sites

see website

Wed. Apr. 20, 2:30-5:30 Lake Accotink

Wed. Apr. 27, 2:30-5:30 Lake Accotink

For more information contact: [Katherine.Frederick@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto: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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/nrp-ima.htm).

\*Note: This will include **Early Detection and Rapid Response Training**. For more information contact: Erin Stocksclaeder [Erin.Stocksclaeder@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Erin.Stocksclaeder@fairfaxcounty.gov) 703-324-8750

**ARLINGTON COUNTY RiP PROGRAM.** Free. For ages 9 to adult. Come and help rescue our parks from the alien plant 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 want to bring along a reusable water bottle. Please register by email or calling to assure that you have the most up-to-date information.

**Second Saturdays @ Lacey Woods, 10 am to noon, Second Sundays @ Gulf Branch Nature Center, 1 to 4pm,  
Third Saturdays @ Tuckahoe Park., 10 am to noon, Third Sundays @ Long Branch Nature Center, 2 to 5pm,  
Fourth Saturdays @ Benjamin Banneker Park**

Register at [Sarcher@arlingtonva.us](mailto:Sarcher@arlingtonva.us) or 702-228-1862. Check the website for details on location.

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/ParksRecreation/scripts/parks/ParksRecreationScriptsParksInvasiveEvents.aspx>

## **LOCAL EVENTS AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Sun. Mar. 6 MNPS Field Trip: Civil War Fort Site: Fort DeRussy in Rock Creek Park** 10:00 am- 02:00 pm

Civil War Fort Series – Free – Sponsored by the Maryland Native Plant Society. Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica  
We will return to Fort DeRussy in Rock Creek Park and along the way concentrate on tree ID using the tree bark, buds, and branch structure. We will also identify the evergreens that dot this mostly deciduous woods. (Directions: Get onto Military Road in WDC and when you get to the intersection of Military and Oregon in NW Washington, turn north on Oregon Av. at St. John's College High School and drive north past St. John's on your left and after a few small streets on your left you will see the sign for Northhampton St.. Turn left and park on the street on the 2600 or 2700 block of Northhampton. We will gather there at 10 am and walk from there into Rock Creek Park and along the trail to the Fort. Bring: Water and lunch. Note: Easy to moderate walk. If heavy snow or rain threatens, call Sunday morning before 9 am to check on status of walk. Registration is not required, but registrants will receive an email notice if the walk is canceled. If further information is needed, contact: Mary Pat Rowan, [blair-rowan@starpower.net](mailto:blair-rowan@starpower.net) or 202-526-8821.

**Sat. Mar. 26 Lahr Native Plant Symposium: Native Plants: Landscape Solutions**, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm Beltsville Area Research Center. The 25th Lahr Symposium explores the intersection of native plants, horticulture, ecology, and landscape design. This year's program features topics particularly interesting to those who plan to use native plants in the landscape. The daylong program presents the newest developments in native plants entering the market place; bringing the benefits of native plants to every size landscape, including a single pot; and continues the discussion of how to learn from nature when trying to select plants for even the toughest planting locations. Registration fee includes lunch and early access to the Native Plant Sale. Fee: \$89 (FONA \$71) Registration required. Note: This year the symposium will be held at the Beltsville Area Research Center at 10300 Baltimore Blvd, Beltsville, MD. For a map and directions, see our website or call 202-245-4523.

**Sat. Apr. 2 Early Spring Wildflowers (9 am - 3 pm) Leader: Cris Fleming** Beat the winter blues by finding early spring wildflowers often missed by those who don't get out until mid-April. We'll search for early bloomers such as harbinger of spring, purple cress, early saxifrage, dutchman's breeches, bloodroot, hepatica, trailing arbutus, and many other species. Our field trip will visit Great Falls Park and Difficult Run on the Virginia side of the Potomac River. Park entrance fee is waived for participants.. **Members: \$30; Nonmembers: \$42** For information or to register call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for registration.

**Mon. Apr. 4 – Jun. 6. (Field Trips Apr. 10, Apr. 30, May 7) Spring Flower Identification.** 7-9:15pm Woodend Sanctuary, \$355. Instructor: Karyn Molines. Learn to recognize common spring wildflowers. Increase your enjoyment of the season by learning about flower identification, the relationships of plants and how they are classified. Gain an appreciation for the rich flora of the Central Atlantic region through the study of the principal spring blooming plants in the area. The field trips represent the area's best wildflower locations. **To Register Online:**  
[http://www.graduateschool.edu/course\\_details.php?cid=NATH1135E](http://www.graduateschool.edu/course_details.php?cid=NATH1135E)

**Thurs. Apr.7 (1 - 3 pm) and Sat. Apr. 9 (full day field trip) Introduction to Wildflower Identification Leader: Stephanie Mason** In April spring wildflowers in our area are dazzling! We'll spend Thursday evening at Woodend discussing books, equipment, and terminology for beginning wildflower identification. On Saturday we'll go to the Carderock area along the C&O Canal and explore several trails between the Canal and the Potomac River, using keys to identify wildflowers and look for Virginia bluebells, dutchman's breeches, twinleaf, toad trillium and other species. **Members: \$17; Nonmembers: \$24** . For information or to register call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for registration.

**Fri. Apr. 8 - Carderock and Marsden Areas, MD; Fri. Apr. 15 - Turkey Run Park, VA; Fri. Apr. 22 - Bear Island, MD Spring Wildflowers of the Potomac River Gorge (10 am-12:30 pm) Leader: Cris Fleming**  
The display of spring wildflowers in the Washington area is especially rich in the varied habitats along the Potomac River Gorge. From Virginia bluebells blanketing the bottomlands to the rare Coville's phacelia on the slopes and wild columbine on rock outcrops, different parks of the Gorge present a grand show. Join us for one or more of these visits to three nearby natural areas to find and identify local wildflowers and to observe the seasonal progression of blooms. Our explorations will involve some steep, uneven, rocky, and/or muddy terrain, but we will proceed at a slow pace. Each walk: **Members: \$17; Nonmembers: \$24** Two walks: **Members: \$30; Nonmembers: \$44** All three walks: **Members: \$43.50; Nonmembers: \$60** Registration required, please use registration form at <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> or call 301-652-9188 x16

**Thurs. Apr. 28 Plant Lore and Ethnobotany 7 - 9:30 PM Instructor: Alonso Abugattas** Ethnobotany is the study of how people use indigenous plants. Virginia's flora has a rich history of both real and imagined uses. This LEAPP workshop will familiarize participants in local floral legend, lore, and ethnobotany. Plant identification, natural history, and animal associations and interactions will also be part of what is studied. The field trip will be to Thompson Wildlife Management Area in Linden, VA. Carpool arrangements will be discussed in class. The Thompson Wildlife Management Area one of the largest (millions!) great white trillium displays in the world! This area is resplendent with many (often rare) wildflowers and trees, including native orchids, which is why it is a wildflower registry site for the Virginia Native Plant Society. On the somewhat rocky 2-mile trail, we'll discuss plant folklore, ethnobotany, identification, and any other natural history we have a good chance to happen upon. Bring a bag lunch and water to eat on the trail. **Class Location:** Fairfax High School, Room D147, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax, Virginia 22030 **Field Trip:** Sunday, May 1 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thompson Wildlife Management Area. To register, contact ASNV at 703-438-6008, 703-438-6008 or at [info@audubonva.org](mailto:info@audubonva.org)

**Sat. Apr. 30 Trillium Trek** 8:30am – 4:00pm. Adults. Travel to Linden, VA to see one of the largest (millions!) Great White Trillium displays in the world! This area is resplendent with many (often rare) wildflowers and trees, including native orchids and a variety of wildlife to observe. On the somewhat rocky two-mile trail we'll discuss plant folklore, natural history, identification and ethnobotany. Before we head home, 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. 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: 703-228-6535 **\$30 fee due upon registration. Register at <https://registration.arlingtonva.us>. Program #: 632941-A**

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

Join with The Nature Conservancy to help control invasive plant species in the Potomac Gorge at Turkey Run Park. Wear work gloves and boots or sturdy shoes, and bring water, snacks, and hand saws or loppers if you have them. Time is 10-1 on each workday. For work days and dates, watch the VNPS listserv or contact Alan Ford: 703.732.5291 or [amford@acm.org](mailto:amford@acm.org) or Mary or Jamie at [volunteermid@tnc.org](mailto:volunteermid@tnc.org).

**FALLS CHURCH HABITAT RESTORATION TEAM** (We will post information on our listserv)

*For more information: contact Melissa Teates, 703-538-6961 or [melanite@verizon.net](mailto:melanite@verizon.net).*

**Chapter Events Calendar**



- Mar 10 Board Meeting  
Green Spring 6:45pm**
- Mar 24 Vernal Pools Program  
Green Spring 7:30pm**
- Apr 14 Board Meeting 7:00pm  
Underwater Plants in the  
Bay 7:30 Green Spring**
- Apr 16 Grasses for the Masses  
Volunteer Day**

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

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