

# POTOWMACK NEWS

Volume 29, No. 5

Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

September/October 2011

## **POLLINATOR WALK AT THE DYKE MARSH WILDLIFE PRESERVE, Sat. Aug 27**

Please join us at the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve on Saturday, August 27, from 10 A.M. to 12 noon, for a nature walk led by Dr. Elizabeth Wells, Associate Professor of Botany at The George Washington University. The emphasis will be on native plants and their pollinators; we hope we might see hummingbirds pollinating cardinal flowers, or butterflies pollinating swamp milkweed. The walk is co-sponsored by the Friends of Dyke Marsh and the Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society. We hope to see you there! *The Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve is part of the George Washington Memorial Parkway on the Potomac River about two miles south of Old Town Alexandria. Meet at 10 A.M. at the wooden bridge that goes through the marsh, just opposite Tulane Drive, south of the Parkway entrance to the preserve. Park on Tulane Drive and walk across the Parkway.*



## **BEE AWARE, THE IMPORTANCE OF BEES IN OUR ENVIRONMENT, Wed., Sept. 14, at Huntley Meadows**

The Friends of Dyke Marsh is co-sponsoring this program with our Chapter to help educate the public about the importance of bees as pollinators. It will be held at the Huntley Meadows visitor center at 7:30 p.m. Our speaker is naturalist Alonso Abugattas, manager of the Long Branch Nature Center in Arlington. Learn: why, without bees, many plants, including food crops, would die off; how bees are nature's most efficient pollinators; that there are 4,000 kinds of bees in North America and probably over 450 in our area; that 95% of bees are solitary and do not live in colonies; and that most bees are ground nesters.

*Directions to Huntley Meadows: From Route 1 in Alexandria, go south 5 miles and turn right at Lockheed Blvd.; go ½ mile and turn left at Harrison Lane at Huntley Meadows sign.*



## **THE FALL CHAPTER PLANT SALE AT GREEN SPRING Saturday, September 17**

The Potowmack Chapter's fall plant sale is Saturday, September 17 from 9am to 3pm. As in the past, we are participating in the Green Spring Gardens Fall Festival with other plant vendors and garden events.

Also, as we've stated in the past, **fall is the very best time of the year for planting those plants that endure from year to year: trees, shrubs, vines, ferns, perennials, etc.**--the air temperature is cooler and less stressful, and the soil is warm from summer's heat, allowing new plants to grow roots well into winter.

Another interesting fact about plants; the smaller sized trees and shrubs adjust much faster to their new site than large-rooted specimens. As luck would have it, we will be offering many shrubs and the smaller understory trees in easy to carry pots. This size is not only cheaper, but also easier to install. For new gardeners, we will demonstrate how to plant your new trees and/or shrubs.

Understory trees and shrubs, along with canopy trees--those large trees that provide shade, form the backbone of your garden. Ground plantings complete the perfect setting for an eye-pleasing garden and one that shows your commitment to supporting the wide variety of pollinators, leaf-eaters, butterflies, moths, birds, and on and on. A beautiful garden should be judged on how welcoming it is to nature's activities. Our benefit is the enjoyment of watching those activities in our yard.

We will be offering a wide variety of small trees, shrubs, vines, perennials, and ferns, and look forward to talking to you about what will be compatible in your landscape. Also, we welcome donations of surplus, regionally-found natives from your garden. If brought to our beds during our Wed. morning hours, we will pot them for you, otherwise potted plants can be left at our propagation tables behind the horticulture center at Green Spring Park. Please leave your name on them so that we can thank you. Please call if you have any questions: Laura Beaty 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*

## **ADVENTURES IN THE EASTERN OLD GROWTH FOREST Thurs. October 20, 7:30pm Green Spring**

Our program, co-sponsored with the Fairfax County Master Naturalists, features Joan Maloof, PhD, who will be discussing her new book: *Among the Ancients: Adventures in the Eastern Old Growth Forests*. Dr. Maloof describes 26 old-growth forests east of the Mississippi River with majestic trees and a rich diversity of life. As an impassioned plea to preserve and support the few untouched stretches of forest that remain, the discussion touches upon the perseverance of these locations despite modern development, as well as the vital link between old-growth forests and humanity's own survival.

*Joan Maloof is a professor of biology and environmental studies at Salisbury University. Her new book was published this year. She is also the author of *Teaching the Trees: Lessons from the Forest*, published in 2005. (Directions to Green Spring, see above.)*

**POTOWMACK CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, (See page 3 for details)**

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Fall approaches and we collect for the harvests. The harvest of fruit and grain, the harvest of knowledge and friendship. Fall is the time for our annual meetings. In a few weeks we will collect for the State Annual meeting just down the road in Manassas. We have great speakers and exciting walks and socials to look forward to.

Our Fall Plant Sale is on September 17th this year and if you can't make the State Annual Meeting you just have to stop by Green Spring to look at the selection of native plants and talk with our dedicated volunteers who work to propagate, and grow the many species available for your purchase. Led by Laura Beaty, our Propagation Chair, they have been working over the summer in anticipation of your needs.

In October our own chapter Annual Meeting will be hosted at Green Spring and we encourage you to attend. We vote on our Executive Committee and approve a budget for the coming year. We will have some refreshments, and hear about meadows. We also hope to have a walk location nearby to explore a meadow in Fall.

We have had a good year and can be proud of our accomplishments. We have hosted many well-received talks and a few walks. Our plant sales remain an important source of income and, more importantly, a tremendous opportunity to spread the word about the importance of native plants to the health of the ecosystem, not to mention their beauty.

I am extremely proud to introduce the new artwork commissioned from B.J. Opfer, a respected local artist and VNPS member, to be available through greeting cards and prints. Please look for them at our meetings and plant sales, they are simply sublime.

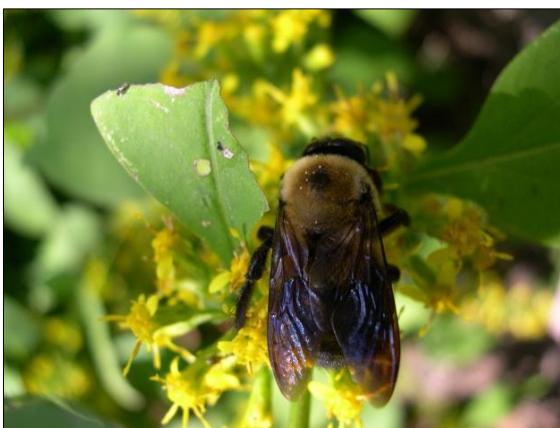
Please contact me if you have any thoughts or suggestions to help us accomplish our common goals to protect the biodiversity of our native plants and educate the public. **Alan Ford**

**If you would like your newsletter delivered electronically instead of hard copy, send an email to: [amford@acm.org](mailto:amford@acm.org)**



BOARD OFFICERS		
President	Alan Ford	703-732-5291
Vice President	Su Jewell	703-913-0139
Secretary	Pat Salamone	703-329-1748
Treasurer	Jeremy Edwards	703-965-1938
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Conservation	Rod Simmons	
Education	Scott Knudsen	703-671-8416
Membership	Bob Yacovissi	703-641-8914
Newsletter	Mary Ann Lawler	<a href="mailto:malawler0@gmail.com">malawler0@gmail.com</a>
	Susan Wexelblat	<a href="mailto:susanwexelblat@gmail.com">susanwexelblat@gmail.com</a>
Programs		
Propagation/Plant Sales	Laura Beaty	703-534-8746
Publications	Roberta Day	703-560-5528
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Site Registry	John Dodge, Rod Simmons	
Technology	Marty Nielson	<a href="mailto:mrtynln@gmail.com">mrtynln@gmail.com</a>
Past President	Marianne Mooney	703-534-8179

*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)



## POLLINATOR CONSERVATION from the Xerces Society website <http://www.xerces.org/>

Pollinators are essential to our environment. The ecological service they provide is necessary for the reproduction of nearly 70 percent of the world's flowering plants, including more than two-thirds of the world's crop species. The United States alone grows more than one hundred crops that either need or benefit from pollinators, and the economic value of these native pollinators is estimated at \$3 billion per year in the U.S. Beyond agriculture, pollinators are keystone species in most terrestrial ecosystems. Fruits and seeds derived from insect pollination are a major part of the diet of approximately 25 percent of all birds, and of mammals ranging from red-backed voles to grizzly bears. In many places, the essential service of pollination is at risk from habitat loss, pesticide use, and introduced diseases.

**If you cannot attend the annual meeting, please send in your ballot on the reverse of this page.**

**CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING & A MEADOW WALK**  
**Sunday, October 9**  
**Green Spring Gardens**  
**NATIVE MEADOW RESTORATION IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION**

**1:00 to 3:30 pm.** Meet your fellow members; help elect officers; vote on the budget for 2012 (see below); and enjoy an exciting presentation by Jeff Wolinski who is a consulting ecologist in private practice, based in Lovettsville, VA. Jeff works with several large landowners in Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania to develop habitat management plans that address wildlife, aesthetic, and water quality concerns. Jeff will share his experiences in creating and enhancing native plant meadows in the mid-Atlantic. He will discuss his choice of plants and their relationship to the successful establishment of a meadow, as well as the necessary practical steps to create and sustain a successful meadow ecosystem.

**4:00 pm.** Meadow walk in nearby location, led by Jeff Wolinski. On the walk, Jeff will point out important meadow plants and discuss ecological restoration challenges facing a landowner – whether the meadow is a quarter of an acre back yard, a meadow on a utility line, or a multi-acre restoration project.

*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.*

	FY 2011 Budget	FY 2011 Income/Expense through August 2011 *	FY 2012 Budget
<b>INCOME</b>			
Donations	\$500	\$506	\$500
Member Dues	\$4,000	\$5,163	\$5,000
Sales	\$8,000	\$4,340	\$9,000
Other	\$200	\$143	\$400
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$12,700</b>	<b>\$10,152</b>	<b>\$14,900</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Administrative	\$980	\$50	\$400
Membership	\$250	\$320	\$250
Conservation/Registry	\$250	\$-0-	\$250
Programs	\$1,750	\$1,570	\$2,000
Education	\$2,000	\$450	\$500
Newsletter	\$3,500	\$2,780	\$3,000
Internships	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$4,000
Plant Sales	\$2,300	\$1,000	\$1,800
Merchandise	\$400	\$-0-	\$400
Special Board Action	\$2,500	\$1,000	\$2,000
Flora of Virginia	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$22,430</b>	<b>\$16,170</b>	<b>\$19,600</b>

\* The above Income and Expense statement for FY2011 is through August 15th and does not include the Fall Plant Sale figures.

This proposed budget for FY2012 continues with the approved decision to run a deficit budget. The Board feels the best use of the chapter surplus is in furthering our goals. We increased our contributions to internships and made a substantial commitment to the Flora of Virginia Project. Our anticipated sales are adjusted higher in anticipation of the income from the commissioned artwork reproduced on note cards and prints.

## BALLOT 2011/2012 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee of the Potowmack Chapter VNPS is presenting the following slate of officers for the 2011-2012 year, which begins on November 1. This slate will be voted on at the Annual meeting on October 9.

**President:** Alan Ford

**Vice President:** Vacant

**Secretary:** Pat Salamone

**Treasurer:** Jeremy Edwards

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### 2011/2012 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 9  
PLEASE FOLD, SEAL, STAMP, AND MAIL THIS BALLOT BY OCTOBER 1 TO THE  
CHAPTER SECRETARY.**

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

From:

-----  
Place  
Stamp  
Here  
-----

**Pat Salamone  
Virginia Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 5311  
Arlington, VA 22205**

*(Please seal using tape)*

## **VNPS AND AUDUBON AT HOME: HABITAT PARTNERS**

Cliff Fairweather, Audubon Society of No. Virginia Naturalist

Partnerships, ecologists call them mutualistic relationships, abound in nature. Probably no partnership in nature is better known than that between pollinators and flowering plants. As with all great partnerships, not only do all parties gain something from the relationship they would be unable to realize alone but they also create something greater than the sum of the partners.

In the case of plants and pollinators, that sum is the world of animal pollinated plants – the one we evolved in and quite likely couldn't exist without. The partnership between the Audubon at Home (AAH) program and the Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society might not be an evolutionary breakthrough, but it does bode well for local animal species dependent on habitat composed of native plants.

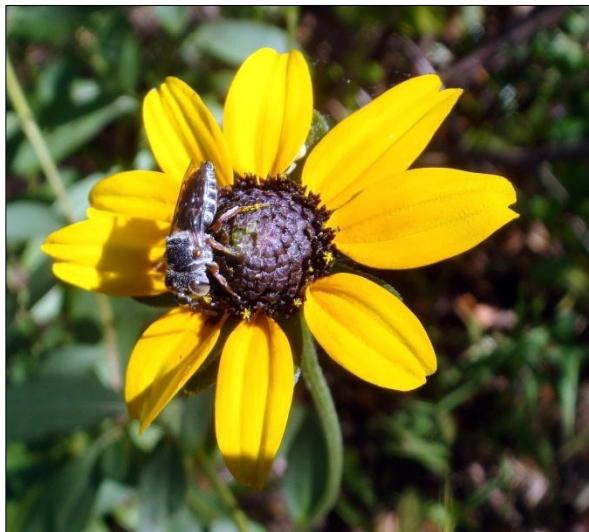
The AAH program of the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia helps homeowners and others create, enhance and preserve wildlife habitat on their property. The basic concept is simple: native plants feed native insects and insects are what feed a lot of other wildlife, including birds, amphibians, reptiles and many mammals. As we've developed our region, we've stripped away the native vegetation and replaced it with exotic plants that few native insects eat.

AAH seeks to restore that native vegetation on the only large amount of land available for the purpose – our backyards, frontyards, schoolyards, churchyards and other bits of open space that can host some native plants. Our volunteer Audubon at Home Ambassadors provide free consultations to property owners to help them get started in creating habitat. Properties that attract at least ten of our thirty sanctuary species, locally native wildlife, can get their properties certified as AAH Wildlife Sanctuaries.

VNPS is a key partner in this program, providing expertise on selecting, propagating and growing native plants, offering strategic guidance for the program and working with us on specific projects. Potowmack Chapter President Alan Ford, also an AAH Ambassador, is a member of the team working on the design, preparation, planting and signage for a “Shady Backyard Native Plant Demonstration Garden” at Potomac Overlook Regional Park in Arlington. The garden will give homeowners with shady yards ideas on what native plants they can successfully grow under those conditions.

We have also joined forces to provide guidance to the Raintree Homeowners Association in Annandale. The Raintree community has a large area of mostly turf-covered common property between their homes and the Beltway. VNPS and AAH are helping them plan projects using native plants to create wildlife habitat on this site, improve its appearance, reduce highway noise and help control stormwater runoff. HOA members will supply the leadership, labor and materials to implement these projects.

(Continued on page 6)



Finally, AAH, VNPS, Earth Sangha and Habitat for Humanity have partnered on a grant proposal to Together Green, a National Audubon Society and Toyota funding source. The proposed project, Sowing Seeds for Sanctuaries, will make native plant starter kits available for purchase by participants in Audubon at Home. We'll also work with Habitat for Humanity to help their clients create habitat on their properties. VNPS will play a key role in providing expertise in starter kit plant selection, advising on proper planting techniques, care and maintenance and propagation and providing educational workshops. We are currently awaiting word on our proposal.

Partnerships between organizations concerned about the environment are critical in these economically and environmentally challenging times. Leveraging our combined strengths should help us more effectively address issues such as habitat and biodiversity loss. After all, mutualism has worked pretty well in nature for a very long time.

*For more information about the AAH program, getting a property consultation, or becoming a volunteer AAH Ambassador, contact Cliff Fairweather at 703-438-6025 or cliff@audubonva.org.*

### **FALLS CHURCH HABITAT RESTORATION TEAM Upcoming Events:**

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

**Sun. Sept. 24 - Cherry Hill Park - 10am-Noon**

**Sat. Oct. 15 - Crossman Park - 10am-Noon**

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

Crossman Park location – *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.*

To request a reasonable accommodation for any type of disability call 703-248-5016 (TTY 711) For more information: contact Melissa Teates, 703-538-6961 or [melanite@verizon.net](mailto:melanite@verizon.net).

**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.

**First Saturdays @ Haley Park-OakRidge –Gunston 9 am to 11am**

**Second Saturdays @ Lacey Woods, 10 am to noon      Second Sundays @ Gulf Branch Nature Center, 2 to 5pm,**

**Third Saturdays @ Tuckahoe Park, 10 am to noon      Third Sundays @ Long Branch Nature Center, 2 to 5pm,**

**4th Saturdays @Benj. Banneker Park 10am -noon      Fourth Saturdays @ Barcroft Park, 9:30 - noon**

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

[www.arlingtonva.us/invasiveplants](http://www.arlingtonva.us/invasiveplants)

**Sarah Archer – Invasive Plant Program Coordinator, Arlington County Department of Parks and Natural Resources**  
Sarah has been with Arlington County since fall 2009- as an AmeriCorps Member, a Landscape and Forestry Technician, and now as coordinator of the Invasive Plant Program. Sarah has worked with various environmental and land management organizations including the Bureau of Land Management, The Nature Conservancy, and Student Conservation Association. She is currently enrolled in the Executive Masters in Natural Resources program at Virginia Tech's Northern Virginia Center in Falls Church. Besides removing invasive plants, she very much enjoys growing vegetables and rooftop gardening. She is from Illinois and received undergraduate degrees in Anthropology and Dance in 2007.

### **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:

Every Wednesday 2:30 - 5:30 **Lake Accotink (2nd**

**Sat.Sep. 24, 10am – noon Pohick Stream Valley**

**Wednesday of each month @ Americana)**

**Sat. Sep. 24, 9am to noon Nottoway Park**

**Sat. Oct. 22, 9am to noon various sites**

For more information contact: [Erin.Stockschaeder@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Erin.Stockschaeder@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).

"When it comes right down to it, pollinators have only a few basic habitat requirements; a flower-rich foraging area, suitable host plants or nests where they can lay their eggs, and an environment free of pesticides. Providing any of these is a valuable first step."      From **Attracting Native Pollinators—the Xerces Society Guide**

**"Butterflies of the Eastern Chesapeake: Maryland, Virginia & Delaware"** features 84 species of butterflies—and most of their caterpillars—found in the region surrounding the eastern regions of the Chesapeake Bay. Along with many of the more common species, several of the region's most unique species are also included: Palamedes Swallowtail, Bronze Copper, Great Purple Hairstreak, Rare Skipper and Dion Skipper. <http://bit.ly/psJi29>

**"Butterflies of the Western Chesapeake: Washington DC, Maryland & Virginia"** features 84 species of butterflies—and most of their caterpillars—found in the region surrounding the western regions of the Chesapeake Bay. Along with many of the more common species, several of the region's most unique species are also included: Appalachian Azure, Baltimore Checkerspot, Carolina Satyr and Mulberry Wing. <http://bit.ly/pFGw2P>

### **LOCAL EVENTS AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Sun. Sept. 4 Monarch Tagging and Waystation Gardening 1:30pm or 3:00pm** pm Hidden Oaks Nature Center.

Meet monarch caterpillars and butterflies up close and discover fun facts about their metamorphosis and preparations for fall travel to Mexico. Participate in tagging monarchs and learn how to attract these and other garden jewels to your backyard.

**Children must be accompanied by a paying adult.** To Register: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hiddenoaks/public.htm>

**Sat. Sept. 17 Monarch Tagging and Waystation Gardening 1:30pm** Hidden Oaks Nature Center. Meet monarch caterpillars and butterflies up close and discover fun facts about their metamorphosis and their preparations for autumn travel to Mexico. Participate in tagging monarchs and learn how to attract these and other garden jewels to your backyard. **Children must be accompanied by a registered, paying adult.** To Register:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hiddenoaks/public.htm>

**Wed. Sept. 21 through Nov. 16 Fall Woody Plant Identification.** Wednesday 7-9:15 pm at Woodend Nature Center; **Field Trips: Oct. 1, Oct. 22, and Nov. 5** Instructor: Melanie Choukas-Bradley (author of three natural history books, including two botanical field guides, and she is a free-lance contributor to the Washington Post.) 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 to identify many local woody plants. 2 USDA graduate school credits. **Tuition: \$355 To Register Online:** [http://www.graduateschool.edu/course\\_details.php?cid=NATH1145E](http://www.graduateschool.edu/course_details.php?cid=NATH1145E)

**Fri. Sept. 23 Basic Gardening: Gardening for Wildlife.** Green Spring Gardens 1:30pm Instructor: TBD Discover how the choice of plants in the landscape can influence visitation to your backyard by the wildlife around us. Learn how to provide four basic components which will help sustain wildlife populations in the urban environment. Register online at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp/ed-adult.htm>

**Fri. Sept. 30; Fri. Oct. 7; and Fri. Oct. 14 Fall Flora of Great Falls, VA 10am to 12:30pm**

A: September 30 - Upriver B: October 7 - Downriver C: October 14 - Difficult Run **Leader Cris Fleming**

Join botanist Cris Fleming for this series of walks during fall's most glorious period. We'll explore three different areas of Great Falls Park, VA, observing the progression of flowers turning into fruits and leaves changing from green to gold. Trees, shrubs, wildflowers, ferns, and grasses will be studied and recognized in their different aspects. Park entrance waived for participants. Each walk members \$18; nonmembers \$25; two walks \$32/\$45; all walks: \$45/\$63. Registration required. For information or to register call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for registration form.

**Sat. Oct. 1 Ferns Identification Simplified.** Green Spring Gardens 9:30am Instructor: TBD Expand your knowledge of the ferns found in Northern Virginia. Learn simple techniques to identify them and discover ways to use these lovely ferns in the landscape. The class concludes with a walk through the gardens to take a closer look at these beauties. Register online at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp/ed-adult.htm>

**Wed. Oct. 12 Introduction to Tree Identification (9 am-3 pm) Leader Cris Fleming**

Can't see the trees for the forest? Fall is a great time to learn to identify our local trees and shrubs. With brilliant leaves highlighting the trees, new buds formed, and many fruits hanging on, there are lots of distinguishing features that help sort out the various species. This all-day program at our Woodend Sanctuary will begin indoors with a look at some techniques of tree identification, and then move outside to use our skills to identify many of the trees that grow on the grounds. Both beginners and those who want to brush up on their ID skills are welcome. Members \$29; nonmembers \$40. Registration required. For information or to register call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for registration form.

**Sun. Oct. 30 Fall Tree ID for Birders** (2-4 pm) Leader Stephanie Mason. With trees ablaze in fall colors and their fruits hanging high, we'll learn the identifying characteristics visible through binoculars of the most common species of trees and shrubs along the C&O Canal towpath upstream of Carderock. **Free, but registration required.** For information or to register call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for registration form.

**LONG BRANCH NATURE CENTER FALL PLANT SALE Fall Saturday, 9/24/2011, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

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! We will feature sun-loving and butterfly-attracting plants and also have a nice selection of wildflowers, shade lovers, ferns, and even a few shrubs. Rain date is Sunday, September 25, 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 Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd.

**PARKFAIRFAX NATIVE PLANT SALE, Saturday, September 24, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

12 to 14 vendors from 4 or 5 states (VA, MD, PA, WV & SC) make 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! 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. 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**

**EARTH SANGHA NATIVE PLANT SALE, SUNDAY OCTOBER 2, 10am to 2 pm**

"Earth Sangha will be holding a local-ecotype native plant sale of both woody and herbaceous plants on Sunday, October 2nd from 10 am to 2 pm at its Wild Plant Nursery in Springfield (for driving directions check: <http://www.earthsangha.org/dca/wpn.html>). All of their nursery stocks (about 40,000 plants and 150 species) are currently available, are of local-ecotype, and are grown from the seed that they personally collect from local forests and meadows.

This is a wonderful opportunity to both support an organization which provides critical restoration of our natural lands, while also purchasing plants that are normally available only for native restoration projects. The Arlington Regional Master Naturalists (ARMN) will be partnering with Earth Sangha in organizing the sale. Information and details about helping with the sale will be on the calendar on the ARMN website: <http://armn.org/>

**Chapter Events Calendar**

Aug 27	Pollinator Walk Dyke Marsh 10am
Sept 7	Board Meeting 7:00pm Green Spring
Sept 14	Bee Aware program 7:30pm Huntley Meadows
Sept 17	Chapter Plant Sale 9am to 3pm Green Spring
Oct 9	Chapter Annual Meeting 1:00pm Green Spring
Oct 20	Eastern Old Growth 7:30pm Green Spring
Nov 17	Pollinator/plant tba 7:30pm 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.*

*Printed on recycled paper*