

# POTOWMACK NEWS

Volume 26. No.2

Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

March/April 2008

## ~ ~ ~ WEEKEND WALKS ~ ~ ~

### TURKEY RUN TO DEAD RUN; SATURDAY

**MARCH 15:** Join us for an early spring adventure along the Potomac Heritage Trail from 10am to 2pm with **Rod Simmons, noted regional field ecologist and VNPS Registry Chair.** We will walk from Turkey Run up to Dead Run and look for early bloomers like *Erigenia bulbosa*, the harbinger-of-spring, and *Dirca palustris*, leatherwood shrubs. The trail may be muddy and this walk is rated as Difficult because of the steep terrain and stream crossing. Participants should wear hiking boots or sturdy walking shoes and bring lunch or a snack.

*Meet at parking area C1 at Turkey Run park off the GW Parkway, no reservations needed.*

### WILDFLOWER WALK FOR BEGINNERS,

**SATURDAY APRIL 12** The spring wildflower season will be in full bloom in mid-April. **Scott's Run Nature Preserve** is the perfect place to celebrate spring and see a wonderful assortment of native plants in an enchanted setting. Hillside of trout-lilies, Dutchman's breeches and spring beauties are renowned in our area. Upland woods, a stream, waterfall and the Potomac River ensure a rich and scenic variety of plant habitats. This walk (10 a.m. to

noon) is geared towards beginners and will be led by chapter board members **Laura Beaty and Marianne Mooney.** Meet in the lower parking lot at 10 a.m., no reservations necessary.

*Directions: From the Beltway, take Georgetown Pike west approximately .7 of a mile to the second parking lot on the right (across from Swink's Mill Rd.).*

### HEMLOCK OVERLOOK; SUNDAY APRIL 20

**Rod Simmons** will also lead a walk at Hemlock Overlook Regional Park near Clifton in Fairfax County on Sunday, April 20 from 10am to 2pm. We will be seeing numerous spring ephemerals within the mixed oak-heath forest. We'll also check on the state of the old growth hemlock forest.

The walk will be on moderate terrain. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water and lunch if you like. Meet at the park entrance.

*Directions: Take I-66 west to Route 123; drive south on 123 to Clifton Road; turn right on Clifton Road and drive 3.7 miles; turn left on Yates Ford Road and follow it to the park entrance. 13220 Yates Ford Road, Clifton*

## ~ ~ ~ THURSDAY TALKS ~ ~ ~

### WILDFLOWERS OF SPRING, THURSDAY,

**MARCH 13 AT 7:30 PM AT GREEN SPRING**

**GARDENS** Springtime in Virginia is a most fleeting season. It begins with the calling of cardinals and the blooming of harbinger-of-spring. Then follows a rush of birds and wildflowers, and it's over. Northern Virginia is an area of geologic and floristic diversity and it's a great place to see incredible wildflower displays in lovely settings. **Rod Simmons** will present a program all about spring wildflowers: what wildflowers to look for; where and when to see incredible wildflower displays; and tips on identifying them. We'll have informational handouts, suggested books to use and beautiful wildflower posters.

*See directions to Green Spring on the right.*

### AN EVENING FOR TREE HUGGERS

**THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 7:30 AT GREEN SPRING**

**GARDENS** Please join ecologist and author Joan Maloof in discussing Virginia's largest native plants - - trees. Dr. Maloof will give a broad overview of the history and ecology of our forests. We will also discuss ways to preserve some of our native forests. An evening for the tree huggers! Maloof is a professor in the biology dept. at Salisbury State University and her book, **Teaching The Trees: Lessons From The Forest** will be available.

*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*

*We are poised on the brink of an age of extinction, a disaster to rival anything in evolutionary history, including the mass extinction of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. As wilderness shrinks and backyard acreage increases, the home gardener's role in this biological debacle grows ever greater. Across a continent of breathtaking diversity we've planted the same two or three dozen plants. No wonder botanists are concerned about the long-term survival of almost 4,300, about 20 percent, of this country's native species—plants that are critical habitat for countless other creatures.*

*Janet Marinelli, Brooklyn Botanic Garden (from GOING NATIVE—Biodiversity in our own backyards)*

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

VNPS membership numbers have been holding steady for years. All the chapters gain and lose members like clockwork. With so many national conservation organizations, it's tough for a local, grassroots group like ours to compete for members. But we've kept going for over 25 years. As more people awaken to the global importance of native flora, I hope we'll see an increased interest in native plant organizations. A slow process, but one that you can help along. Introduce a friend to wildflowers this spring; bring someone along to an invasives removal event; invite someone to a VNPS program. Most importantly, please be as active as you can be in VNPS. *Keep our membership strong!* **Marianne Mooney**

## **WILD ORCHIDS**

### **VNPS ANNUAL WORKSHOP MARCH 8, 2008**

Join other VNPS chapters Saturday March 8 at the University of Richmond for an all day symposium on Virginia's native orchids, where our lineup of speakers will focus on orchid ecology and distribution. Registration information can be found on line at: [vnps.org](http://vnps.org)

**Douglas Gill**, professor in the Biology Department at the University of Maryland has studied a single population of pink lady slipper orchids for over 30 years, and will talk about answers to some questions about the life cycle of this orchid, and new questions that have come from his research.

Speaking about his research on the fungal partners of orchids will be **Dennis Whigham** of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, Maryland.

**Nancy Van Alstine** of the Virginia Natural Heritage Program will share recent survey work looking for small whorled pogonia and Bentley's coralroot.

A noted photographer and contributor to the Flora of Virginia Project on the Orchidaceae, **Hal Horwitz** will take us on a photographic tour of the orchids of Virginia.

### **WHY THIS FASCINATION WITH ORCHIDS?**

Orchids, to me, are sort of the plant kingdom parallel to humans - they're adaptable, vulnerable, beautiful, long-lived (sometimes), and have a long "infancy" - that is to say the period before they are fully able to be self-sustaining. Orchids are fairly old as far as flowering plants go, and we can tell that because they have developed so many different forms, because they are present on every continent except Antarctica, and they have more chromosomes than humans do, in some cases! .... Some live inside the Arctic circle, and others live in the southern part of Tasmania, just next to the Antarctic circle! When orchids are not just being completely bizarre, they are fascinating, beautiful, addictive to many collectors and rare plant fanciers....

Orchids start life as a very very tiny seed. If you remember your basic fourth-grade botany lesson, all seeds contain an embryo..., a seed coat to protect the embryo until it sprouts, and endosperm, to feed the embryo while it reaches up to the sky and down to find some anchoring place and set roots. Right? Uh, not in the case of orchids! Oops! No food! The poor things are sent on their way in a papery seed coat, with no food. The little orphan, with its zillion brother/sister seeds from the same capsule (that is to say if there are any pollinators left in town!) are sent across the air currents to find a hospitable place that has - what? Fungus??? Right. The embryo develops a relationship with a fungus which, if it doesn't kill it outright, feeds it (by borrowing sugars and starches from other plants it's attached to already) in the hope of getting some food itself once the plant is big enough to share some. A web of life, indeed! Everything's all connected by the fungus in this ecological chain!

The embryo turns into something called a protocorm with the help of this fungus (and different orchid species need different fungi, too). It takes a loooooonnnnnng time for this to happen! A year or more sometimes! Finally, the protocorm develops something looking like leaves and roots, and the little plant is on its way. But it takes years - several years! In the case of north American terrestrial (that means living with its roots in the ground) orchids, up to fifteen years before you see flowers!

**If you dig up an orchid to take it home and plant it in your yard, you've killed it. You just removed its food source. A single orchid plant needs a web of fungus at least an acre in size to grow and bloom. If you dig up the plant, it's like cutting off its roots. That's bad. Then that ecosystem, which probably didn't have a lot of orchids to begin with, just lost a lot of good genetic material - so we just lost diversity. That's bad too! Diversity is good. So moral - don't dig up orchids. That's just mean.**

POSTED BY ORCHIDARTIST Kathy Garness

**Old VNPS Potowmack Chapter newsletters can be found on line at <http://www.vnps.org/>. Click on Chapters and then scroll down and click on Potowmack Chapter.**

## **ADELGES TSUGAE –THE HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID**

### **BOARD OFFICERS**

President	Marianne Mooney	534-8179
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(All numbers should include the 703 area code, unless otherwise noted.) *Potowmack News* is published 6 times per year, in January, March, May, July, September, and November. The deadline for submissions is the 15th day of the month prior to publication. Call Mary Ann Lawler for more information or e-mail her at [malawler@aol.com](mailto:malawler@aol.com).

(with much thanks to Michael Seth of the Shenandoah Chapter, who wrote this article for their own newsletter)

As we all know our Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga Canadensis*) as well as the rare Carolina Hemlock (*Tsuga caroliniana*) is under attack by an invasive Asian insect the hemlock woolly adelgid. [Editor's note: According to the U.S. Forest Service, this insect has now infested 62 of Virginia's 95 counties. The insects are in Arlington, Fairfax, and Prince William Counties, and have recently turned up in Fauquier and Loudon Counties.]

Adelges Tsugae is a tiny brown insect similar to an aphid. The adelgid's eggs are brownish orange and wrapped in a protective white substance secreted by the female. This white substance resembles a tuft of cotton or wool, hence the name. They usually hatch in April or May. After hatching from an egg, the woolly adelgid goes through a crawler stage. The reddish nymphs or crawlers attach themselves with their thread-like mouths to the base of the hemlock needles and suck sap. The nymphs go through four stages before becoming adults and also wrap themselves in white substance. The crawlers are so small that they are almost invisible to the naked eye. They can drift in the air from tree to tree or attach themselves to the legs and feathers of birds or to mammals. The purplish-brown adults emerge in early summer. They become dormant then resume feeding in October or November and feed all winter. The adult settles down among the needles of the host tree. It then inserts a bundle of mouthparts at the base of a needle, and spends the rest of its life sucking nutrients out of the tree.

The woolly adelgid goes through two generations a year and each female can lay between one hundred and three hundred eggs. Some adults sprout wings and fly. These are males looking for spruce trees. Apparently the American spruces lack the nutrients they need so they die. Unfortunately this die off of males has little effect on the reproduction of adelgids since the females can lay eggs without being fertilized by a male. The offspring are clones



of their mother- genetically identical to her. The population of woolly adelgids in North Americas seems to consist mostly or even entirely of female clones. A single female can generate as many as ninety thousand copies of herself in a year.

When the adelgids cover the branches of a hemlock many of its needles fall off. The adelgid

also injects a toxin into the tree that accelerates the loss of needles. The tree puts out a new crop of needles the following spring but the insects attach themselves to the new needles. The tree goes into shock, these new needles fall off and the tree eventually dies. It usually takes two to six years for an infected tree to die. Infected trees have a grayish-green appearance and can live in weakened state for years, but most die within four years. Hard winters and cold snaps can kill many adelgids and slow the infestation, mild winters can accelerate it. The existence of other insect pests such as the hemlock borer can contribute to the weakened condition of the tree.

The woolly adelgid was introduced in the Pacific Northwest in 1924. In the eastern U.S. it was first discovered in 1951 by an entomologist with the Virginia Department of Agriculture near Maymount Park in Richmond where it may have been introduced on imported Asian evergreens by Sallie Dooley, wife of a financier who established a Japanese garden in the early part of the century. When she died in 1925 her garden became Maymount Park. The woolly adelgids at first seemed to be confined to the Richmond area, but in 1988 they had spread to the Shenandoah National Park, very possibly carried by birds such as black-throated green warblers and solitary vireos. Migratory birds probably carried them north. By 1998 they were parasitizing trees in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area between Pennsylvania and New Jersey. In general, they have been spreading from the epicenter in central and northern Virginia at a rate of about twenty miles a year. They have been

(Continued on page 4)

spreading more slowly southward, perhaps because migratory birds head south in the autumn when there are fewer crawlers. But in 2001 some adelgids were found In South Carolina; and in 2002 they were found on hemlocks in the remote Cataloochee Valley of the Great Smokies National Park, home to some of the tallest known eastern hemlocks. Recently the insect invaders have been found as far away as Michigan and New Hampshire.

Scientists at the University of Tennessee, funded in part by a private organization Friends of the Smokies, have started breeding a lady beetle from

Japan to control the adelgids. Another beetle has been introduced from the Pacific Northwest and shown to have a healthy appetite for the adelgids. But it is not yet clear how effective either of these new beetles will be. An insecticide called Imidacloprid produced by Bayer has proven effective. It has the advantage of not spreading much in the soil and therefore is not considered a groundwater contaminant. It also degrades in sunlight quickly. But spraying causes too much collateral damage and injecting it is a costly, labor

intensive process. Unfortunately funding for the U.S. Forest Service to fight this pest has been slow in coming. Although some eastern hemlocks can be saved, most in our area are already dead. In much of the central and southern Appalachians the eastern hemlock seems likely to disappear from the forest.

**Sources:** Richard Preston, "Death in the Forest," *The New Yorker*, (December 10, 2007); pp. 64-71; Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Action Team, *Save Our Hemlocks Homepage*; Pennsylvania Department of Conservancy, *Woolly Adelgid*.

### **CONSERVATION STRATEGIES MUST SHIFT WITH GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE, ECOLOGISTS URGE** from: ScienceDaily (Jan. 31, 2008)

Traditional ecosystems in which communities of plants and animals have co-evolved and are interdependent are increasingly rare, due to human-induced ecosystem changes. As a result, historical assessments of ecosystem health are often inaccurate. Scientists are now suggesting that efforts should focus less on restoring ecosystems to their original state and more on sustaining new, healthy ecosystems that are resilient to further environmental change. Accepting some permanent changes may increase health of ecosystems.

Sustaining and enhancing altered ecosystems has become the new mantra for conservation and restoration managers as ecosystems continue to change in response to global warming and other environmental changes, says a new study led by the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Professor Timothy Seastedt of CU-Boulder's ecology and evolutionary biology department said atmospheric pollution, climate change, exotic species invasions, extinctions and land fragmentation have altered virtually every ecosystem on the planet. Managers and biologists should be nurturing so-called "novel ecosystems" -- thriving combinations of plants, animals and habitat that have never occurred together before -- and developing new conservation strategies for them, he said. "The reality is that enormous environmental changes are happening very rapidly, and in many cases, there is very little we can do about them," said Seastedt. "We think the trick now is to accept, preserve and enhance these novel ecosystems and do what we can to shield them from further changes."

Current management practices often involve trying to fix only one aspect of an ecosystem, like eradicating an invasive species, according to the authors. But in many cases, such action does little to improve the ecosystem's overall health. Invasive plant species that have been removed, for example, are frequently replaced by other invasive species that quickly colonize the ecological "vacuum."

Instead, biologists and managers need to work with new approaches that focus on desired outcomes, emphasizing genetic and species diversity, said Seastedt, also a fellow at CU-Boulder's Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research. Such projects could include "reassembling" forest ecosystems in the West devastated by bark beetles, replanting them with bug-resistant trees and introducing vegetation that absorbs large amounts of carbon dioxide and filters nutrient-enriched water, he said.

Seastedt likened today's land managers to harried triage doctors. "They are so busy trying to rectify past problems they have a hard time dealing with current problems. We think it is time for managers and ecologists to get in the trenches together and act quickly to manage some of these ecosystems in desirable directions," he said.

Recent successes include public land in Boulder County that is home to a swath of endangered tall grass prairie, he said. There, land managers use a spring grazing regime, allowing cattle to trample and remove standing dead vegetation, doing the job natural fires once did. After the cattle are moved for the year, warm season grasses emerge and fill into a lush stand of tall grass prairie, he said.

A second Boulder County example is a reclaimed gravel pit where managers added low-budget topsoil and a mix of nine native grass species with widely varying moisture tolerances, he said. "The grassland that has emerged under unusually dry conditions was not the one that existed prior to the gravel operations," said Seastedt. "But it is now dominated by a mix of native plant species that thrives in dry soil and anchors an area almost devoid of invasive species. (*Continued on page 5*) (*Continued from page 4*)

The team looked at management studies from the past 12 years for their research effort. "In managing novel ecosystems, the point is not to think outside the box, but to recognize that the box itself has moved, and in the 21st century, will continue to move increasingly rapidly," the authors wrote.

A paper on the subject was published online Jan. 31 in *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, published by the Ecological Society of America. The paper was authored by Seastedt, Richard Hobbs of Murdoch University in Australia and Katharine N. Suding of the University of California, Irvine. Adapted from materials provided by [University of Colorado at Boulder](#).

### **SHORTER WINTERS MAY BRING LATER BLOOM** by Andrea Thompson (from LiveScience.com)

Global warming may be bringing an earlier spring bloom to the northern United States and Canada, but in some parts of the South, it's actually making seeds sprout later, a new study shows. As carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases accumulate in the atmosphere, Earth's average temperature is rising, which means that winter's chill isn't always lasting as long as it used to. Balmier temperatures would seem to be good news for plants that must wait until spring thaws before they can bloom, and for some plants in northerly latitudes, it has brought earlier budding times.

But for some species, the relationship isn't all that simple because winter is a key time in seed development—the seeds need the chill and the period of dormancy to fully prepare for spring's bloom. So in some areas, an earlier spring means that seeds haven't had enough time to get ready, and the warming temperatures actually force them to take longer to sprout, says study author Xiaoyang Zhang of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Zhang and his colleagues examined satellite observations of how much vegetation has sprouted over different regions of the United States from 1982 to 2005 and field observations of the first bloom dates of lilacs (some extending from as far back as the 1950s) to see how spring blooms have changed with warming temperatures at different latitudes in North America. They find that above 40 degrees north latitude (where New York City is positioned), spring blooms do indeed occur earlier (by about 0.32 days each year over the period of the satellite observations), because winter still lasts so long that taking a few chilly days away doesn't make a difference to dormant seeds.

"Even though the winter time becomes a little bit shorter, it's still long," Zhang said.

But below that latitude, things start to change. A transition zone can be found from 40 to 31 degrees north latitude, with the onset of spring blooms coming slightly earlier than they used to until about 35 degrees north latitude (just above Los Angeles) where it then switches to a delayed blooming trend, so that spring blooms come later.

South of 31 degrees north latitude (just below Dallas, Texas), the onset of spring has in fact been delayed by about 0.15 days per year over the period of satellite observations. The results of the study are detailed in a recent issue of the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*.

As global temperatures continue to warm, the transition zone is likely to move north, Zhang said, with later spring bloom times moving further north as more chilly winter days disappear. This change can have profound impacts on ecosystems, Zhang said, because it could throw plants and the animals that depend on them for food out of synchrony with each other.

**CARPENTER BEES AS POLLINATORS.** FOR THE PAST 13 YEARS, Larry Richardson, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist, has been playing the part of a bee, pollinating by hand some 15 rare cigar orchids known to remain in the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge. Missing for at least that long, the plant's native pollinator remained a mystery. Then, two years ago, Richardson discovered that some orchids had produced seed capsules without him—they'd been pollinated naturally, but by what? To find out, Daniela Dutra, a graduate student at the University of Florida at Gainesville, staked out a cigar orchid last spring and spent six days in the swamp observing it. Finally, she netted an insect later identified as the native carpenter bee *Xylocopa micans*. Whether *X. micans* is the plant's original pollinator is unknown, but "my feeling is that the bee used to be around and was wiped out by pesticide spraying in nearby agricultural fields," says Dutra, who with Richardson eagerly awaits next spring's flowering season to see whether the insect returns.—Hannah Schardt (from the October/November 2007 issue of *National Wildlife*, a publication of the National Wildlife Federation.)

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

**Sat. Mar. 1. Dream Plants found by the Jamestown Colonists in 1607** from 10 to noon at the State Arboretum of Virginia, 400 Blandly Farm Lane, Boyce VA 22620 **Co-sponsored by the Potowmack Chapter, VNPS** Call: 540-837-1758 Ext. 0. *Directions: Take I-66 West to Rt. 17 North (Exit 23, sign says Delaplane/Paris). Follow Route 17 North to its junction with Route 50 West at a traffic light. Turn left onto Route 50/17, the Arboretum is approximately 7 miles on the left, about 3 miles past the Shenandoah River.*

**Sat. Mar. 8 Walk with a Naturalist.** 10:30-11:45am **Hidden Pond Nature Center**, 8155 Greeley Blvd. Springfield, VA. Free. Canceled if rain. Reservations required. 703-451-9588.

**Sat. Mar. 15 Make your Backyard a Wildlife Habitat** 10-11am **Hidden Oaks Nature Center**, Annandale. Free. Reservations required. 703-941-1065.

**Sun. Mar. 16. The Wild Garden Rediscovered.** 1:30 to 3pm. Green Spring, featuring Chris Strand former director to talk about Winterthur and the re-discovery of the wild garden concept. . \$10 To register call 703-642-5173.

**Mar. 26, Apr 2, Apr 9 Plant Lore and Ethnobotany.** 7pm to 9pm Long Branch Nature Center. Field trip Sat. Apr. 12 9am to noon. Instructor: **Alonso Abugattas**. Ethnobotany is the study of how people use indigenous plants. Virginia's plants have a rich history of both real and imagined uses. Learn the legend and lore of our native plants, how they got their names, and how they were (and often still are) used. Natural history and animal associations/interactions will also be covered. Co-sponsored by the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia. Cost: \$50 ASNV members; \$60 non-members Alonso Abugattas is both a Master Gardener and a Naturalist, as well as an instructor for both. He is currently the acting manager of Long Branch Nature Center in Arlington County and is a well known local naturalist and storyteller. He is a former officer for the Virginia Native Plant Society, including past president of the local Potowmack Chapter. Register on line on the Audubon of Northern Virginia website [www.audubonva.org](http://www.audubonva.org) or call them at 703-256-6895.

**Sat. Mar. 29 and Sun Mar. 30 CAPITAL SCIENCE 2008—The Washington Academy of Sciences and its affiliates (including VNPS)** highlights science and technology in the Washington Area. Its 2008 conference is at the National Science Foundation in Arlington (Ballston). For information and to register (\$50 for VNPS members) see [www.washacadsci.org/](http://www.washacadsci.org/)

**Sat. Mar. 29 22nd Annual Lahr Symposium** Native Plants: Cultivars Considered This year's program includes Tony Avent, renowned horticulturist, worldwide plant explorer, and champion of native plant introductions and cultivation. The program will include experts exploring topics on how native plant cultivars fit into our gardens, the horticulturally outstanding native plant cultivars being grown

today, and the possible effects our gardening practices have on the natural world. Registration information is coming soon. Check this website, <http://www.usna.usda.gov/Education/events.html> U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave. NE, Washington, DC.

**Sat. Mar. 29 Early Spring Wildflowers** 9am-3pm Leader, **Cris Fleming**. Visit Great Falls and Difficult Run on the Virginia side of the Potomac. Last year's group found 47 plants in flower. Audubon Naturalist Society. Non-members \$39. For information or to register call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for a registration form.

**Sat. Mar. 29. Introduction to Wildflowers.** 1-2:30pm **Hidden Pond Nature Center**, Learn about field guides and then take a walk. 8155 Greeley Blvd. Springfield, VA. Free. Reservations required. 703-451-9588.

**Thurs. Apr 3 and Sat. Apr 5 Introduction to Wildflower Identification** with Stephanie Mason. Thursday 7:30pm to 9:30pm at Woodend Sanctuary and full day field trip Saturday to the Carderock area along the C&O Canal. Audubon Naturalist Society. Non-members \$49. For information or to register call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for a registration form.

**Sat. Apr. 5. Scotts Run Wildflower Walk**, 9:30 to 11:30am. Spring ephemerals in bloom—Dutchman's breeches, spring beauty and more. Wear sturdy hiking shoes. Cancelled if rain. Free. Meet at the West parking lot. Reservations required. 703-759-9018

**Fri. Apr. 11 Spring Wildflowers of the Potomac Gorge--Bear Island** Leader **Cris Fleming**. 10am to 12:30pm One of the best ways to learn our local wildflowers and their progression of bloom. Audubon Naturalist Society. Non-members \$22. For information or to register call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for a registration form.

**Sat Apr. 12 Long Branch Wildflower Sale.** 1-3pm (Rain date Sun. Apr. 13). Spring and summer bloomers along with ferns and a few shrubs. Plants are propagated on site. 625 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington.

**Sat. Apr. 12. Lake Accotink Wildflower Walk** 10-11:30am. Hepatica, trout lilies, wild ginger and more. Lake Accotink Park. Free. Reservations required. Call 703-451-9588.

**Sat. Apr. 12 A Spring Morning on Roosevelt Island** with Stephanie Mason. 8am to noon. Audubon Naturalist Society. Non-members \$22. For information or to register call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for a registration form.

**Sat. April 12. Spring Wildflower Walk** Age 14 and up Take a stroll through Cherry Hill and Isaac Crossman Parks and learn about the beautiful spring flowering plants that live there. Cancelled if raining heavily. Instructor: Jeremy Edwards, City of Falls Church Senior Urban Forester Location: meet in front of the Falls Church Community Center 11111-A Class time: 9-11am No fee.

**Sun. Apr. 13 Bluebell Hike, Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, Walney** 1-3pm \$5. Reservations required. 703-631-0013

**Sun Apr, 13 Eco-Savvy Expo – Bringing Nature Home** Noon-4 p.m. Huntley Meadows Park Visitor Center  
In partnership with Green Spring Garden's Eco-savvy Symposium, Huntley Meadows presents an Eco-savvy Expo. This event is geared towards local homeowners who would like to support native species by creating an environmentally friendly yard. Supplies will be available for purchase from meadow seed packets to rain barrels, bee boxes and wildlife gardening books. There will be workshops, presentations and nature walks focused on how to create space for nature at your home, school, church or business. No reservations are necessary; cost is \$3 for adults, kids are free.

**Sat. Apr. 19 Fairy Spuds and Ramps—Wildflowers of the floodplain Riverbend Visitor Center** 9:30 to 11:30am. Walk along the banks of the Potomac. Cancelled if rain. Free. Reservations required. 703-759-9018

**Tues. April 22. Berry, Berry Good** 6:30-8pm. Gulf Branch Nature Center. Celebrate Earth Day by learning about and enjoying one of nature's best gifts: berries. Learn which berries grow here naturally, how to grow berries at home, and sample some berry good treats that you can make. \$10 fee. Registration required. Call: 703-228-4747 Program #632440C

**Fri. Apr. 25 Spring Wildflowers of the Potomac Gorge--Turkey Run Park** Leader **Cris Fleming**. 10am to 12:30pm One of the best ways to learn our local wildflowers and their progression of bloom. Audubon Naturalist Society. Non-members \$22. For information or to register call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for a registration form.

**Sat. Apr. 26 – Sun. Apr. 27 Field Sketching with Lara Call Gastinger** Join botanical artist Lara Call Gastinger and Flower Camp Director Nancy Ross Hugo for two days of observing, sketching, and painting wildflowers, ferns, and trees at Flower Camp, near Howardsville, Virginia. The widely acclaimed illustrator of the *Flora of Virginia*, Lara will help you observe plants more carefully, render them more accurately, and record them more expressively. Even non-artists can learn to create pages illustrating "the story of a day outdoors" and teachers will learn new ways to approach field studies. **Tuition** \$325 includes three meals (lunch Saturday to brunch Sunday), one night's lodging, instruction, and most materials. Participants wishing to arrive Friday night may do so for an additional \$50, which includes light breakfast and a Friday evening sneak preview of *Remarkable Trees of Virginia*, Nancy's forthcoming book. (Ten percent of each tuition will be donated to the Flora of Virginia Project.) To register, send a \$50 deposit or full payment to Flower Camp, c/o Nancy R. Hugo, Director, 11208 Gwathmey Church Road, Ashland, VA 23005. For more information, visit [www.flowercamp.org](http://www.flowercamp.org) or contact Nancy Ross Hugo at [nancy@flowercamp.org](mailto:nancy@flowercamp.org) or 804-798-6364.

**Sat. Apr. 26. & Sun. Apr. 27 Parkfairfax Native Plant Sale** 9am to 2pm 3601 Valley Drive, Alexandria, Virginia

**Sat. Apr. 19. Hidden Pond and Pohick Stream Valley Wildflower Walk.** 10am-noon Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8155 Greeley Blvd. Springfield, VA. Free. Canceled if rain. Reservations required. 703-451-9588.

**Sun. May 4 Trillium Trek to Linden VA.** 8:30am to 4pm Adults. See one of the largest displays of Great White Trillium in the world. A certified registry site of the Virginia Native Plant Society. Dress for hiking and bring water and a bag lunch. \$20 fee. Registration required. Van leaves from Lubber Run Center parking lot, 300 N Park Dr. or will pick up from Ballston Metro with advance request: 703-228-6535. Program #632550E

**Fri. May 9 Spring Wildflowers of the Potomac Gorge—Carderock Recreation Area** Leader **Cris Fleming**. 10am to 12:30pm One of the best ways to learn our local wildflowers and their progression of bloom. Audubon Naturalist Society. Non-members \$22. For information or to register call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for a registration form.

**Sat. May 10 (Save the date) Plant Sale by Friends of Riverbend** at the Great Falls Grange pavilion in "downtown" Great Falls. Look for updates in our next newsletter and at: <http://forb.org/>

## **ARLINGTON'S RiP PROJECT**

**Sun. Mar. 3 Barcroft Park**

**Sat. Mar. 8 Invasive Plant ID/Pull at Long Branch Nature Center.** 1-4pm Families with children 7 and up. Work up a sweat as we get rid of unwanted invaders. We'll warm up indoors with some basic plant identification and find out why some plants are problematic.



Then gear up and head out to remove some of these intruders from the park land. If you have your own garden gloves and tools, please bring them along. Some tools will be provided. Be sure to come dressed for work, wear long pants, long sleeves, and perhaps a hat. You may also want to bring along a water bottle. Rain date: Sun. March 9th, same time. Registration is required by calling 703-228-6535 (Program #632552A).

**Sat. Mar 8- Second Saturdays at Bluemont Park** 9 am 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 alongside the Bluemont Bicycle Trail near N Jefferson and Fifth Streets Contact John Huennekens at 524-3853, or [jhuenn@gwu.edu](mailto:jhuenn@gwu.edu).

**Sat. Apr 12- Second Saturdays at Bluemont Park** 9 am to noon (See above for details)

**NOTE: Some training and tools provided. Long pants and long sleeves recommended. If you have clippers, loppers and/or gloves, please bring them. For more information contact JennTruong at [jtruong@vt.edu](mailto:jtruong@vt.edu) or 703-228-7636.**

**FAIRFAX COUNTY’S INVASIVE MANAGEMENT AREA (IMA) PROGRAM**

The IMA (Invasive Management Area) program is a volunteer based project that is working towards habitat restoration. **April 12th** is being designated the **Remove an Invasive Plant Day** by the IMA program. Come join us at one of our 40 IMA sites to remove invasive plants, learn new invasive plants, and to work outside in spring!

**Accotink Creek (near Kay Ct) workdays 9:00 am:** March 1, March 8, April 5, April 12 , April 19

**Pohick Stream Valley workdays 10:00 am:** March 29, April 26

**Huntley Meadows 9:30 am** March 15

**April 12th will be IMA worksite "Invasive Removal Day"**

Accotink Creek (near Kay Ct)	Freedom Hill	Paul Springs
Annandale	Huntley Meadows	Piney Branch Stream Valley
Brentwood	Idylwood	Royal Lake
Ellanor C. Lawrence Park	Lake Accotink	
Falstaff	Nottoway	

For more information: [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).

**INVASIVES CONTROL WORK PARTIES AT MARIE BUTLER LEVIN PRESERVE IN MCLEAN**

Sunday, March 9, 10:00am

Sunday, April 6, 10:00am

Sunday, April 30, 10:00am

Sunday, April 20, 10:00am, Earth Day Celebration

For more information check with Alan Ford: 703.732.5291; email: [amford@acm.org](mailto:amford@acm.org)

**FALLS CHURCH INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL TASK FORCE Upcoming 2007 Events:**

**Thurs. March 6 Invasive Plants and Why We Should Remove Them** Age 14 and up. Invasive Plants are on the rise throughout Northern Virginia and this is true in the City of Falls Church. Find out what plants are invading Falls Church's parks and back yards and what to we can do limit their spread. Bring in samples of plants from your yard for identification.

Instructor: Jeremy Edwards, City of Falls Church Senior Urban Forester. Location: Falls Church Community Center Art Room 11111-A  
Class Dates: Thursday, March 6 Time: 7:30-9pm Fees: No fee. For more information, contact Jeremy Edwards, City of Falls Church Senior Urban Forester, 703-248-5016 or [jedwards@fallschurchva.gov](mailto:jedwards@fallschurchva.gov).

**Sat. March 8 Hamlett/Rees Tract Park Invasive plant removal** 10am-Noon \*Planting event included\* For information contact Melissa Teates, [melanite@verizon.net](mailto:melanite@verizon.net)

**SPRING WILDFLOWER HIGHLIGHTS**

Don't miss these incredible springtime displays on your own time.



- **Turkey Run Park**, mid-April: scores of Virginia bluebells along the floodplain and eye-level ephemerals on the walk down the ZigZag trail.
- **Bull Run Regional Park:** 600 acres of bluebells and spring beauties on an easy, flat trail. April 13<sup>th</sup> is the date of the annual Bluebell Walk.
- **G. Richard Thompson Wildlife Management Area, Linden, VA:**



The most spectacular display of *Trillium Grandiflorum* on the entire east coast. Early May.

**VNPS CO-SPONSORED INVASIVE REMOVAL EVENTS**

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

Work with The Nature Conservancy to help control invasive plant species on National Park Service lands in the Potomac Gorge at Turkey Run Park off the GW Memorial Parkway. Wear work gloves and boots or sturdy shoes, and bring water, snacks, and hand saws or loppers if you have them. Our schedule for March and April is: 10:00 am to 1:00pm **Mar. 15, Mar 29, Apr.10, Apr. 19**. Check on meeting location with Alan Ford: 703.732.5291; email: [amford@acm.org](mailto:amford@acm.org)

**INVASIVES CONTROL WORK PARTIES AT BARCROFT MAGNOLIA BOG**

Help protect Arlington's only bog! **Sunday March 2nd (1-3 pm) at Claremont School**, 4700 S. Chesterfield Road. Steps away from the restaurants of Shirlington, Arlington's magnolia bog is a true relict. Join in to remove invasive plants that threaten it. Sponsored by the Virginia Native Plant Society and Arlington County's RIP program. Meet in the school parking lot. Wear sturdy footwear and bring loppers, pruners, hand saws and heavy gloves, if you have them. Some tools and training available. Questions? Marty Nielsen: [mrtynlsn@gmail.com](mailto:mrtynlsn@gmail.com) 703-485-7517



**Chapter Events Calendar**

- Mar 13 Board Meeting 6:45pm  
**Wildflowers of Spring**  
7:30pm  
Green Spring Gardens
- Mar 15 **Turkey Run to Dead**  
**Run** Chapter Walk  
10 to 2
- Apr 10 Board Meeting 6:45pm  
**Evening for Tree**  
**Huggers** 7:30pm  
Green Spring Gardens
- Apr 12 **Wildflower Walk for**  
**Beginners** **Scotts Run**  
10 to noon
- Apr 20 **Hemlock Overlook**  
Chapter Walk 10 to 2
- May 17 **Plant Sale Green**  
**Spring Gardens**

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

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