

POTOWMACK NEWS

Volume 26. No.5

Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

September/October 2008

POTOWMACK CHAPTER PLANT SALE SEPTEMBER 27

Green Spring Gardens, 9 am to 2pm

The Potowmack Chapter will be selling native plants at **Green Spring's Fall Garden Festival** (see p. 2) on Saturday, September 27, from 9am to 2 pm. The Festival's focus will be on **trees**, their importance to the ecological health of our region as well as their place in the garden. There will be programs on proper tree planting, care of trees and a lecture by Nancy Hugo on the Remarkable Trees of Virginia. We will have native trees for sale among our other offerings and there will be other plant vendors that day.

Our VNPS volunteers have been working overtime this summer to keep the plants ready for the sale. As fall is the best time to plant, this event is a wonderful opportunity to select native plants for your garden. We're offering new perennials and shrubs grown from local seed: swamp milkweed, hibiscus, goldenrod, purple sneezeweed, Maryland golden aster, and elderberry. Most of these young plants will bloom next season, and are excellent reasons to add some new natives to your landscape. Besides their beauty, you'll be increasing the biodiversity of your garden and neighborhood.

Anyone with native plants to share may donate them for the sale. Give us a call or bring them to our propagation beds behind the horticulture center at Green Spring. You can drop them off on Wednesday mornings when we're there or any other time. Please leave your name so we can thank you in the newsletter. Anyone who would like to get more involved in the chapter and learn about native plants at the same time is welcome to join us Wednesday mornings between 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. at our propagation beds at Green Spring. We pot up plants to sell and work on our propagation display beds that are full of glorious, blooming natives. You don't have to be an expert, just interested in learning and helping out the chapter, as well as meeting a great group of people. For more information, call our propagation chair, **Laura Beaty at 703-534-8746.**



POTOWMACK CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING

FANTASTIC VOYAGES: THE PLANTS OF 1607—Marion Lobstein

Thursday October 9, Green Spring Gardens, 7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Join us for the Potowmack Chapter Annual Meeting at Green Spring Gardens October 9 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. We will begin with a few refreshments, hold a short business meeting to approve the slate of officers, and vote on the upcoming year's budget. Our featured speaker will be Marion Lobstein, who will give a presentation on the vast variety of native plants our early settlers came in contact with at Jamestown in 1607. Many of the North American native plants were unknown to the early settlers. Imagine yourself in a "new world" with a large group of new and unknown plants surrounding you. Marion will provide examples of the many native plants we grow, eat, and take for granted today which were viewed as bizarre by early the settlers. These plants as well as medicinal and horticultural species were quickly carried back to Mother England.

Marion Blois Lobstein is an Associate Professor of biology at the Manassas Campus of Northern Virginia Community College. She is on the Board of Directors of the Foundation of the Flora of Virginia Project, a Fellow of the Virginia Academy of Science, on the Advisory Board of the Foundation of the State Arboretum (at Blandly Experimental Farm), and an active member of the Virginia Native Plant Society. **Can't make the meeting? Your ballot is inside!**



"Assuming business as usual in greenhouse gas emissions throughout this century, the maple, beech, birch forests in New England could simply disappear, while much of the Southeast could become a vast grassland savanna, too hot and dry to support trees."

From **The Bridge at the Edge of the World—Capitalism, the Environment, and Crossing from Crisis to Sustainability** by James Gustave Speth, Dean of the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The lazy days of summer are but a memory as September arrives to snap us back into action. Hosting the VNPS Annual Meeting on September 12th to 14th as well as preparing for our fall native plant sale on the 27th will keep us all hopping. Then, on October 9th, we'll hold our chapter annual meeting, elect new officers, and vote on the 2009 budget.

We have some people leaving the chapter board and an exciting slate of officers. Many thanks to our out-going secretary, Lee Ann Kinzer, for five years of cheerfully taking accurate minutes at our monthly board meetings. Pat Salamone has graciously stepped up with pen-in-hand to replace Lee Ann. And standing for president is Alan Ford. Alan is a dedicated chapter member and currently serves as conservation chair. He has faithfully volunteered at the chapter propagation beds for several years and is also a dedicated weed whacker at Turkey Run and other local parks. We all appreciate Alan's willingness to support the chapter and stand for president. Our chapter board is a group of wonderful, dedicated people who are truly a pleasure to know and to work with. They put a lot of effort into keeping the chapter going and do it with grace and good humor. It's been easy to be president, thanks to them, and I'm most grateful for their friendship and support.

Marianne Mooney



**FALL FESTIVAL—
GREEN SPRING GARDENS
Saturday, September 27:**

8:30am-3:30pm. Support one of Virginia's most innovative and exciting public gardens. The Fall

Festival is a FROGS (Friends of Green Spring) sponsored fundraiser filled with adult and family activities, including a lecture (**Remarkable Trees of Virginia**) by author Nancy Hugo, silent auction and an expanded plant sale, including local artisans specializing in garden art and crafts. Proceeds help acquire plants for the garden and add to Green Spring's educational efforts. Co-sponsors include: **Virginia Native Plant Society** and Washington Gardener magazine. Fees vary for individual activities. Check website in September or call for information. Lecture \$20.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
PRESIDENT, MARIANNE MOONEY, WHO
RECEIVED THE 2008 FAIRFAX COUNTY
ELLY DOYLE AWARD.**

The Elly Doyle Park Service Award is the most prestigious recognition given by the Park Authority Board to individuals and organizations who contribute outstanding volunteer service to the Fairfax County Park Authority. Over the past decade Marianne "has sown the seeds of stewardship at Huntley Meadows Park where she greets visitors, coordinates the Birdathon, writes environmentally sensitive articles, and has developed birding programs." She was one of two recipients of the award announced by the Fairfax County Park Authority Board during their July 23 meeting.

BOARD OFFICERS

President	Marianne Mooney	534-8179
Vice President	Debbie Waugh	941-7987
Secretary	Lee Ann Kinzer	768-4048
Treasurer	Cindy Gustafson	532-4182

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Botany	Cris Fleming	301-657-9289
Conservation	Alan Ford	703-732-5291
Education	Vacant	
Membership	Marty Nielsen	mrtylnsn@gmail.com
Newsletter	Mary Ann Lawler	684-8622
Programs	Shirley Gay	920-1913
Propagation/Plant Sales	Laura Beaty	534-8746
Publications	Roberta Day	560-5528
Publicity	Becky Super	477 2914
Site Registry	Rod Simmons	
Special Projects	Lesia Schmidt	716-4275
At Large	Bob Yaccovissi	641-8914

(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.

**DON'T FORGET!
THE POTOWMACK CHAPTER IS HOSTING THE
VNPS ANNUAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 12, 13, AND 14**

The 2008 VNPS Annual Meeting will focus on the diversity of plant communities along our national river, the Potomac. Go to www.VNPS.org for more information and a registration form if you haven't signed up.

TILIA AMERICANA L., AMERICAN BASSWOOD, LINDEN

The American basswood tree (*Tilia americana L.*) is a staple of the eastern forests. It can be found throughout the east and midwest in moist rich woodlands, and in much of Virginia in rich mixed mesophytic forests at low and middle elevations and in coves at higher elevations among sugar maples, ashes, and other tall hardwoods. It can grow 80 feet or more and 2 to 3 feet in diameter. Its heart-shaped leaves are distinctive, as well as its clusters of round pea-sized nutlets hanging from the middle of a wing-like bract. *Tilia* means “wing,” and the L. after the name means that Carl Linnaeus, the father of botany, named the species.

The name basswood comes from its inner bark, or bast, used by Native Americans to make rope. The tree is also commonly called a linden and looks quite a bit like a European linden. Apparently, Carl Linnaeus got his last name from the linden tree. His father was a Swedish peasant with no last name. When he became pastor of a church he decided to take the surname Linné because he loved the lindens near his home. His son Carl became Carl Linnaeus, a Latinized version of Linné, when he began to teach at the University of Upsala in Sweden.

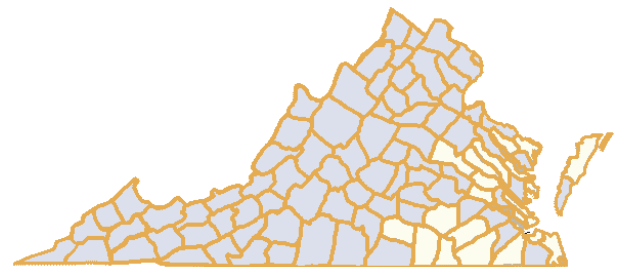
Botanists seem to have differences of opinion on *Tilia* species. The Virginia Natural Heritage program calls all Virginia species *Tilia americana L.*, as does the Atlas of the Flora of Virginia. They refer to the *heterophylla* as a variety, while the Virginia Department of Forestry lists it as a separate species—a white basswood. The distinctions are in the color and hairiness of the leaves. To confuse matters further, some references list *Tilia carolinana*, which grows farther south, as a separate species. USDA’s Plants Database lists both the *heterophylla* and *carolinana* as varieties rather than separate species.

Regardless of nomenclature, the basswood is a great wildlife tree—proving excellent food and places to raise young. Birds feed on its reddish buds in winter. Bees, butterflies, and other pollinators gorge on its bountiful nectar in spring. In fact another common name for the basswood is beebtree—and honeybees make a premium honey from the nectar. The nutlets are eaten by birds and small mammals. And cavity-nesting birds (such as woodduck and piliated woodpeckers) and small mammals take advantage of the many cavities in the decaying wood of old basswood trees.

American basswood is also an excellent street tree and shade tree, because of its very dense shade. It is much more statuesque than the European linden. And it tolerates a variety of site conditions—although it prefers deep rich soils.



Arlington County Champion *Tilia americana* at Arlington Cemetery



PROTECTING FAIRFAX TREES.

Fairfax County has set a goal of increasing its tree canopy to 45 percent. The current canopy is 41

percent, but development could reduce that number to 37 percent. To get to 45 percent, the county estimates that it will have to plant about 2.5 million trees over the next 30 years. The county is now writing a new tree canopy preservation ordinance, authorized by the 2008 state legislation introduced by Delegate David Bulova.

CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTS ALASKAN SPRUCE

Nearly 4 million acres of mature white spruce forest on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska have been killed by a growing population of spruce bark beetles (*Dendroctonus rufipennis*) since about 1987. This is a very active event, mediated by climate change, which has spread to about 38 million mature spruce. Scientists, including Dr. Edward Berg and Dr. Kenneth Raffa, attribute the beetle infestation to rising average temperatures in South-Central Alaska in both winter and summer. More beetle larvae can survive, and higher summer temperatures allow the insects to mature faster and complete a two-year life cycle in one year. The trees, which previously lived in balance with the beetles, do not have enough natural defenses against this assault.



Photo from USFS and Columbia University

CHECK OUT ARLINGTON COUNTY’S WEBSITE: ALL ABOUT TREES

You’ll find information on Tree Care, Tree Programs, such as Champion Trees, Tree brochures, and Tree Supporters, such as the County Tree-Stewards. Go to www.arlingtonva.us, then click on Departments at the bottom of the page, then click on Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources. You’ll see All About Trees under Get Outdoors. Or go directly to:

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

2000-YEAR OLD SEED GROWS INTO A SAPLING

Two years ago a scientist at the Arava Institute of the Environment in Kibbutz Keture, Israel, planted a 2,000 year old seed found in the Dead Sea region of Israel. It is now a thriving sapling nearly four feet tall. An analysis of its genetic fingerprint suggests it is the once-extinct Judean date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera L.*). It is the oldest seed ever germinated which has been positively carbon-dated.

URBAN TREES PROVIDE MILLIONS OF DOLLAR IN BENEFITS

INDIANAPOLIS – U.S. Forest Service scientists with the Center for Urban Forest Research have completed a study that found planting and nurturing Indianapolis street trees brought a 500 percent return in benefits from storm water reduction, energy conservation, cleaner air and increased property values. The researchers evaluated more than 117,000 trees the Indianapolis Parks and Recreation Forestry Section manages and found every \$1 spent brought a \$6.09 return. Their study is entitled “City of Indianapolis, Indiana, Municipal Forest Resource Analysis” and can be downloaded for free from the Center For Urban Forest Research website at: http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/products/psw_cufr738_IND_MFRA.pdf

“Indianapolis’ urban forest is uniquely diverse, with only one of over 170 species representing slightly more than 10 percent of the total tree population,” said Greg McPherson, Center for Urban Forest Research director and one of the study’s authors. “This diversity is important because it puts the forest at less risk of catastrophic losses from disease or pests.” Scientists involved in the study found Indianapolis trees annually intercept 318.9 million gallons of rainfall, which they estimate to be worth \$1.98 million or \$17 per tree per year. The trees also annually cut electricity use by more than 6,447 megawatt hours, worth \$432,000. They reduce natural gas use by more than 150,000 therms, bringing annual benefits worth \$165,000 or \$5 per tree. Each tree annually removes 1.5 pounds of air pollutants, valued at \$2 per tree or \$212,000, according to the scientists. They also estimated the trees increased property values and provided less tangible benefits worth \$2.9 million or on average \$24 per tree.



KUDOS AND THANKS TO THE POTOWMACK CHAPTER'S OUTGOING PRESIDENT, MARIANNE MOONEY



Marianne Mooney will be stepping down as Potowmack Chapter President this fall after having served ten years—our longest serving President. Her leadership has been outstanding. The conservation and stewardship of native plants and their ecosystems have been her primary goals and a lasting legacy. She was responsible for successful lobbying to get Arlington County to hire a full-time Invasives Coordinator--the first jurisdiction in the mid-Atlantic region to do so. She helped galvanize VNPS opposition convincing the National Park Service not to pave a bicycle trail through Turkey Run Park. She has worked with the National Park Service and the Nature Conservancy to recruit volunteers

to help with invasives removal at Turkey Run. She maintained an excellent relationship with Green Spring Gardens and fostered with them an appreciation of native plants. She was responsible for obtaining financial support for a native plant internship at Green Spring for several years. She has worked tirelessly and faithfully every Wednesday at the propagation beds there, putting in 1,100 hours. She has led walks and given numerous programs. She has written articles for the VNPS Bulletin and brochures for state workshops. This year she organized what promises to be an excellent state annual meeting. She has continued to recruit dedicated and committed board members. Her contributions have been immeasurable; plus, she's been great fun to work with. Heartfelt thanks from all 400 of us in the Potowmack Chapter.



UNTOUCHED FORESTS STORE MORE CARBON THAN PLANTATIONS

In a study of “green carbon” and its role in climate change, scientists at the University of Australia, have concluded that untouched natural forests store three times more carbon dioxide than previously estimated and 60 percent more than plantation forests. They said that the role of untouched forests, and their biomass of green carbon, had been underestimated in the fight against global warming. Not only did natural forests store more carbon but because they remained untouched, they stored the carbon for longer than plantation forests which were cut down on a rotation basis. The report found that "natural forests are more resilient to climate change and disturbances than plantations". Co-author of the report Brendan Mackey said protecting natural forests served two purposes: it maintained a large carbon sink and stopped the release of the forest's stored carbon. Protecting the carbon in natural forests is preventing an additional emission of carbon from what we get from burning fossil fuel," Mackey told Reuters. About 35 percent of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is a result of past deforestation and 18 percent of annual global emissions is from continued deforestation. The report said logging resulted in more than a 40 percent reduction in long-term carbon compared with unlogged forests. The report said the majority of biomass carbon in natural forests resides in the woody biomass of large old trees. The carbon stock of forests subject to commercial logging, and of monoculture plantations in particular, will therefore always be significantly less on average than the carbon stock of natural, undisturbed forests." (from a Reuters news story)



LOCAL EVENTS AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:

Sat Sept 13 Long Branch Native Plant Sale, 1-3pm (Rain date Sun. Sept 14.). We will feature sun-loving and butterfly-attracting plants, shade lovers, ferns and a few shrubs. Plants propagated on site. 625 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington.

Sat. Sept. 13. Fall Flowers and Fungi Hike--Turkey Run 2-4pm. Sponsored by Long Branch Nature Center. Join us on a walk with a naturalist to explore fall wildflowers and fungi. \$3 fee. Registration required, register on-line <https://registration.arlingtonva.us/vsiwebtrac.html> or call 703-228-4747. Refer to Program #612434A. For more information: 703-228-6535. We will contact registrants with directions to our meeting site at Turkey Run.

Sat. Sept. 13 Audubon at Home and Beyond 9am to 3pm Instructor: Carol Hadlock \$20. Fall is a great time to assess your landscaping, make plans for the coming year, and purchase and plant native perennials. Carol Hadlock's backyard will be your classroom for this workshop, where you will learn to put the principles of Audubon at Home to work in your yard, creating a healthier environment for you, your family, and pets, while also giving birds and pollinators a helping hand. 515 Alabama Drive, Herndon, VA Registration form at: <http://www.fairfaxaudubon.org/>

Mon. Sept 15 to Mon. Dec. 1 Eastern Forest Ecosystems 6 to 8pm classes at Capital Gallery (L'Enfant Plaza) with Field trips: 9/27, 10/18, 10/25 - 26 (overnight to Canaan Valley), and 11/15 (two NATH credit) Leader **Gary Evans** Explore the interconnectedness between deciduous and coniferous forest biomes of the mid-Atlantic region. Using field studies to augment in-class sessions, you delve into the study of mid-Atlantic forest ecosystems in order to chart this region's environmental uniqueness on a national scale Audubon Naturalist Society and USDA Graduate School.. \$345 tuition. For information or to register call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for a registration form. Or go to: <http://grad.usda.gov>

Thurs. Sept. 18 to Nov. 20 7 to 9:15pm **Fall Woody Plant Identification** classes at Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase with Field trips: 10/4, 10/18 and 11/1 (two NATH credit) Leader **Cris Fleming** 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. Audubon Naturalist Society and USDA Graduate School.. \$345 tuition. For information or to register call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for a registration form. Or go to: <http://grad.usda.gov>

Sat. Sept 20. Laurel Hill Tree Walk 1 pm. Harry Glasgow will lead a walk focusing on trees. Audubon Society of Northern Virginia. Free. The entrance to Laurel Hill is off Lorton Road and is clearly marked. Meet at the parking lot at the Giles Run entrance across from the old prison. No registration necessary. For information call ASNV office at 703-256-6895 or info@audubonva.org.

Fri. Sept. 26 Pollinators and other Beneficial Insects 1:00 to 2:30 \$12 Green Spring Gardens Registration and non-refundable prepayment to FCPA required for all programs. Call 703-642-5173.

Sat. Sept. 27. Birds, Blooms & Bugs at Soldiers Delight. 8am-4pm. Tour this serpentine barren in search of the many rare plants, insects, and grassland birds that occur in this unique habitat near Owings Mills, Maryland. \$20 fee. Registration required, register on-line <https://registration.arlingtonva.us/vsiwebtrac.html> or call 703-228-4747. Refer to Program #612505A. For more information: 703-228-6535. Van leaves from Lubber Run parking lot. 300 North Park Dr. Arlington.

Sat. Sept. 27 Backyard Nature Gardening 10am Hidden Oaks Nature Center. Annandale. Create attractive backyard habitats using the latest techniques in composting and organic gardening techniques. Learn how to create rain gardens and make rain barrels. Explore the advantages of planting native species and how to recognize and control invasives. 703-941-1065.

Thurs. Oct. 2, 9, and 16 Winter Tree ID Workshop (LEAPP) 1-3pm with Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, Potomac Overlook Regional Park, Arlington \$60 for non-members, including light lunch. Learn to identify trees through bark, buds, and growth patterns. Covers tree ecology, uses, and lore, and deepens our understanding of how our lives are interlinked with those of trees. Instructor: Martin Ogle, Chief Naturalist for the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. To register, at 703-256-6895 or info@audubonva.org. or go to www.audubonva.org.

Fri. Oct. 3 10am to 12:30pm **Fall Flora at Great Falls** Leader: **Cris Fleming** Join botanist Cris Fleming for one, two, or all three of these weekday walks during fall's most glorious period. By returning to the same area over the course of five weeks, we will observe 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 fee is waived for participants in these walks. Nonmembers: \$23. For information or to register call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for a registration form.

Sat. Oct 4. Tree Sale Alexandria at the Trinity parking lot across from the Trinity Methodist Church - Cameron Mills and Allison. 9am to 2pm. Will update time by email.

Sun. Oct. 5. Fall Flowers Hike—Gulf Branch Potomac River Trail. 2-4pm Join us on a walk with a naturalist to see white wood aster, bluestem goldenrod, snakeroot and more. \$3 fee. Registration required, register on-line <https://registration.arlingtonva.us/vsiwebtrac.html> or call 703-228-4747. Refer to Program #612404A. For more information: 703-228-3403. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center. 3608 Military Rd. Arlington.

Tues. Oct. 7, 7:30-9:30pm and Sat. Oct. 11 full day field trip **Introduction to Tree Identification** 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 different species. This foray is for beginners and for those who want to brush up on their ID skills. The Tuesday evening lecture at Woodend will discuss characteristics to observe, the use of a simple key, and common trees of our area. Saturday's field trip to Scott's Run Nature Preserve in McLean, VA will give us an opportunity to see and identify many species. Audubon Naturalist Society. Free, but registration is required. Made possible by a generous ANS donor. For information or to register call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for a registration form.



Tues. Oct. 7 Environmental Superstar: Rachel Carson 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Gulf Branch Nature Center (3608 Military Rd., Arlington, VA 22207) For adults. Registration required. Fee: \$5 at the door. Enjoy an evening dedicated to the life and legacy of environmentalist, Rachel Carson. A viewing of "American Experience: Rachel Carson's Silent Spring" will be followed by audience discussion. Popcorn and beverages will be served. For information, call 703-228-3403. Register online <https://registration.arlingtonva.us/vsiwebtrac.html> or call 703-228-4747. Program # 612404B.

Fri. Oct. 10 Native Plants in the Landscape 1:00-2:30pm \$12 Green Spring Gardens Registration and non-refundable prepayment to FCPA required for all programs. Call 703-642-5173,

Fri. Oct. 17 10am to 12:30pm **Fall Flora at Great Falls** Leader: **Cris Fleming** Join botanist Cris Fleming for one, two, or all three of these weekday walks during fall's most glorious period. By returning to the same area over the course of five weeks, we will observe 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. This session will emphasize ferns. Park entrance fee is waived for participants in these walks. Nonmembers: \$23. For information or to register call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for a registration form.

Fri. Oct 24 – Sun Oct. 26 Flower Camp for Artists. Howardsville, Virginia. Tuition: \$350, includes meals, instruction, accommodations. Learn to observe and record natural phenomena in new ways during this workshop led by artist Rhonda Roebuck. Rhonda teaches techniques that include transferring old graphics and "cut out" literature onto new pages, altering photographs using unusual solvents, and "layering" graphics and text. You can even print your digital images at Flower Camp and add them to your journal. This workshop is for anyone who wants to learn to observe more carefully and record their observations more creatively. To register or for more information visit www.flowercamp.org or contact Nancy Ross Hugo at 804-798-6364; nancy@flowercamp.org.

Sun. Oct. 26 (9 am - Noon) **Fall Morning at Mason Neck Wildlife Refuge** Leader: **Stephanie Mason** Mason Neck Wildlife Refuge, located about 20 miles south of Washington on the Potomac River, is best known for the Bald Eagles it was established to protect. But the extensive wetlands here provide habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals. We'll walk several trails to explore the coastal plain woods and tidal marshes in a search for birds and other wildlife, fall blooms, and autumn color. **Free, but registration required.** Made possible by a generous ANS member. For information or to register call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for a registration form.

Fri. Oct. 31 10am to 12:30pm **Fall Flora at Great Falls** Leader: **Cris Fleming** Join botanist Cris Fleming for one, two, or all three of these weekday walks during fall's most glorious period. By returning to the same area over the course of five weeks, we will observe 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 fee is waived for participants in these walks. Nonmembers: \$23. For information or to register call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/> for a registration form.

FALLS CHURCH INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL TASK FORCE Upcoming 2008 Events:

Sept. 27 Habitation Restoration-Isaac Crossman Park 10am-Noon

meet at the Van Buren Street entrance (4 blocks from the East Falls Church Metro Station)

Oct. 25 Habitation Restoration-Cherry Hill Park, 300 Park Ave. 10am-Noon

Oct. 25 Tree and Shrub Sale - presale only-pickup location Cherry Hill Park 10am-Noon Please contact Melissa Teates, melanite@verizon.net for more info and for the list of available plants.

For information on habitat restoration projects, contact Jeremy Edwards, City of Falls Church, Senior Urban Forester, 703-248-5016 or jedwards@fallschurchva.gov.



ARLINGTON'S RiP PROJECT

Sat. Sept. 20 Fall Volunteer Day for Hume School / Arlington Historical Society Museum 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Registration preferred as food and drink will be served. This is our first full year of being in primarily a maintenance mode, and removing weeds is our first order of business both behind and around the Museum Building and at the I-395 exit landscaping. Contact Chick Walters at chickandsandy@msn.com or 703-519-9487 to register.

Sat., mid- Sept. (either 20th or 28th, still TBD) **Free the Ravine** Time TBD. Please join the folks of Arlington Village (1400 South Edgewood Street) to help preserve their local ravine. Neighbors and friends will be removing invasive plants throughout the morning in an effort to prepare the ravine for a planting in late October. For more information about the event, please contact Jenn Truong at jtruong@vt.edu or 703-228-7636.

Sat. mid- Oct. (either 18th or 25th, still TBD) **Free the Ravine** Time TBD. Please join the folks of Arlington Village (1400 South Edgewood Street) to help preserve their local ravine. Neighbors and friends will finally have a chance to plant some natives in areas now clear of invasive plants and help the ravine on its way to natural regeneration. For more information about the event, please contact Jenn Truong at jtruong@vt.edu or 703-228-7636.

Fri. & Sat, Oct. 24th & 25th Make-a-Difference Day Please join us for the annual Make-A-Difference Day Invasive Plant Control events at multiple locations throughout Arlington County. Make-a-Difference Day is a unique program that inspires and rewards volunteers through a national day of helping others and a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors. A list of exact locations and details will be posted in late September. Information can be found on the Arlington County Invasive Plant Program's list of Upcoming Events as it becomes available. Go to www.arlingtonva.us/prcr then click on Invasive Plants from the list at the bottom of the page. A list of events can be found by clicking Upcoming Events on the right-hand menu. To volunteer, pre-register or get more information about this event, contact Jenn Truong at 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. Help us remove invasive plants, learn new species of invasive plants, and work outdoors!

August 30, 10:00 – 12:00 pm, Pohick Stream Valley workday

Sun. Sep. 7, 10:00 - 12:30 pm **Marie Butler Leven Preserve** in McLean email: amford@acm.org

Tues. Sept. 16 11am **Wood Glen IMA Site Workday**

Sun. Sep. 21, 10:00 - 12:30 pm **Marie Butler Leven Preserve** in McLean, email: amford@acm.org

- Sat. Sept. 27** noon. **Pohick Stream Valley** IMA site workday
- Sun. Oct. 5**, 10:00 - 1:00 pm **Marie Butler Leven Preserve** in McLean email: amford@acm.org
- Wed. Oct. 15** 9:30am **Wood Glen** IMA Site Workday
- Sun. Oct. 19**, 10:00 - 1:00 pm **Marie Butler Leven Preserve** in McLean, email: amford@acm.org
- Sat Oct. 25** 10am **Pohick Stream Valley** IMA site workday
- Sat. Oct. 25** 9am **Nottoway** IMA site work day

For more information: 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.

INVASIVES CONTROL WORK PARTIES AT TURKEY RUN PARK ALONG THE POTOMAC
 Help 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 July and August are: **Sep. 11 10-1; Sep. 20, 10-1; Oct. 18 10-1** Check on meeting location with Alan Ford: 703.732.5291; email: amford@acm.org

TREE ID: For those of you working on basic Tree Identification, this site prepared for teaching the subject through 4-H may be of interest and use: <http://www.fw.vt.edu/dendro/forsite/key/intro.htm> It takes you to fact sheets on the Virginia Tech dendrology website (q.v.). It is entirely leaf-based ID, but it could be helpful as a starting place. The University of Connecticut also has a good ID website to explore.

AT LAST A PLACE TO RECYCLE FLOWER POTS!

At Arlington County’s Drop-off Centers , (North Arlington site - 530 North Quincy Street; South Arlington site - the corner of Columbia Pike and South Four Mile Run) you can now recycle all plastic containers (numbered 1 through 7), including yogurt cups, deli containers, clamshell containers, margarine tubs, and **flower pots!**



Chapter Events Calendar

Sept	9	Board Meeting Green Spring Gardens 7:30 pm
Sept	12 to 14	State Annual Meeting to hosted by Potowmack Chapter
Sept	27	Chapter Plant Sale Green Spring Gardens 9am to 2pm
Oct	9	Annual Meeting Plants of Jamestown Green Spring Gardens 7:00 pm

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

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