FALL VNPS PLANT SALE AT GREEN SPRING GARDENS, OCTOBER 2

The Potomack Chapter's propagation beds will be open to the public and selling native plants on Saturday, October 2 at Green Spring Garden's Fall Garden Festival. The buying frenzy (we hope) will begin at 9 AM and will continue until 3 PM. Most of our members know that fall is the best time to plant; the moisture is even that time of year, and the ground temperatures are conducive to good root growth well into December. For those new members, the volunteer staff at our propagation beds will help you select the right flowers, ferns, shrubs, and trees for the conditions of your own yard.

Keep in mind, that biodiversity begins with native plants. They support the pollinators and the leaf eaters who in turn support the higher order of animals. You'll see more wildlife activity in your yard when you grow plants native to this region. Please remember that your support of our sales enables the chapter to provide educational materials, speaker programs and nature walks with the proceeds.

This is our last plant sale of the season so mark your calendar, and while you're there, enjoy the other activities that will be going on at the park. Hope to see you at our propagation beds (see photo).

Any questions about the sale, or anyone with native plants to donate for the sale, give me a call: 703 534-8746. Laura Beaty

VNPS CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING—save the date: Sunday, October 17
(See page 2 for details)

FALL COLORS AT DYKE MARSH, SATURDAY OCTOBER 23

Please join us on Saturday, October 23rd at 10am, for a walk to enjoy the fall colors and observe the wildlife at Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. This Preserve is part of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, and is located along the Potomac River just south of Alexandria. It consists of approximately 485 acres of tidal marsh, floodplain, and swamp forest. More than 360 species of plants have been recorded there. The dominant species of the marsh is the narrow-leafed cattail. Other species associated with the tidal marsh include arrowhead, arrow arum, pickerelweed, sweetflag, spatterdock, and northern wild rice.

We are very fortunate to have Ed Smith as our walk leader. Ed works as a biologist in the Amazonia Department of the Smithsonian National Zoo, focusing on amphibian conservation and husbandry, and a few weeks each year also find him taking groups to Central and South America as a Smithsonian Journeys Study Tour Leader. A lecturer for Smithsonian Associates and an instructor for Smithsonian Scholars in Schools programs, Ed enjoys teaching elementary, lay, collegiate, and professional audiences alike. When not in a lab, aquarium, conservatory, or classroom he’d rather be outdoors gardening, birding, botanizing, or searching for amphibians and reptiles. We are co-sponsoring this walk with the Friends of Dyke Marsh, a volunteer group dedicated to preserving and enhancing Dyke Marsh, the last enduring substantial freshwater tidal marsh in the DC area. Any questions, please call Pat Salamone at 703-329-1748.

To get there, take the George Washington Memorial Parkway and look for the sign for “Belle Haven Picnic Area/Dyke Marsh” (which is about two miles south of Old Town on the left if you are traveling south.) We plan to meet at 10 a.m. in the south parking lot of the Belle Haven picnic area, and hope you will be able to join us!
A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Well, friends, the cool of Fall is here, each day is a bit shorter as the sun drops a little lower in the sky. The hummingbirds are all over my Cardinal Flowers, building up energy for their migration and the goldfinches can’t seem to get enough of the Rudbeckia. I am sure you are also engaged in returning to your routine, getting back into the swing of school and work, and trying to keep the yard under control. So if you have any space left we have the plants for you. Our Fall sale will be on Saturday Oct. 2nd and Green Spring Gardens will be hosting many other vendors as well.

Our Annual meeting is coming soon, on Sunday, October 17th and that will be your opportunity to vote for the board of officers and approve the budget. Please join us for an enjoyable afternoon with a guest speaker and a walk led by Rod Simmons.

I am pleased to tell you that three officers have agreed to stand for election again. Su Jewell, Pat Salamone, and I will be glad to continue in our current roles. Currently we have no candidate for Treasurer and we have some other vacancies on the board in important roles. We would love to have you join us in the process of leading our organization. Please take a moment to think if you have a few hours a month to help us with our work. We would appreciate your participation. If you have any thoughts or questions let me know. I look forward to hearing from you.

Alan Ford

CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING & A WALK AT TURKEYCOCK RUN

Sunday, October 17

1:00 to 3:30 pm. Meet your fellow members; help elect officers; vote on the budget for 2011; and enjoy an exciting presentation. Details will be forthcoming in emails and on our website.

4:00 pm. Plant walk in Turkeycock Run, led by the eminent regional ecologist, Rod Simmons, who is our conservation chair as well as our registry chair.

The Turkeycock Run is one of several tributaries of the Cameron Run Watershed. It begins in the Mason District Park in Annandale and runs through Green Spring Gardens.

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.
LONG BRANCH and PARK FAIRFAX NATIVE PLANT SALES
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Park Fairfax Native Plant Sale 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
12 to 14 vendors from 4 or 5 states (VA, MD, PA, WV & SC) will be there, making this event the largest native plant sale in the D.C. metro region! If you have enjoyed this sale in the past, please come again—the number of vendors in future sales will stay only as high as supported by local demand!

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

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

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

Long Branch Native Plant Sale 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m
Help wildlife by growing native plants and support Long Branch Nature Center at the same time!
Most plants are propagated in our own gardens— and our prices can’t be beat! You’ll love our sun-loving and butterfly attracting plants and our selection of fall bloomers, butterfly host plants, shade lovers, ferns, and even a few shrubs. New England aster (on the right) provides nectar for pollinators very late into fall when most other plants have gone to seed.

No registration required. Plants priced as marked.
Payment by cash or check—sorry, no credit cards.
LBNC 625 S. Carlin Springs Road Arlington

EARTH SANGHA NATIVE PLANT SALE, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16
See page 5 for details.
BALLOT 2010/2011 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee of the Potowmack Chapter VNPS is presenting the following slate of officers for the 2010-2011 year, which begins on November 1. This slate will be voted on at the Annual meeting on October 17. Note: We are actively recruiting for the position of Treasurer. Won’t you consider volunteering for this important position. If you have questions, please call Alan Ford 703-732-5291 or amford@acm.org.

President: Alan Ford  Vice President: Su Jewell

Secretary: Pat Salamone  Treasurer: Open

--------First fold back here-------------------------------

2010/2011 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 17, PLEASE FOLD, SEAL, STAMP, AND MAIL THIS BALLOT BY OCTOBER 11 TO THE CHAPTER SECRETARY.

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

From:

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

(Please seal using tape)
EARTH SANGHA NATIVE PLANT SALE, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

Earth Sangha will be holding a native plant sale of both woody and herbaceous plants on Saturday, October 16 from 10 am to 2 pm near the wild plant nursery in Springfield. All of the plants offered for sale will come from the Earth Sangha nursery, and as with all of their nursery stock, they will be "local ecotype" -- grown from seed that they personally collect from local forests and meadows. Tours of the nursery will also be held during the sale.

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/

FALLS CHURCH HABITAT RESTORATION TEAM UPCOMING EVENTS

Join the City of 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.

Sept. 18 - Cherry Hill Park 10am to noon  Oct. 16 - Crossman Park 10am to noon
For more information: contact Jeremy Edwards, City of Falls Church Senior Urban Forester, 703-248-5016 or email jedwards@fallschurchva.gov or: contact Melissa Teates, 703-538-6961 or melanite@verizon.net.

ARLINGTON COUNTY RiP PROGRAM. Free. For ages 9 to adult. Not all plants are good for the environment. Invasive plants crowd native ones out for space and light and some can even grow a "mile-a-minute"! Come learn what these troublesome beasts look like and help rescue our parks from these alien 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. Register at mmpierce@arlingtonva.us or 702-228-1862

FAIRFAX COUNTY’S NEW EARLY DETECTION AND RAPID RESPONSE PROGRAM

The Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) program is a volunteer-based program that is working towards identifying new populations of invasive species in Fairfax County parks so they can be eradicated before they cause ecological damage. Become a Volunteer Survey Leader and lead other volunteers on systematically surveying parks and reporting new potentially damaging populations of invasive species. This is a great chance to work outdoors and meet other people interested in nature. Volunteers must be able to walk off trail and identify native and non-native species. If you would like to help out on a survey or more information on the program please contact me at Erin.Stockschlaeder@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703 324 8750. You can also check out the EDRR schedule of events at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/IMA/IMA-calendar.htm.

Training Dates: (Please RSVP if you would like to attend as space is limited.)
• September 15th from 3-5 p.m. in picnic pavilion connected to Walney Visitor Center at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park.
• October 20th from 3-5 p.m. in meeting room at Huntley Meadows Nature Center.
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 on:

Wed. Sep 1, 2:30-5:30pm, Lake Accotink
Wed. Sep 8, 2:30-5:30, Americana
Wed. Sep 15, 2:30-5:30pm, Lake Accotink
Wed. Sep 15, 3:00-5:00 pm Ellanor C. Lawrence
Wed. Sep 22, 2:30-5:30pm, Lake Accotink
Sat. Sep 25, 9:00am–noon, Nottoway Park
Sat. Sep 25, 10:00am–noon, Pohick Stream Valley

Saturday October 23 from 9am to noon is Volunteer Fest Day with Activities at various sites.

For information contact: Katherine.Frederick@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703 324 8681. Check out the IMA schedule of events and activities at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/hrp-ima.htm.

LOCAL EVENTS AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Sundays July through September Butterfly Walks 3pm Meadowlark Botanical Gardens. Walk into the winged world of butterflies and tour the garden with this introductory guided stroll with hobbyist/butterfly enthusiast Mona Miller. Learn how the gardens attract these enticing, magical creatures. Participants may get to help release butterflies, when available. Meet in the visitors center at 3 PM. Reservations not required. Members, non-members: adults $4, seniors and children (7-17) $1.50 per person, 6 and under free, this helps Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in its butterfly habitat restoration projects.

Sat., Sept. 11 (8 am) to Sun., Sept. 12 (4 pm) Natural Heritage Weekend: Dolly Sods Leader: Mark Garland. The Dolly Sods plateau, in the West Virginia mountains, is home to a rich variety of northern ecosystems, including bogs, spruce forests, and heath barrens. The eastern edge of the plateau is a major migratory corridor used by southbound songbirds, raptors, and monarch butterflies. Join us to visit several habitats at Dolly Sods to watch for wildlife, while learning to identify characteristic plants of the region, including wild cranberries and blueberries. Each morning we'll visit a banding station—Allegheny Front Migration Observatory—for a close-up look at birds. Camping is the only overnight option on the Dolly Sods plateau, but motels and cabins in the Petersburg/Seneca Rocks region are reasonably close. Note that Dolly Sods can only be accessed via unpaved mountain roads. While these roads are fully passable to 2-wheel drive passenger cars, some drivers may be reluctant to drive this type of road. Members: $100; Nonmembers: $140. For information or to register call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/ for a registration form.


Sat. Sep. 18 Seed Saving 9:30-11:00 am at Green Spring Gardens. A gardener who saves seed, saves money and prepares for the future. Learn the basics of seed saving, including: seed harvest, drying, cleaning and storage. Venture into our gardens with Mary Frogale, propagation horticulturist and collect seed. Cost $22 Registration and non-refundable prepayment to FCPA required for all programs. Call 703-642-5173, TTY 703-803-3354 for more information.

Sat. Sep 18 Cardinal Flowers and Goldenrods 9:30-11:00am Meet at Cabell’s Mill in Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. Stroll with a Virginia Native Plant Society member to view splendid fall wildflowers along the stream and meadow. Cost $5. Please call 703-631-0013 for information and to register.

Sat. Sep 18 Walk with a Naturalist 10:30-11:15 am Hidden Pond Nature Center. See the park in the waning days of summer on this leisurely walk into the Pohick Stream Valley forest. $4. Call 703-451-9588 for information and to register.

Mon. Sep. 20 – Nov. 29 Eastern Forest Ecosystems 6:00- 8:00 pm Capital Gallery. 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. Forest ecosystem topics include: oak-hickory, oak-chestnut (mixed oak), mixed mesophytic, and bottomland deciduous forest communities. You explore localize biological relationships in geographical terms. Discussions cover the
following forest ecosystems: the coniferous forests of the Atlantic Coastal Plain, Eastern Piedmont, Blue Ridge, Southern, Southwestern, Rocky Mountain and Pacific Northwest regions. Discover the intimate relationships between northern coniferous, deciduous forest mixtures of the Allegheny Mountains and the local environments of various states. 2010 Field Trip Dates: September 25 (Manassas), October 9 (Huntley Mdw), Oct, 16-17 (Blackwater,WV), Nov 6(Battle Creek, MD), Tuition: $355 Instructor: Gary Evans To Register Online: http://www.graduateschool.edu/course_details.php?cid=NATH2215ESep

Thurs. Sep. 23 to Nov. 18 Fall Woody Plant Identification 7:00 to 9:15 pm Woodend Sanctuary, MD. 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. Field Trip Dates: October 3, October 24, and November 7. Tuition: $355 Instructor: Cris Fleming. To Register visit the following: http://www.graduateschool.edu/course_details.php?cid=NATH1145E

Wed. Sep. 25 Stream Clean-Up Barcroft Park 10:00 am to noon., 4200 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Held in conjunction with the International Coastal Cleanup and Clean Virginia Waterways Day. ACE volunteers will be collecting and tallying trash. For more information email volunteer@arlingtonenvironment.org or call 703-228-6427.

Fri., Oct 1 Bulbs for Every Season 1:30 - 2:30 pm at Green Spring Gardens Park. Green Spring's Master Gardeners share gardening tips, dazzle you with time-saving techniques, clarify simple steps and debunk horticulture myths. Cost $12 Registration and non-refundable prepayment to FCPA required for all programs. Call 703-642-5173, TTY 703-803-3354 for more information.

Sat., Oct. 2 Ferns of Great Falls, Virginia 9:00 am - 12:30 pm Here’s a chance to learn to recognize some of our native ferns and fern allies. Aimed at beginners and those interested in refreshing their knowledge, this half-day field trip will explore varied habitats that harbor these non- flowering plants. Botanist Cris Fleming will lead this leisurely walk along the Swamp Trail and the River Trail at Great Falls Park. Our explorations will cover some uneven and rocky ground, all at a leisurely pace. Members: $20; Nonmembers: $28. For information or to register call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/ for registration.

Sat. Oct 2 Birth of a Wetland 10:00-12:00am Huntley Meadows Park Walk along woodland streams with Park Manager Kevin Munroe tracing the wetland from its beginning in the Woodstone neighborhood down Barnyard Run to the marsh boardwalk. Canceled if rain. Cost $6. Call 703-768-2525 for info and to register.

Sat. Oct. 9 Drought Tolerant Natives 9:30-11:00 am at Green Spring Gardens Curator, Brenda Skarphol provides an in-depth look at drought tolerant native plants of North America that work well for water wise landscaping. Receive practical garden information and discover native plants that create habitats and attractive gardens. Practical instruction given inside and outside. Dress for the weather. Cost $15 Registration and non-refundable prepayment to FCPA required for all programs. Call 703-642-5173, for more information.

Wed., Oct. 13 Introduction to Tree Identification 9:00 am – 3:00 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: $28; Nonmembers: $39 For information or to register call: 301-652-9188 x16 or visit: http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/ for a registration form.


Sun Oct. 17 Fall Flowers and Fungi Hike 2:00 - 4:00 pm $3 fee. Adults and families with children ages 9 and up. Autumn wild flowers are in bloom and fantastic mushrooms, fungi and lichen abound. Join us on this early fall hike to see what the season will bring! Join us for a 1.5 mile walk on the Turkey Run Trail to explore our fall wildflowers and fungi. The hike is rocky and steep in places. Information: 703-228-3403. We’ll contact registrants with directions. Program #612840-B. To register: by web, go to https://registration.arlingtonva.us. Phone. Call 703-228-4747 or Walk-in-Registration Office located at 3700 S. Four Mile Run Dr., Arlington, VA.
**Sat Oct 30 60th Anniversary Hike to Great Falls** 9:00 am-1:00 pm Start at Riverbend Park The Fairfax County Park Authority's history goes back 60 years. Celebrate by taking a hike with a naturalist to where it all began, Great Falls National Park. This 3.5-mile journey highlights the natural and cultural history of upper Potomac River. Cost $10. Call 703-759-9018 for registration.

**Sun Nov. 7 Fall Flowers and Fungi Hike** 1:00 to 3:00 pm. $3 fee. Adults and families with children ages 9 and up. Autumn wild flowers are in bloom and fantastic mushrooms, fungi and lichen abound. Join us on this early fall hike to see what the season will bring! We'll hike thru the back of the park to Pimmit Run, then down along the palisades, and back to Gulf Branch for a 2.5 mile loop over occasionally rough terrain. Information: 703-228-3403. Meet at GBNC. Program #612840-C To register: by web, go to [https://registration.arlingtonva.us](https://registration.arlingtonva.us); by Phone--Call 703-228-4747 or Walk-in-- Registration Office located at 3700 S. Four Mile Run Dr., Arlington, VA 22206.

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

Join 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. Time is 10-1 on each workday. Dates are: **Sep. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4.** Contact Alan Ford: 703.732.5291 or amford@acm.org or Mary or Jamie at volunteermd@tnc.org.

“As climate change intensifies, humans inevitably will become the movers of last resort for a growing number of plants and animals. In fact, the transformation of almost biblical proportions we have unleashed on the world will be so staggeringly complicated and costly that public funds and scientific manpower will likely be stretched to the limits just managing species that play major ecological roles.”  
*Janet Marinelli from an article in the May-June issue of Audubon on the Guardian Angels, the citizen activists who are moving the rare and dying Torreya Pines from the Apalachicola basin in Florida to cooler locations in North Carolina.*

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**Chapter Events Calendar**

| Oct  2 | Native Plant Sale          | Green Spring 9am to 3pm |
| Oct 17 | Chapter Annual Meeting     | Green Spring 1pm to 3pm |
| Oct 23 | Dyke Marsh Wildflower Walk | 10am                     |
| Nov 11 | Bringing Native Plants and Wildlife into the Managed Landscape | Green Spring 7:30pm |

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

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