No, you're right, this is not your regular newsletter packed full of articles, events, and goings-ons. This is but a very poor substitute till we get a newsletter editor. We felt that we had to send at least a flier out to let you know about upcoming events. So, first order of business is

WE NEED A NEWSLETTER EDITOR!!!

The editor would be responsible for 4 newsletters a year, with each issue being six to eight pages long. That doesn't mean writing all the articles (the members supply most of them) but rather compiling each issue, printing them (we use Kinko's), and mailing them out. The Membership Chairperson supplies the labels and they were being put together on a Macintosh computer. The newsletter editor is a member of the board and attends monthly board meetings. For this work he/she receives the undying gratitude and admiration of the Potowmack Chapter members. Please someone call Mark Etheridge at (301) 293-2659 for information.

SPRING PLANT SALE

The spring plant sale was yet another record breaking success! In fact it was the best ever! Over 1400 plants were sold and everyone is to be congratulated for their efforts. Special kudos go out to Gerry Pratt, our Propagation and Sales Chair, and all those who helped out that day. Even bigger thanks go out for the folks like Dusty Pratt and Edith Bradbury who help at the propagation beds regularly, Norma Vermillion for advertising, and all those great folks who donated their plants and time to help! You all know who you are and I'm sorry I don't know everyone to include in this flier. Oh, mark your calendars, the fall plant sale is September 14.

Anyone willing to help work the propagation beds (what a great way to learn gardening with native plants) please feel free to call Gerry Pratt at (703) 323-1094. Or just show up Wednesdays or Saturdays at Green Spring Gardens Park from 9:30-12:00.

Anyone willing to donate plants can call Gerry. Anyone willing to donate pots (not market packs), just drop them off at the VNPS propagation beds at Green Spring. The beds are easy to find, they're behind the greenhouse. Just look for the nicest beds ... and they have labels!

SUITLAND BOGS WALK

Sunday, June 9, 10am-12pm

Join us for a guided tour of Suitland Bogs and see its rarities. Our leader will be Lisa Bierer-Garrett, caretaker of the bog for the Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission. She is a naturalist for Clearwater Nature Center and founder of the Maryland Butterfly Society. Expect to see rarities like rose pogonia and several types of carnivorous plants. For reservations and information call Alonso at (703) 358-6535 during the day or (703) 528-8808 evenings.
Join us directly after the Suitland Bogs Walk to rescue several pink lady-slippers and other plants at Andrews Air force Base. Ms. Lisa Bierer-Garrett has asked if we could help move these native orchids which are threatened to be destroyed by construction on the base. With our help, they may survive by being transplanted to the protected Suitland Bogs. Please help us give these beautiful orchids a fighting chance to continue to grace our woods. Call Alonso at (703) 358-6535 days or (703) 528-8808 evenings for information and reservations. We need to know who is attending since we may only enter the base area with special passes.

POTLUCK PICNIC!
Sunday, June 23, 4:00-6:30pm

Join fellow members of your Virginia Native Plant Society in enjoying a potluck picnic and tour of our propagation beds. We will meet at 4:00pm at Green Spring Gardens Park. Please bring a main dish and serving spoon. Plates and utensils will be provided.

After the meal, at approximately 5:30pm, we will be led on a tour of the Chapter’s propagation beds by Gerry Pratt, Propagation and Sales Chairperson. Come join the fun and meet some of your fellow members. Call Alonso at (703) 358-6535 days or (703) 528-8808 evenings to let us know how many to expect.

GRASS IDENTIFICATION
Thursday, July 25, 7:30pm

If you are anything like me, identification of grasses seems very difficult. I have no idea where to even start. Well, it would be very difficult to come up with a better person to enlighten us than Cris Flemming. Ms. Flemming is well known for her work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Graduate School courses, the Audubon Naturalist Society, as our Chapter’s Botany Chairperson, and as a Director-at-Large for the state VNPS.

Ms. Flemming will bring in several specimens, describe grass parts and features, and teach us how to recognize several local species. The program will be at Green Spring Gardens Park at 7:30pm. You are also welcome to attend, as always the board meeting at 6:30pm. Don’t miss this great opportunity to learn about grasses. Call Alonso to make reservations: (703) 358-6535 during the day or (703) 528-8808 evenings.

BUTTERFLY COUNTS
Butterflies and plants go together. Knowledge of plants is extremely useful in finding butterflies and in their identification. Many of the counts could really use some help from folks who are knowledgeable about plants. But even if you don’t know anything about plants or butterflies, you can still help out and have fun doing it. What better way to learn about butterflies than to join several enthusiasts in surveying them?

You can help count and identify these beautiful insects while spending some time outdoors enjoying nature. I find I often learn about all sorts of plants and animals from the other folks who helping in the counts. So join the newest craze and help in a butterfly count. There are several to choose from:

Fairfax Audubon Society Count. Saturday, June 29, 8:00am-5:00pm (or any portion of that time) at Manasas Battlefield and Ellanor C. Lawrence Parks. Call (703) 256-6895.

Great Falls Area Count with staff from both Arlington and Fairfax County nature centers. Saturday, July 13, 9:00am-4:00pm (or any portion of that time). Call either, Long Branch nature Center (703) 358-6535 or Riverbend Park (703) 759-3211.

New Columbia Audubon Society D.C. Count. Sunday, July 14, 9:30am-2:30pm at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. Call (202) 547-2355.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 9  Sunday  Suitland Bogs 10am-12pm  Call Alonso: Plant Rescue 12:30-1:30 358-6535 or 528-8808
June 23 Sunday  Potluck Picnic 4-6:30pm  Call Alonso
June 24-29 Field Botany Class Call Blandy w/ Marion Lobstein (540) 837-1758 Repeated: July 1-3 and July 8-11. 3cr.
July 25 Thursday Grasses I.D. 7:30pm  Call Alonso
Aug 15 Thursday Ferns Lecture Call Audubon w/ Cris Flemming Naturalist Soc Field Trip Aug 17 (301) 657-9188
Sept 14 Saturday Plant Sale!
Sept 12 Thursday Cris Flemming Lecture Call Audubon Field Trip Sept 14 Naturalist Soc Manasas & James Long (301) 657-9188
Sept 20-22 wkend State Annual Meeting
Oct 5 Saturday Chapter Annual Meeting

RAFFLE TICKETS

Raffle tickets will be available at all our events and from most board members for a beautiful quilt featuring all our past flowers of the year. You read about in the state newsletter, now you can purchase them. $1.00 a piece or six for $5.00.

Potowmack Chapter
Virginia Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 161
McLean, VA 22101

Board Officers

President  Mark Etheridge  (301)293-2659
Vice President  Abbie Duchon  (301)320-0358
Secretary  Sally Sieracki  (703)786-5865
Treasurer  Dustinn Pratt  (703)323-1094

Committee Chairs

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Conservation  Abbie Duchon  (301)320-0358
Education  Nancy Luria  (703)351-9723
Hospitality  Joan Van Ryzin  (703)799-3502
Membership  Anne Crocker  (703)437-0355
Native Plant Trail  Edith Bradbury  (703)971-8878
Newsletter  Mark Etheridge  (703)503-5975
Programs  Alonso Ahugattas  (703)528-8259
Propagations and Sales  Gerry Pratt  (703)323-1094
Publications  Liz Smith  (703)768-1697
Publicity  Norma Vermillion  (703)451-0572
Site Registry  Jane Collins  (703)525-1304
Tours  Edith Bradbury  (703)971-8878
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McLean, Virginia 22101

Please verify your address information and your renewal date on the mailing label!