



Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley

Volume 1, Issue 2

December 2014

A Letter from the President...

It's with great enthusiasm that I write this "Letter from the President" for the second *Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley* (FLBSV) newsletter. This occasion is marked by two milestones: 1) That our communities have embraced FLBSV so much so that we *need* a second newsletter to let everyone know about upcoming events; 2) that the environmental future of the surrounding communities is brighter because of your support. We've come a long way since our first meeting in September. It's been my experience that just a few enthusiastic participants will help bring out the best in our communities to support a great cause.

This theory was proven with the success of our first official event; the Clean Up Day held on Saturday, October 18. We had an excellent turnout, great weather, collected and cleared a lot of litter from the stream valley. There were over fifty volunteers, ages 4 to 71



years old, that helped pick up and bag 37 bags of trash. Members of Cub Scout Pack 873 and Girl Scout Troops 348 and 2732 were there to lend a helping hand to the project as well. There were lots of bottles and plastic bags collected, of course, but there were also dog toys, tires, pipes and a toy basketball hoop! You just never know exactly what you might find.

For the trail maintenance, we focused on two sections between Guinea and Woodland Way. Gravel was brought in by Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) and spread in some of the areas that gather water after a rain.

(continued on page 2)

The Wonderful Winter Woodlands

by Greg Sykes

Winter might get folks complaining about snow or freezing temperatures, but when they grumble how everything looks "dead" outside, *au contraire!* If you know where to look, the winter landscape offers a revealing angle on Mother Nature. Take the hooded mergansers (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) as our first example. Whereas these ducks are year-round Northern Virginia residents, November's chill ushers them to local ponds where they stay until spring unless the pond freezes completely over. This carnivorous bird must have liquid water access so that it can dive for fish and other aquatic creatures; the saw-like ridges along the bill act like teeth enabling mergansers to clasp prey. At this time of year, the males flaunt conspicuous breeding plumage, most notably a risible crest with a white patch on an otherwise black head. Hooded mergansers are smaller and far shyer than common mallards.

Winter's leafless forests and marshes permit us to better study year-round residents, such as hawks, great blue herons (*Ardea herodias*), Carolina wrens (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), and crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)—one of the most intelligent bird species. (continued on page 4)

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(cont.) A Letter from the President...

Another maintenance day will be planned. Weather will play a key role in determining the weekend. We will keep you posted on the date. We are looking for volunteers that can help push wheelbarrows and use shovels and rakes.



Maria Fructerman doing trail maintenance.

We have many people to thank for our Clean Up Day. A big thank you goes out to the Little Run Citizens Association that donated coffee and donuts, and Bob Kachur that arranged this donation. Clean Fairfax, an organization that encourages environmental stewardship and urban sustainability in Fairfax County, donated much needed supplies to the event: bags, gloves and vests. We could not have done it without them! To learn more about Clean Fairfax visit their website: <http://www.cleanfairfax.org/>. Thanks also to our team leads: Dave Rabadan, Allison Hagner, Robin Eddington, Gary Krauss and Scott Thaxton. Ed Richardson from the FCPA was invaluable in making sure the trail maintenance was done correctly. And of course all of the other volunteers that came out to help!



With our united interest in the LBSV, I have no doubt that Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley will grow and thrive. As we all know, this time of year is full of unpredictable weather. We may not always be able to get outside and work the trail in adverse conditions, but we can certainly begin planning for the Spring.

We currently have positions open and would love to have more community members involved. It's a Braddock Thing!

Chris Bauernshub



Little Run Citizens Association donated coffee and donuts to the event. Bob Kachur of LRCA is setting up for the morning event. Also photographed Scott Thaxton, Chris Bauernshub and Bryan Campbell.

Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley Positions

If you see an open position that you would be interested in, please email me at chrisbauernshub@gmail.com

Officers:

President	Chris Bauernshub
Vice President	Scott Thaxton
Secretary	Lisa Young
Braddock District Representative to the Park Authority Board of Directors	Tony Vellucci

Committees:

Invasive Management	Vacant
Trail Management	Vacant
Water Quality Management	Vacant
Educational Awareness	Kate Insley
Community Outreach	Allison Hagner

Community Leads:

Olde Forge/Surrey Square - Gary and Mimi Kraus
 Rutherford
 Long Branch - David Rabadan
 Bradfield
 Hidden Creek

Canterbury Woods - Robin Eddington
 Red Fox Forest - Lisa Young
 Stone Haven - Chris Bauernshub
 Little Run

Friends Groups Bring Communities Together-It's A Braddock Thing

From the Braddock District Representative to the Park Authority Board of Directors

Well, we are coming to that time of the year when the holidays will be upon us very soon. As we close down 2014, it's natural to look back and see what we accomplished, and what some of our goals might be for 2015. I'd like to share some quick thoughts with you.

This past year has been good to the Accotink Watershed. While the Lake Accotink Park Master Plan kick off meeting has been delayed, there has been a stated commitment by the three district supervisors (Supervisor John Cook (Braddock), Supervisor Jeff McKay (Lee), and Supervisor Pat Herrity (Springfield)), and Chairwoman Bulova that county resources will be put into the park to keep the lake a lake. The Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP) has had an influx of new members and new leadership to look at the many issues impacting the park. And the Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley have established themselves to look after 2.5 miles of the Long Branch Stream Valley. While the renaissance of FLAP and the establishment of FLBSV are noteworthy accomplishments, also noteworthy is that both groups are now talking with the Friends of Accotink Creek (FACC) so that we are looking at the Accotink Watershed as a whole.

But the real story here is that the Friends groups are bringing communities together. Residents from different communities, and even from different county districts who might not have ever known of each other are coming together to care for the parks. Friends groups are the vehicles by which interested citizens can come together to make a difference; they advocate for their respective parks, and address specific concerns in those parks.

FLAP has brought together residents from North Springfield, Ravensworth Farms, Danbury Forest, Kings Park, Oak Hill, Wakefield Chapel, Carleigh and Springvale.

FLBSV has brought together residents from: Olde Forge / Surrey Square, Hidden Creek, Rutherford, Long Branch, Bradfield, Red Fox Forest, Canterbury Woods and Stonehaven.



More recently, individuals concerned about the deteriorating condition of fitness stations around Royal Lake have established themselves as the Friends of Royal Lake to raise funds for their replacement. They are now reaching out to some nine different communities that border Royal Lake: Chatham Towne, Glen Cove Community Association, Glen Cove Homeowners Association, Hillsdale Townhomes, Kings Park West, Lakepointe Townhomes, New Lakepointe Townhomes, The Reserve at Martins Point, and Village Park Townhomes.

This next year may also see the establishment of additional Friends groups in the Braddock District to specifically address trash concerns: the Friends of Flag Run Stream Valley and the Friends of Rabbit Branch Stream Valley. Flag Run collects trash from businesses along Port Royal Road and from the beltway before emptying into Lake Accotink (Accotink Watershed). Rabbit Branch collects trash from George Mason University and Braddock Road before emptying into Royal Lake (Pohick Watershed). Both lake parks are sites of the Braddock Nights Summer Concert Series.

With New Year's just around the corner, it's a great time to think about New Year's resolutions. Let me recommend one – devote one hour each quarter to a park – not in a recreational role, but in a contributory role such as working to

(continued from page 3) clean up trash (clean up days), pulling out the invasives (invasive management programs), or even helping wildlife after a major storm (mussel rescue party). I admit the pay is lousy, but the job satisfaction is off the charts, and you may find that one hour a quarter is not enough. You may want to do more.

When I brought a Jeep Wrangler for my daughter some ten years ago, we were both quickly exposed to the Jeep culture. We learned the sign to give each other when passing each other on the roadway, how we all eye each other's tires and lifts to see who has the greater off road capability, and how mud on your Jeep garners admiration from all in the community. Lastly, we learned the famous saying – at least among Jeep enthusiasts: “It’s a Jeep thing!”

Forming Friends groups to look after our parks is quickly becoming a part of our community culture in the Braddock District, so that together we can say - “It’s a Braddock thing!”

Best Regards,
Tony Vellucci

Parks Count!

On October 2nd, the Park Authority kicked off its [Parks Count](#) campaign, which is the name given to FCPA’s Needs Assessment Study. This study – unlike the Lake Accotink Park site analysis and user study – encompasses a county-wide consideration of park and recreation needs, trends, and user preferences. Needs studies are done about every ten years; the last one was completed in 2004. The results will help the Park Authority understand how to best balance and prioritize customer needs. Over the next year and half, park staff will solicit your help, keep you informed of progress, and invite you to participate online and in-person. So if you have any thoughts, concerns, ideas or comments about any county park, please provide those comments to parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.



New Logo!!!

The Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley have been busy developing a logo for our new organization. We wanted to have an image that could show the many ways our stream valley could be enjoyed. We went through many ideas, but the one we liked best was a four quadrant design. The image captures four of the park's features – the water, the trail, the trees and a cyclist, one of the many activities that we can enjoy in the valley. A big thank you goes out to our logo designer, our own very talented Chris Bauernshub!



(continued from page 1) The Wonderful Winter Woodlands

by Greg Sykes

Watch how that dead tree—riddled with holes and rot—is visited by black-capped chickadees (*Poecile atricapillus*), white-breasted nuthatches (*Sitta carolinensis*), tufted titmice (*Baeolophus bicolor*), and many woodpecker species as they investigate future nesting hallows, shelter within cavities, or peck for food. Since even snags afford wildlife with valuable habitat, they are left standing in the parks unless posing a risk to people or property. In addition to year-round residents, some migratory birds enjoy a day-long rest stop in the area. Keep your eyes open by the water for northern shovelers (*Anas clypeata*) and Caspian terns (*Hydroprogne caspia*)—the world's largest tern. Catch a glimpse of warblers and eastern bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) fleeing amongst the branches.

A common misconception is how dormant trees look boring and lifeless. Such sentiments fail to acknowledge the buds surrounding us ready to burst forth at spring's arrival. In years past, artists restocked some of their supplies during the winter: the long, velvety pawpaw buds (*Asimina triloba*) provided fine paint brushes for detailed artwork. Speaking of trees and aesthetics, winter is the time to appreciate tree bark's beauty!

While people frequently focus on a native tree's foliage, fruits, or flowers, species praised for their ornamental bark include the scale-like American sycamores (*Platanus occidentalis*), papery river birches (*Betula nigra*), muscular ironwoods (*Carpinus caroliniana*), gator skin flowering dogwoods (*Cornus florida*), and warty common hackberries (*Celtis occidentalis*).

Here's another botanical surprise: the crane fly orchid (*Tipularia discolor*) only sends out leaves in late fall and keeps them out during the winter. Unlike true evergreens, the spotted leaves with purple undersides die back as the weather warms, then the leafless plant blooms in July. With scrawny, brown, moth-pollinated flowers (looking like crane flies), the foliage may be considered this plant's most ornamental feature. Crane fly orchids live in undisturbed, older growth areas.

Even in the winter there are many things to discover on a good nature walk. Take along binoculars, a note pad, a pen, and an open mind. See what you can discover in the great outdoors!

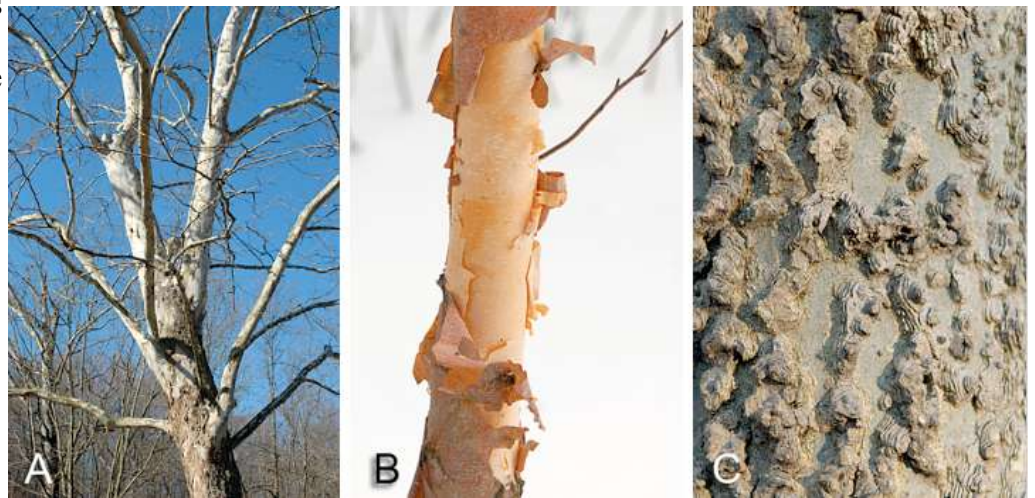


Figure 2. Native trees exhibiting ornamental bark include (A) sycamores, (B) river birches (young tree seen here), and (C) hackberries

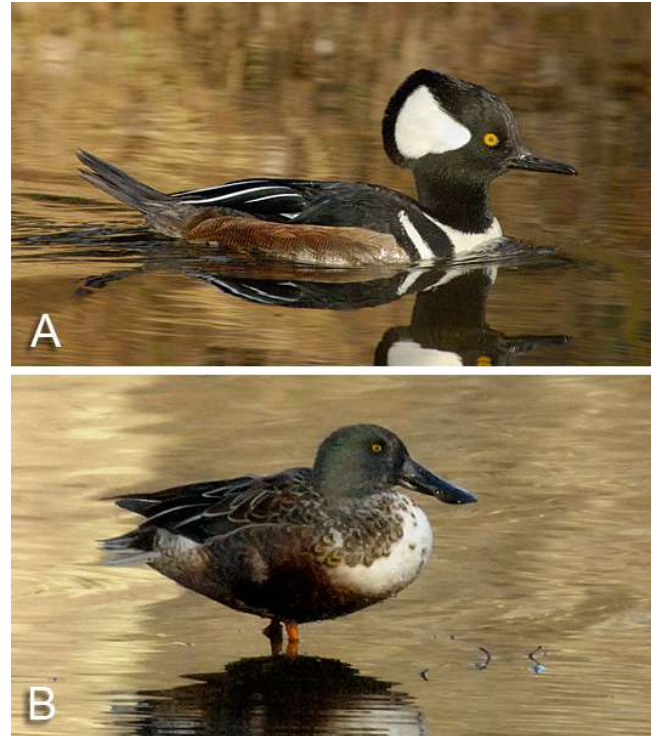


Figure 1. Two duck species photographed at Royal Lake Park, (A) the hooded merganser and (B) the northern shoveler. Both specimens are male.

Woodglen Lake Fish to Have a New Home

The [Woodglen Lake restoration and dredging project](#) is once again moving forward, now that a site has been identified for the dredge material. The project was delayed when bids came in significantly higher than staff estimates due to having to transport the dredge material to a distant site. Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) worked to find a closer site which reduced the overall cost by about \$1.8M. The new site is operated by the Solid Waste Management



Division of the DPWES. The contract has been awarded to ASI Construction, who proposes to draw down the lake and undertake a "dry" dredge.

To accommodate the "dry" dredge, fish from Woodglen Lake were relocated to Lake Accotink using a method called "fish shocking." Fish shocking involves running an electrical current through the water, momentarily stunning the fish which are then swept up in nets. The effort took place on Tuesday November 11th and had to be accomplished before the weather cooled such that the fish were too deep to shock and safely remove. County ecologists were on-site to assist and transfer the fish. Upon completion of the project, the lake will be restocked in partnership with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF). Key dates for Woodglen Lake's dredging are as follows:

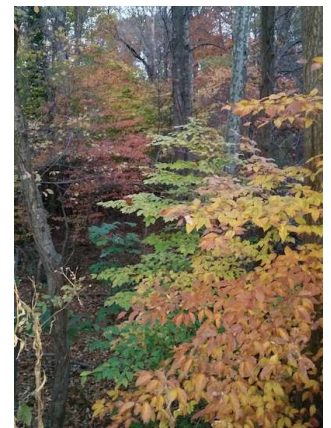
- February/March 2015: Lake drawdown and site preparation begins.
- March/April 2015: Dredging begins - weather permitting.
- October 2015: Dredging is scheduled to be complete.
- Fall 2015: Site restoration.
- Fish Stocking. To Be Determined: Late Fall 2015 / Early Spring 2016

Tony Vellucci

Park Authority 2015 Proposed Fee Increase

Park staff has developed a listing of proposed fee increases for Fairfax County Parks and presented their recommendation to the Administration Management and Budget Committee on November 5th, 2014. The proposed fee increase noted the Current Situation for Lakefront Parks:

- Visitation of park amusements (train, carousel and mini-golf) continues to be strong, attendance grew 15.5% and revenue grew by 18.7% in FY 2014.
- Due to the age and type of lakefront park amusements, repair and maintenance expenses have steadily increased. The synthetic putting surface at Burke Lake Park's miniature golf facility is aging leading to a decline in the quality of the playing experience and is in need of replacement. A fee increase would aid in recovering the lifecycle maintenance costs associated with these improvements. Carpet replacement was completed at Jefferson Falls miniature golf facility in FY 2011 and at Lake Accotink Park in FY 2014.
- Consequently staff has proposed raising miniature golf fees for all user categories at Lake Accotink Park by \$1.00 for weekends and holidays. Weekday rates would remain at their current rates. Further staff recommends an adjustment to the carousel ride fees at Burke Lake, Frying Pan Farm, Lake Accotink, Lake Fairfax and Clemjontri Parks from \$1.75 to \$2.00 per person, per ride. This fee was last adjusted in 2011. No increases were recommended for canoe or pedal boat rentals.



The public is invited to review the rates and provide comments. Send an email to parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov or appear in person at the public comment session at the Herrity Building on January 28th 2015. More information can be found at: [Review of Potential Fee Adjustments for FY 2015](#).

Note from a New Park Employee

The Kings Park Public Library conference room was busy on a Monday night with conversation from dedicated volunteers. The group consisted of people from Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley (FLBSV) and Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP), all conversing about different watershed related activities. President Chris Bauernshub and Vice President Tony Vellucci kept the conversation on point as the issue of trash accumulating in the local creeks needs a solution. The volunteers have already started to take action by planning the Watershed Cleanup on October 18. The volunteers collaborate on organizing details, knowing there is less than a month til the cleanup. I sat and listened absorbing all the tips and suggestions. Letting them sink in, so I can understand how much is needed to put this event together.

As a new employee of Lake Accotink Park, I attended this meeting to listen to all concerns and see the volunteers as



Hannah Wilkerson

they show their passion for the issues at hand. It is amazing to me how many people have dedicated so many hours to help with local parks, creeks, and streams. I gathered from the meeting that trash was a big concern, so I started to do a little of my own digging. The main question I kept asking myself was: why is there so much trash in Lake

Accotink? I discovered some statistics about Lake Accotink and then realized how this trash problem does not have a simple solution.

“When it rains, it pours” is a saying people hear and say all the time, but it’s very true for us locals in Northern Virginia. But how that does affects the lake? When it rains, storm water lands on 30.5 square miles of the Accotink Creek Watershed then drains into the lake via storm drains and creeks. Anything and everything on the surface of those 30.5 square miles is carried by significant amounts of storm water into the creeks and lakes. Lake Accotink receives far more runoff than any other lake in Fairfax County. These numbers answered my first question of where the trash comes from, but what needs to be done about it?

It turns out that Fairfax County Park Authority does a considerable amount trying to keep-up with the debris found in the lake. The simple truth is hundreds of staff hours are required to remove the trash and organic debris from the lake on a continual basis. The Park Authority’s limited budget simply does not go far enough to provide the levels of staffing needed to address this problem year round. Lake Accotink Park does constant work on public education and outreach. The employees post signs regularly to educate visitors on the subject about trash and other topics about the nature in and around the lake. A sign at the marina, one of the busiest parts of the Park, talks about the Accotink Watershed and its pollution problem. Lake Accotink Park’s website is not hanging behind, because it is busy being a gold mine for information about the watershed.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink/thebay.htm>

As new employee of Lake Accotink, I now understand how much Fairfax County Park Authority needs

organizations such as FLAP, FLBSV, and FLAC. One day of Watershed Cleanup will save the County hundreds of dollars. It helps out not only the budget, but helps get results by decreasing the trash problem in the local creeks that fed into Lake Accotink Park all within the same event.

By researching this issue and learning from a few FLAP/FLBSV meetings, all I can say as a new Lake Accotink Park employee is THANK YOU! You keep giving Lake

Accotink the support it needs to keep clean for the local community. I hope you know how much the Park Authority appreciates all you do!

Hannah Wilkerson

Lake Accotink Park Marketing & Outreach
LAP:703-569-0285



Andy Hoskins at the LBSV Clean Up

Friends of Accotink Creek Looking for Mussel Rescue Party Volunteers

The Friends of Accotink Creek are always looking for mussel rescue party volunteers to return mussels stranded high and dry to the creek bed after heavy rains. Earlier this year, on August 12 the main USGS stream gauge on Accotink Creek began the day with a reading of 3.6 cubic feet per second (cfs). After hours of pouring rain in the afternoon it had jumped to 2430 cfs, high enough to send the creek over its banks. It then dropped back down to 172 cfs by midnight.

By August 15, the waters had receded enough to permit a search for mussels stranded when high water pushed them out of the stream bed. Volunteers from FLAP and Friends of Accotink Creek joined together to scour the gravel bars downstream from the Lake Accotink dam, which is the only part of Accotink Creek where a reduced population of freshwater mussels still hangs onto a small part of their historic habitat.

Nineteen mussels were located high and dry or in shallow waters that were soon to dry out. Returned to the main channel, we hope they will continue to live out the remainder of their 80-year lifespan and produce succeeding generations. *Eliptio complanata* is the sole freshwater mussel species still found in Accotink Creek.

The rescue party also netted a number of small fish of several different species stranded in puddles and returned them to the creek. If you are interested in being a mussel rescue party volunteer, then contact Philip Latasa <steward@accotink.org> [See the rest of the mussel portraits here.](#)
[Learn more about freshwater mussels.](#)

Tony Vellucci



Do You Know? Ask the Expert!

These two things were found during a morning walk in our Long Branch Stream Valley Park.

1.) Why does this happen?

2.) What is this poking out of the tree trunk?

Teddy bear feet? Cotton?



Email your answers to these questions to friendslsv@gmail.com.
Look for the correct answers on our [Facebook page](#).

Invasive Species Profile: Winter Creeper (*Euonymus fortunei*)

By Greg Sykes (greg@grsykes.com)

Native Range: eastern continental Asia, Japan, and Philippines

U.S. Introduction: 1907

Life Cycle: perennial, woody vine

Means of Spreading: rapid vine growth; berries, eaten by birds which pass the seeds

Commercially Available: yes

Control Method: hand-pull vines, taking care to extract the entire root. Cut climbing vines from ground level to ~3 feet up the tree; do not damage the tree. Herbicidal treatments may be used for large infestations.

Good Alternative Species: Strawberry *Euonymus* or hearts-a-burstin' (*E. americanus*). Shade and partial shade-loving Fairfax native ground covers with evergreen leaves include creeping *Phlox* (*P. stolonifera*), golden ragwort (*Senecio aureus*), green-and-golds (*Chrysogonum virginianum*), and partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*). For fast-growing vines, consider crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*) or Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*).



Comments: Eradicating non-native invasive evergreens, such as English ivy (*Hedera helix*), Chinese *Pachysandra* (*P. terminalis*), and periwinkle (*Vinca major* and *V. minor*), can occur year-round. Hitting invasive evergreens is often easiest in the winter—as long as the ground is thawed—because their foliage contrasts against tawny leaf litter and dormant native plants.

One such target is winter creeper (*Euonymus fortunei*, with subspecies var. *colorata* and var. *radicans*, also called var. *vegetus*). It was first brought to the United States over a hundred years ago as a hardy, shade-tolerant evergreen groundcover. Furthermore, it thrives in poor soil. For decades, winter creeper sporadically escaped cultivation in south-central Canada, the U.S. Midwest and southeastern states. This weed ultimately entrenched itself in these regions, preferring forests with recently disturbed ground. Extreme cold and oceans prevent it from spreading North or East, and Texas root rot (an extremely destructive endemic fungus which attacks many host plants) keeps winter creeper at bay in the Southwest.

Though unrelated to English ivy, winter creeper behaves more like this ivy than its brethren weeds [e.g. the equally invasive winged burning bush (*E. alatus*)]. As a groundcover, winter creeper aggressively smothers and displaces native plants while depleting nutrients from the soil. Though not as aggressive a tree-climber as English ivy, winter creeper's added weight increases the trees' susceptibility to storm and ice damage. In the canopy, it blocks light from the trees' leaves. Whitish flowers develop in mid-summer; fruits appear soon afterwards and ripen in autumn. The mature vine must be climbing before it blossoms.

Unfortunately, winter creeper remains widely available in nurseries under many common names and spellings, including wintercreeper, Fortune's *Euonymus*, and creeping *Euonymus*. Some of the cultivars are "Emerald n' Gold," "Green Lane," "Kewensis," "Harlequin," "Moonshadow," "Silver Queen," and "Variegatus." An easy-to-remember rule of thumb is to avoid the Asian *Euonymus* species, all of which have invasive tendencies. America has only one native *Euonymus*, the strawberry bush (*E. americanus*), which is common throughout Fairfax County. Left unchecked, winter creeper can inflict the same damage on private yards and gardens as it does the woodlands. You can help the health of your yard by ripping out winter creeper, skipping it at garden centers, and encouraging growth

of any of the listed native alternatives.

With autumn's final leaves falling from the trees, Invasive Management Area (IMA) volunteers already started targeting the previously mentioned non-native evergreens for this season. Come out and join us for a workday! Send an e-mail to greg@grsykes.com asking to be on the Royal Lake IMA Volunteer list and you will be kept up to date on our schedule. We also talk about native species encountered, proper land stewardship, habitat restoration strategies, and other topics so it becomes a fun way to learn about the ecosystem while you are helping it.

For more information on winter creeper:

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/eufo1.htm>

<http://www.invasive.org/eastern/midatlantic/eufo.html>

<http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/vine/euofor/all.html>

Braddock Road Widening Project Study

As many of you may be aware, there is a Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) initiative underway to look at the widening of Braddock Road from the beltway out to Guinea Road. This project was approved by the Board of Supervisors back in the 1990's, and will have a major impact on Wakefield Park, Howery Park, Canterbury Woods Park, the Accotink Stream Valley and the Long Branch Stream Valley, both of which feed into Lake Accotink. Supervisor Cook's office has established a Citizens Advisory Group, and the civic/community and homeowner associations directly impacted by the widening have provided an initial list of concerns to FCDOT as they embark upon this [Braddock Road Widening Project Study](#) to determine what the widening project should entail; a description of the project with the concerns are readily available on the internet. The county has a well-structured review system so that when one agency/authority plans something, other impacted agencies/authorities get to review and comment on those plans. At present, the FCPA Planning & Development Division is monitoring the effort, but has not received any correspondence from FCDOT for review. We are at the initial stages of the effort, and so, it will be some time before the project moves forward.

Tony Vellucci

Would you like to be a Friend of the Long Branch Stream Valley?

We are just getting started, so attend our next meeting or one of our events and get on our newsletter mailing list. Just contact us at: friendslbsv@gmail.com or visit our Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Long-Branch-Stream-Valley/900707383277668>

Take a look, stay in touch and like Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley!

Our Newsletter

The Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley Newsletter is distributed to members and the civic associations at Olde Forge / Surrey Square, Rutherford, Hidden Creek, Little Run, Long Branch, Bradfield, Red Fox Forest, Canterbury Woods and Stonehaven. It will come out quarterly, in March, June, September and December. We would love your submissions - photos, comments and articles about the stream valley. Send them our way. Submissions received by February 15th 2015 will be included in the March edition. Please send them to friendslbsv@gmail.com. Look forward to hearing from you!

Thank You!

A big thank you to Tony Vellucci, *Hannah Wilkerson* and Greg Sykes for their contributions to the newsletter. Thank you to Allison Hagner, Kate Insley and Chris Bauernshub for the photos of the Clean Up Event and the park.