

June VPS Field Trip & Picnic Lunch

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens: Water Lilies, Lotus, & Butterflies

Saturday, June 17, 2006 6:30AM
Vienna Metro Parking Lot - North

A plaque at the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School for Communication quotes Sarah Moses Annenberg (Walter's mother) as saying "sacrifice is necessary for achievement." Well, our June field is for VPS early morning risers or those willing to "sacrifice" for their craft -- but your photo rewards will be worth the sacrifice!!!

Our June field trip will be to the Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens, 1550 Anacostia Avenue NE, Washington, DC. They open everyday at 7 AM for those interested in viewing water lilies and lotus, many of which close their blooms later in the day. We will be there while the blooms are open. As described on their website:

The Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens is the only National Park Service site devoted to the propagation and display of aquatic plants. Situated on 14 acres along the east bank of the Anacostia River, the Gardens were begun as the hobby of Civil War veteran W.B. Shaw in 1882, and operated for 26 years as a commercial water garden. In 1938, the Gardens were purchased by the Federal Government and became part of the National Park system.

Today, the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens has many varieties of water lilies and lotus on display and is also great place to see birds, frogs, turtles, butterflies, and dragonflies. Early morning is the time to catch the blooming water-bound plants of this park. Late May through September is the best time of the year for viewing the flowering aquatic plants in the historic area. However, the gardens serve as an oasis and is a wonderful get-away throughout the year.

In addition to the Aquatic Gardens, the 77-acre Kenilworth Marsh is a semi-natural area that borders the Aquatic Gardens on 3 sides. The Kenilworth Marsh is the Nation's Capital's last tidal marsh and still supports a diversity of wetland plant and wildlife species that are unusual in the inner city. These include wild rice, American bitterns, beaver, long-billed marsh wrens, and spotted salamanders. Kenilworth Marsh and the adjacent swamp forest areas can be best viewed from the River Trail.

The River Trail is 0.7 mile long and is accessed by entering the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. The trail ends at the channel that connects the marsh to the tidal Anacostia River.

After our photography in the morning, we will enjoy a “bring your own, plus one” picnic lunch at the Aquatic Gardens. Please plan to bring food and non-alcoholic drinks for you and one additional item (salad, side dish, and dessert) to share with others.

We plan to wrap up around 1PM, but everyone is welcome to stay longer at the Aquatic Gardens.

We will carpool from our usual Vienna Metro North parking lot at **6:30AM** on Saturday, June 17, 2006. Contact William.Kyburz@gd-ns.com or by cell phone the morning of the field trip at 703-517-9568.

Bring your tripod and macro lenses, enjoy the water lilies and lotus in bloom --- and create some great images!!

P.S. Planning your January photography trip to someplace warm? Keith Barraclough, will be leading a photography cruise of South America and Antarctica in January 2007. Keith is a local Alexandria resident and professional photographer. He will be leading lectures and shore excursions on board this 20-day cruise. Contact Bob Miller at Cruise Holidays of Alexandria at (703) 706-0011 or www.yourcruisesource.com for more information.

Bill Kyburz
Mary Jane Fish
Field Trip, Co-Chairs