

NATIVE NEWS

Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

VOL. 7, NO. 2

SPRING 1999

THIS ISSUE:

POTOMAC GORGE,
OLMSTED WOODS,
ARDEN BOG, SKUNK
CABBAGE, AND
INDIAN PIPE



The Maryland Native Plant Society

(MNPS) is a nonprofit organization that uses education, research, and community service to increase the awareness and appreciation of native plants and their habitats, leading to their conservation and restoration. Membership is open to all who are interested in Maryland's native plants and their habitats, preserving Maryland's natural heritage, increasing their knowledge about native plants, and helping to further the Society's mission.

MNPS sponsors monthly meetings, workshops, field trips, and a fall conference.

Roderick Simmons-President

Louis Aronica-Vice President

Karyn Molines-Vice President

Samuel Jones-Secretary

Joseph Metzger, Jr.-Treasurer

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

On behalf of MNPS, I would like to welcome back the newly re-formed Pennsylvania Native Plant Society. Over the years, we have shared many outings and field trips in Pennsylvania and northern Maryland with their members. We look forward to future interaction between our groups.

Earlier this spring, MNPS was invited to join a scientific task force created by the Maryland Wildlife and Heritage Program to study the necessity, feasibility, and appropriateness of reintroducing Rare, Threatened, and Endangered (R,T,&E) plants into certain natural areas in Maryland. The ultimate goal of this task force, made up of ecologists and botanists from federal and state agencies and non-profit conservation organizations, is to formulate official guidelines for R,T,&E reintroductions in Maryland. The process so far has been very thoughtful and involved much deliberation. A thorough report will be available at our annual meeting.

MNPS was also invited this spring to participate on a multi-agency advisory board set up by the Maryland Highway Administration to discuss the establishment and maintenance of native plants along roadsides. Please contact me if you would like to be part of this committee.

Many thanks to Louisa Thompson for drafting MNPS' guide on invasive exotic plants for homeowners and gardeners. (Enclosed with this newsletter.) Louisa has also initiated a volunteer program to remove invasive exotic plants from different sections of Patapsco Valley State Park. This program emphasizes the identification of native and exotic flora and demonstrates techniques for removing invasives that prevent soil erosion and personal injury.

Thanks also to Amy Doll, Tina Schneider, and our many field trip leaders for greatly expanding our field trips this year. This is one of the most important functions of the Society and probably is the best way to broaden one's knowledge of native flora and plant ecology.

Sincerely,
Rod Simmons

RECENT NATIVE PLANT DISCOVERIES IN THE POTOMAC GORGE

By Chris Lea

Though well-searched for rare plants in recent years, the Potomac River Gorge in Montgomery County and the District of Columbia continues to yield species that have been "missing" for a number of years.

A small colony of Carey's Sedge (*Carex careyana*), considered extirpated in Maryland since 1971, was found in 1997. The value of acquiring a search image is evident in the case of this species, as six more stations, with from one to over one hundred plants, were found from Bear Island to the Beltway in 1998. This is a tall and fairly striking member of this genus, and it is distinctive enough to be identified even when not in flower. In Maryland, Carey's Sedge is presently known only from the Gorge, where it occurs in fairly specialized habitat: infrequently flooded river terraces or higher floodplains with sandy soils in fairly mature forests that could be characterized as mixed mesophytic. Typical associated trees are Sugar Maple, Tulip Tree, White Ash, Hackberry, Basswood, Bitternut Hickory, and Slippery Elm.

Plummers Island is the type locality for Rootstalk Bloodleaf (*Iresine rhizomatosa*), which is the only vascular plant among the many species originally described from that area. In Maryland, where it is at the extreme northeastern limit of its range, it had been recorded only there and at a second site in the Potomac Gorge, with the last record in 1923. Late in 1998, a small colony was found on a low, sandy depositional bar, associated with Sycamore, Silver Maple, and a number of the typical "riverbank weeds." On December 12 (OK, there was some dumb luck involved here - who would expect a plant missing for 75 years to turn up in mid-December?), the plants were still green. Rootstalk Bloodleaf, a member of the Amaranth Family, is rare in the mid-Atlantic, though Maryland DNR ecologist Dick Wiegand says that it can be a common and weedy species in the deep South. This appears to be one of a guild of "rare weeds," in the mode of Virginia Mallow (*Sida hermaphrodita*) and Sweet-scented Indian-plantain (*Synosma suaveolens*). Although perennials, they are



"Every advantage, every elegance, every charm, that... nature can bestow, is heaped with... profusion on the delightful banks of this most noble and... grand river. All the desirable variety of land and water, woods... hills and dales, tremendous cliffs and lovely valleys, wild romantic precipices, and sweet meandering streams, adorned with rich and delightful meadows... are here united."

J.F.D. Smyth, writing of the Potomac River in
Tour in the United States, 1784

prone to sporadic "disappearances," new occurrences, and sharp population fluctuations. Although their habitat suggests rather plainly that populations are maintained by frequent disturbance, their rarity suggests that they are niche specialists and poor competitors. They may also have fairly exacting germination requirements and long-lived seed banks.

Potomac Gorge Continued on page 15

Working Together To Save Olmsted Woods

By Anne Neal Petri

Located at the base of the Washington National Cathedral, the five acre Olmsted Woods is a very special part of the Cathedral Close. Originally part of an Oak and Beech forest, the area has been kept free of development since landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. designed the Cathedral gardens and grounds nearly 100 years ago.

"The great charm of approaching the Cathedral through and up a wooded hillside, leaving the city far behind and below, helping one to forget the hurly-burly and busy-ness of a work-a-day world, must be taken advantage of to the fullest extent," Olmsted wrote. "The great sweeping branches of the trees seem to brush off... the dust of the city, so that one at last reaches the Cathedral cleansed in mind and in spirit."

Now, a century later, the Olmsted Woods remains a woodlands - but greatly endangered. As Washington has grown, encroachment and overuse have caused extensive damage. Dangerous water run-off, soil erosion, soil compaction, and aggressive non-native species growth are threatening this urban oasis. According to a report issued in 1996 by consultant Biohabitats, the "woodlands are threatened with extinction if action is not taken soon."

Responding to this call, in 1997, All Hallows Guild announced that restoration of the woods would be its 80th anniversary priority project. The Guild, founded in 1916, is responsible "for the care and beautification of the Cathedral gardens and grounds." Over the next decade, it will be working to stabilize erosion, augment the soil, correct water run-off problems, reintroduce native plants, and develop areas for spiritual, recreational, and educational opportunities.

To begin the process, in the early months of 1998, the committee met with a variety of local and national experts including Carole Bergmann, Montgomery County forest ecologist; Leslie Sauer, principal, Andropogon Associates, Philadelphia; Kibbee Turner, landscape and water gardens consultant; and several engineering and bio-engineering firms to collect data on existing restoration projects and best practices in the field.

Currently, exotic and aggressive plant species are being eliminated and replaced with native plants. The Project goal is to restore habitat and the natural process of forest succession and to replenish the degraded landscape with native plant species which adapt well to local climate conditions without engulfing other vegetation. The canopy and understory are being replenished with native shrub and tree species including: Shadblow (*Amelanchier canadensis*); Mockernut Hickory (*Carya tomentosa*); Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*); American Holly (*Ilex opaca*); Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*); and White Oak (*Quercus alba*).

Native ground covers and ephemerals are also being planted to re-establish the full range of forest layers that characterized the historic forested areas of the Cathedral Close. Some of these species are: Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*); Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*); Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*);

Olmsted Woods Continued on page 13



The Fountain

*Fountain, that springest on this grassy slope,
Thy quick cool murmur mingles pleasantly,
With the cool sound of breezes in the beech,
Above me in the noontide...*

*This tangled thicket on the bank above
Thy basin, how thy waters keep it green!
For thou dost feed the roots of the wild-vine
That trails all over it, and to the twigs
Ties fast her clusters. There the spice-bush lifts
Her leafy lances; the viburnum there,
Paler of foliage, to the sun holds up
Her circlet of green berries. In and out
The chipping-sparrow, in her coat of brown,
Steals silently lest I should mark her nest.*

*Not such thou wert of yore, ere yet the axe
Had smitten the old woods. Then hoary trunks
Of oak, and plane, and hickory, o'er thee held
A mighty canopy. When April winds
Grew soft, the maple burst into a flush
Of scarlet flowers. The tulip-tree, high up,
Opened, in airs of June, her multitude
Of golden chivalries to humming birds
And silken-winged insects of the sky.*

*Frail wood-plants clustered round thy edge in spring;
The liver-leaf put forth her sister blooms
Of faintest blue. Here the quick-footed wolf,
Passing to lap thy waters, crushed the flower
Of Sanguinaria, from whose brittle stem
The red drops fell like blood. The deer, too, left
Her delicate footprints in the soft moist mould,
And on the fallen leaves. The slow-paced bear,
In such a sultry summer noon as this,
Stopped at thy stream, and drank, and leaped across...*

*Is there no...change for thee, that lurks
Among the future ages? Will not man
Seek out strange arts to wither and deform
The pleasant landscape which thou makest green?
Or shall the veins that feed thy constant stream
Be choked in middle earth, and flow no more
For ever, that the water-plants along*

*Thy channel perish, and the bird in vain
Alight to drink? Happily shall these green hills
Sink, with the lapse of years, into the gulf
Of ocean waters, and thy source be lost
Amidst the bitter brine? Or shall they rise,
Upheaved in broken cliffs and airy peaks,
Haunts of the eagle and the snake, and thou
Gush midway from the bare and barren steep?*

-Bryant



Executive Order On Invasive Exotic Plants

Presidential Executive Order 13112 signed Feb 3, 1999, requires that each Federal agency shall "prevent the introduction of invasive species," "detect and respond rapidly to and control populations of such species in a cost-effective and environmentally sound manner," and "provide for restoration of native species and habitat conditions in ecosystems that have been invaded." It also requires agencies to "conduct research on invasive species and develop technologies to prevent introduction and provide for environmentally sound control of invasive species" and to "not authorize, fund, or carry out actions that it believes are likely to cause or promote the introduction or spread of invasive species in the United States or elsewhere unless, pursuant to guidelines that it has prescribed, the agency has determined and made public its determination that the benefits of such actions clearly outweigh the potential harm caused by invasive species; and that all feasible and prudent measures to minimize risk of harm will be taken in conjunction with the actions."

Distinguishing Long's Rush From Grass-Leaved Rush And Two-Flowered Rush

Mark Strong, a botanist with the Smithsonian Institution, has found a reliable character to distinguish the state-endangered Long's Rush (*Juncus longii*) from the Grass-leaved Rush (*Juncus biflorus*) and the Two-flowered Rush (*Juncus marginatus*) without having to dig the plant up to examine the rootstock: The seeds of Long's Rush have relatively long, whitish caudate appendages that are connate with a relatively broad wing that runs longitudinally along the body of the seed. Grass-leaved Rush and Two-flowered Rush have short-caudate appendages on their seeds and the wing is at most very narrow.

MNPS field botanists recently discovered a large population of Long's Rush in a sandy seep on the grounds of the Naval Ordnance Laboratory - a remnant of the historic Powder Mill Bog site in Prince Georges County.



*Seed of Bloodroot with caudate,
which serves as a handle for ants to hold on to.*

Species Names

[Reprinted from the Georgia Native Plant Society's October 1998 newsletter, *NativeScape*]

Some common derivations of species names.

- Agrestis – of fields or cultivated lands
- Aquaticum – living in or under water
- Arvensis – pertaining to cultivated fields
- Australis – of the southern hemisphere
- Borealis – northern
- Calcareus – pertaining to lime or chalky places
- Campestris – growing in fields or plains
- Collinus – growing on a hill
- Elodes – of bogs or marshes
- Fluitans – floating or growing on water surfaces
- Hydrophilus – growing on or in water
- Hypophitys – growing under pines
- Latebrosus – growing in dark or shady places
- Littoralis – seashore loving
- Montanus – growing in the mountains
- Muralis – growing on walls
- Oxyphilus – growing in acid soils
- Palustris – marsh loving, found in bogs
- Pratensis – growing along river banks
- Rivularis – pertaining to brooks, brook loving
- Ruprestris – growing on rocks or cliffs
- Salinus – salty, growing in salty places
- Saxicolus – growing among rocks
- Sylvestris – belonging to woods or forests
- Uliginuousus – of wet or marshy places
- Umbrosus – shade loving

FLORA OF ARDEN BOG AND SURROUNDING FORESTED WETLANDS

By John Parrish

Location: Gumbottom Branch of Plum Creek Tributary of Severn River, Anne Arundel County, Md.

Elevation: 10.16 ft. at drainage end.

The following flora was noted at Arden Bog and the surrounding forested seeps and wetlands by John Parrish on October 23, 1998. Other notable plant species were included by Bill Sipple, Keith Underwood, Phil Sheridan, Glen Gardner, and Maryland DNR staff. Species with an asterisk only occur in the sphagnum bog itself and not in the forested wetlands.

Mosses

Sphagnum Moss

Sphagnum sp.

Ferns and Fern Allies

Ground Cedar
Ground Pine
Cinnamon Fern
New York Fern
Netted Chain Fern

Lycopodium digitatum
Lycopodium obscurum
Osmunda cinnamomea
Thelypteris noveboracensis
Woodwardia areolata

Sedges

* Coast Sedge
Bladder Sedge
* Cotton Grass
* White Beak Rush

Carex exilis
Carex intumescens
Eriophorum virginicum
Rynchospora alba

Lilies and Orchids

* Yellow Fringed Orchid
* Rose Pogonia
* False Asphodel

Platanthera ciliaris
Pogonia ophioglossoides
Tofieldia racemosa

Carnivorous Plants

* Spatulate-leaved Sundew
* Round-leaved Sundew
* Northern Pitcher Plant
* Humped Bladderwort

Drosera intermedia
Drosera rotundifolia
Sarracenia purpurea
Utricularia gibba

Other Flora

- Red Maple
- Alder
- Serviceberry
- Red Chokeberry
- Sweet Pepperbush
- * Leather Leaf
- Dangleberry
- Inkberry
- American Holly
- Sweetgum
- Tulip Tree
- Sweetbay Magnolia
- Partridgeberry
- * Northern Bayberry
- Black Gum
- Virginia Creeper
- Pitch Pine
- Virginia Pine
- Southern Red Oak
- Willow Oak
- Swamp Azalea
- Swamp Rose
- Poison Ivy
- * Poison Sumac
- Swamp Dewberry
- Glaucous Greenbrier
- Common Greenbrier
- Highbush Blueberry
- * American Cranberry
- Arrowwood Viburnum
- Swamp-haw Viburnum



- Acer rubrum*
- Alnus serrulata*
- Amelanchier canadensis*
- Aronia arbutifolia*
- Clethra alnifolia*
- Chamaedaphne calyculata*
- Gaylussacia frondosa*
- Ilex glabra*
- Ilex opaca*
- Liquidambar styraciflua*
- Liriodendron tulipifera*
- Magnolia virginiana*
- Mitchella repens*
- Myrica pensylvanica*
- Nyssa sylvatica*
- Parthenocissus quinquefolia*
- Pinus rigida*
- Pinus virginiana*
- Quercus falcata*
- Quercus phellos*
- Rhododendron viscosum*
- Rosa palustris*
- Rhus radicans*
- Rhus vernix*
- Rubus hispidus*
- Smilax glauca*
- Smilax rotundifolia*
- Vaccinium corymbosum*
- Vaccinium macrocarpon*
- Viburnum dentatum*
- Viburnum nudum*



THE INDIAN-PIPE, PINE-SAPS, AND THEIR RELATIVES

By P. L. Ricker

These plants are included in the Heath Family (Ericaceae) by most authors, although some place them in a family by themselves, the Indian-pipe Family, or Monotropaceae, which is regarded as only a sub-family of the Heath Family by most botanists.

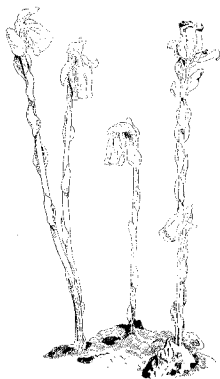
They all grow in decaying vegetable matter, contain no chlorophyll or green coloring matter, and are therefore saprophytes and not parasites as are the somewhat similar appearing woodland plants known as Broom-rape, Squaw-root, and Beech-drops, which grow on the roots of other plants and belong to a family by themselves known as Broom-rape Family (Orobanchaceae).

The Pine-sap and the Indian-pipe are both of wide distribution in the woodlands of North America and are found also in Europe and Asia, but it was the Pine-sap that first attracted the attention of the European botanists as early as 1671, when it was described by Bauhin, and given a binomial name, *Monotropa hypopitys*, by Linnaeus in 1753.

Adanson in 1763 separated the common Pine-sap from the Indian-pipe, by calling it a distinct genus which was later described by Small as *Hypopitys hypopitys* but such duplicate names are not approved by International botanical usage.

The American Pine-sap was described as a subspecies of one of the European species by De Candolle in 1839 and raised to specific rank by Small in 1903.

The plants have several flowers near the top of a 4 to 12 inch stem, with small scaly leaves below, the color varies from tawny, lemon yellow, or pink to reddish and has fine, more or less abundant short hairs throughout. Michaux described the more copiously haired form as a distinct species in 1803 and Nuttall transferred it to *Hypopitys* in 1818, but conservative botanists still consider that there is only one variable species of the tawny to reddish Pine-sap



"Within its round of sea and sky and field,
Earth wheels with all her zones,
the Cosmos stands revealed."

-Whittier

in this country and that the proper name for it is *Monotropa hypopitys*. The plants often have a very noticeable cinnamon-like odor, which even remains long after the plants are pressed and dried.

The name *Monotropa* is from two Greek words meaning once turned, as the summit of the stem is turned to one side, and the specific name *hypopitys* is from two Greek words referring to its growth under pines, but it is also found in many other types of usually dry woods and the writer has also found it under Alders in a sphagnum boggy region.

The Indian-pipe was described from Virginia as early as 1680 by Morison and probably from plants collected by Rev. John Banister and described by

Indian Pipe Continued on page 14

MNPS Welcomes New Members

Sako Anbarchian, Edith Ballard, Deborah Boggs, Michael Borges, Elizabeth Brewster, Pamela Lee Butz, Jim Caldwell, Dorothy Camara, Michael Ciarlo, Margo Collins, Eleanor Cone, William Cranford, Kathleen Dahill, Don Diggs, Barbara and Jim Farron, James Firth, Virginia Garnett, Shirley and Clifford Gay, Steve Getlein, Candace Gingrich, Marilyn Hale, Ed Heflin, Lisa Holt, David Horwitz, Damon Iacovelli, Dwight Johnson, David Laughlin, Rachel Levy, Iris Mars, Bruce and Linda Masland, Jan McFarland, Paulette McMillan, Donna Mecklenburg, Sally Middlebrooks, Marianne Mooney, Wendy Morrison, Jeff Nieman, Leland Otto, Sam Pancake, Carolyn Puckett, August Reichert, Liz Raisbeck, Margie Richards, Bob Ringler, James Rosenstock, Brian Samuel, M.A. Sheehan, Sheila Smith, Patricia Sumner, Judy and Ralph Thompson, Jan Townshend, Robert True, and Mary Vogel.

Your membership supports the active conservation of native flora and natural communities in Maryland and the greater Washington – metro region. Thank you for your support.



Trees Donated by NIH

[Reprinted from the Friends of Pierce Mill Newsletter]

Phil Ogilvie spotted an article in the *Washington Post* back in December 1997 about a citizen protest concerning the planned removal of some large, old oak trees on the grounds of NIH to make room for construction of the new Clinical Research Center. Phil noted that the article specified that they were White Oak trees – just what was needed for the main shaft of the mill, the water wheel, and new gears for the interior milling machinery. The Friends of Pierce Mill contacted NIH, and after many phone calls and a visit to the site with their millwright Derek Ogden to view the still-standing trees, NIH agreed to give them the trunks of two trees once they were cut. (Another white oak, the largest one to be cut, was given to the U.S. Navy for use in the restoration of the U.S.S. Constellation, formerly on exhibit in the Baltimore harbor and now in Boston undergoing renovation.) The trees were felled on the weekend of February 14th and 15th and cut to the length they wanted. So on the morning of February 17 (in a cold rain), a very large truck from the NPS maintenance yard showed up at the site and a crane loaded the two tree trunks on it. Bob Day and Richard Abbott were at the site to watch the process. The trunks are now stored at an NPS facility on Macarthur Boulevard near the Georgetown reservoir known as the Center for Urban Ecology and can be viewed on any weekday between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm. They will be stored there for one to two years while seasoning.

Skunk Cabbage

By E. Lucy Braun

[Reprinted from the January 1, 1932 issue of *Wild Flower*]

With the ever-lengthening days of the new year, with the increasing warmth of the higher sun, comes a promise of the awakening of life in spring. Eagerly we look forward to the first flowers. The bursting buds of the maple, the lengthening catkins of alder and hazel, the brighter green of the grass, which follow the late winter warm spell, suggest that a trip to that south-facing mucky bank where the skunk cabbage grows may favor us with a glimpse of the dark spathes pushing up into the sunshine.

Interesting and odd, beautiful in its way, is the curious flower of the skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*). More correct, perhaps, would be to say inflorescence instead of flower, for the apparent flower is really a compact cluster of tiny incomplete though perfect flowers crowded on a short spadix, the mass enclosed by the showy spathe. The spathe is hood-like in form, pointed at its upper end. It varies somewhat in color in different plants, ranging from purplish-brown to greenish-yellow, usually beautifully mottled and striped with rich purple-brown. The arrangement is the same as in the calla lily of the florists, and in our common Jack-in-the-pulpit, to both of which skunk cabbage is related. The common name refers to the unpleasant odor, very evident in old flowers and crushed leaves.

The flower of the skunk cabbage precedes the leaves, so on our earliest visits to its haunts we will see only the little brown hoods, barely rising out of the ground. Later there will push up beside it the tightly rolled leaves, which, growing and expanding, form a large loose rosette of oval, veiny, thick-petioled leaves. These leaves are from one to three feet long when fully grown, and persist throughout the summer.

The skunk cabbage is found in swamps and wet soil almost throughout the deciduous forest region of the East. It is more abundant northward, in fact, in the Lake Region it is usually thought of as a common plant, while farther south it is more apt to be rare and

local. Our plant, too, is found in northeastern Asia, but is absent from the western half of the North American continent.

Somewhat similar to our eastern skunk cabbage is the western skunk cabbage (*Lysichiton kantschatcensis*). It inhabits deep swamps and peat bogs in the Pacific Coast region from Alaska to California, extending inland to the west base of the Rocky Mountains in Montana. It is found also in eastern Asia, as its specific name suggests.

The more elongate spadix of the western skunk cabbage is surrounded by a large yellow spathe. This plant differs, however, from its eastern relative in time of blooming. Its leaves start up early, as do the flowers of the other, before the frost is out of the ground. The showy flowers come later, in May and June. The fruit, unlike the eastern skunk cabbage, is quite showy - a large, club-like cluster of bright red berries. The root, like that of the Indian turnip or Jack-in-the-pulpit, is very acrid. It is said to have some medicinal value. Bears are fond of the roots and sometimes dig up large areas in their search for them.



*"When the bright sunset fills
The silver woods with light,
The green slope throws,
Its shadows in the hollows of the hills,
And wide the upland glows."*

-Longfellow

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKS TO MNPS VOLUNTEERS

With the increasing number of people using the Internet, a well-designed and informative Web Site is especially important. MNPS thanks Carol Allen and Nancy Adamson for designing and maintaining our Web Site, and James MacDonald for installing our newsletter on the Web Site.

Thanks also to Dan Smith and Joe Durbin for their expertise and assistance in keeping our computer programs up and running, and to Jim Huddle for his technical assistance in printing our last newsletter.

Many thanks to all the volunteers, especially Marc Imlay and family, Crank Cranford, and Eric Brewer, who have worked tirelessly many weekends this spring removing invasive exotic plants from Ruth Swann Park and Chapman Forest. Thanks also to Carol Jelich for representing MNPS at the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council meetings this year.

9th ANNUAL NATIVE PLANTS IN THE LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE & PLANT SALE

June 10-12

The theme of this conference is wetlands and water gardens. For a brochure and registration form, contact Millersville University, Department of Continuing Education, at (717) 872-3030 or email David Dobbins at ddobbins@marauder.millersv.edu.

BIOTA OF NORTH AMERICA PROGRAM

The Biota of North America Program maintains a database of the distribution of all known vascular plants in North America north of Mexico. At this site, by typing in a plant's common or scientific name, you can view a United States map showing its distribution. You can visit their web site at www.mip.berkeley.edu/bonap/



MNPS MONTHLY GENERAL MEETINGS

HOT SPOTS FOR SPRING WILDFLOWERS

March 30, 1999, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library

Cris Fleming, field botanist and educator, will give a slide presentation on some of the best places in the Washington-Baltimore area to see spring wildflowers. The regular plant identification feature by Joe Metzger will be held between 7:00 pm and 7:30 pm. Refreshments and door prizes. Pot luck refreshments welcomed.

DIRECTIONS TO THE WHITE OAK LIBRARY: From 495, take Rt. 650 (New Hampshire Avenue) North. The library will be on your right just beyond the intersection of Rts. 29 & 650. Park behind the library and enter through the lower level doors.

**REDISCOVERY OF THE HISTORIC
HOLLYWOOD SWAMP IN GREENBELT, MD**

April 27, 1999 7:30 pm

White Oak Library

Kate Spencer, naturalist, scientific illustrator, and chairman of CCRIC (Citizens to Conserve and Restore Indian Creek), will give a presentation on the rediscovery of the Hollywood Swamp along Indian Creek. Conservation goals for this site will also be discussed. The regular plant identification feature by Joe Metzger will be held between 7:00 pm and 7:30 pm. Refreshments and door prizes. Pot luck refreshments welcomed.

**AN OVERVIEW OF THE BEECHTREE SITE
IN UPPER MARLBORO, MD**

May 25, 1999 7:30 pm

White Oak Library

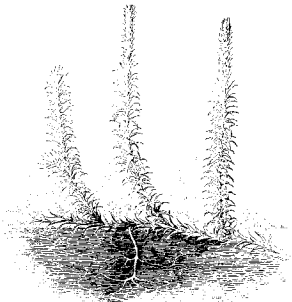
Mary Kilbourne, naturalist and educator with the Eastern Branch Conservancy, will give a slide presentation on the natural diversity and importance of the 1,200 acre Beechtree tract in Upper Marlboro. This site contains streams, wetlands, and forests in the watershed of the Patuxent River, and is the healthiest remaining habitat in Maryland for the state-endangered Stripeback Darter. Ongoing conservation efforts will also be discussed. The regular plant identification feature by Joe Metzger will be held between 7:00 pm and 7:30 pm. Refreshments and door prizes. Pot luck refreshments welcomed.

THE BASICS OF NATIVE PLANTS

June 29, 1999 7:30 pm

White Oak Library

Louisa Thompson, Master Gardener and educator, will give a slide presentation on regionally native plants for homeowners, gardeners, and especially those new to native plants. Invasive exotic plants and their effects on native flora will also be discussed. The regular plant identification feature by Joe Metzger will be held between 7:00 pm and 7:30 pm.



MNPS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation.....	Lou Aronica (202) 722-1081
Field Trips & Programs	Amy Doll & Tina Schneider adoll@haglerbailly.com Schneider@mncppc.state.md.us
Flora of Maryland.....	Joe Metzger (410) 775-7737
Invasive Exotic Plants.....	Marc Imlay (301) 283-0808
Newsletter.....	Rod & Teresa Simmons rod77@juno.com
Nominations.....	Gordon Brown (301) 589-5086
Annual Conference.....	Karyn Molines (410) 286-2928
Membership.....	Joe Metzger (410) 775-7737
MNPS Web Site.....	Carol Allen & Nancy Adamson (301) 258-0313 (301) 277-5905

CHIPPING AWAY AT OUR RESOURCES

Wood chip mills are springing up all over the southeast. There are about 140 chip mills operating in the southeast and about 100 have been built in the last 10 years. These high capacity mills can chip as much as 300,000 tons or about 18,000 acres of trees per year, and employ as few as 4-6 people per shift. Many mills relocate after a few years. Wood chip mills rely on timber within a 75-100 mile radius and promote clearcutting. Maturing forests reaching from all across the southeastern states to Maine are attracting renewed interest from the timbering wood products industries.

A single chip mill can turn 100 or more truck loads of trees a day into wood chips and devour more wood in one month than an average size sawmill consumes in an entire year. Current chip mills in the southeast are consuming about 1.2 million acres of forest every year. These mills are the most unregulated, highly mechanized arm of

industrial forestry. They promote clearcutting since they consume large volumes of trees of all ages.

The Tennessee Valley Authority, U.S. Army Corp Of Engineers, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service demanded an Environmental Impact Study because of the likelihood of the significant cumulative environmental impacts related to increased timber harvesting and permits.

Governor Hunt of North Carolina has ordered a two-year study and moratorium on new chip mill permits and Governor Carnahan of Missouri issued an executive order which sets up a panel to study requirements for any new chip mills.

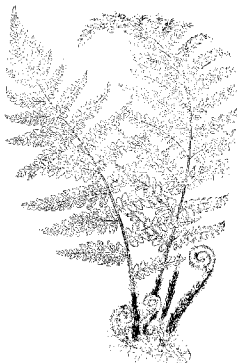
For information on what you can do, contact: The Chip Mill Task Force, Virginia Forest Watch, C/O Gerry Scardo, P.O. Box 248, Clintwood, Virginia 24228 or email jscardo@compunet.net or vafw@mounet.com.

Olmsted Woods Continued from page 3

Woodland Phlox (*Phlox divaricata*); Lowbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*); and American Dog Violet (*Viola conspersa*).

All Hallows Guild is pleased to be undertaking a joint program with the Maryland Native Plant Society in March and May to compare and contrast native shrubs and ground covers in three urban woodlands in the Nation's capital.

Note: To restore this historic woods, the Guild has undertaken a major campaign to raise the \$600,000 needed. If you would like to contribute to this cause or volunteer your time, please call Dede Petri at (202) 298-8109 and/or send your check to All Hollows Guild, Olmsted Woods Project, Washington National Cathedral, Massachusetts and Wisconsin Avenues, NW, Washington, D.C. 20016.



Linnaeus as *Monotropa uniflora*. As its specific name indicates it has only a single drooping flower at the top of a 4 to 10 inch scaly stem, which is waxy and usually white. Like its above relative it is usually found from June or July to August. Small, in the 1933 edition of his *Southeastern Flora*, has described *Monotropa brittonii*, found from North Carolina to Florida, with salmon-colored flowers more hairy than the white species. One also occasionally finds a pale pink to reddish form, but as far as seen by the writer this color form is only found in August or occasionally early September, and does not have the fragrance of its colored Pine-sap relatives. It is also called Ghost-flower, Corpse-plant, and other less suitable names.

Soon after the seeds of the Indian-pipe begin to ripen the petals drop and the capsule and surrounding sepals turn to an erect position. This seems to be a provision of nature so that when the seed capsule splits, the very fine dust-like seeds will be blown out and carried some distance away by the wind instead of dropping at once to the ground immediately under the parent plant.

Those interested in a more extended discussion of these plants, their structure and relationships, should consult the paper on the subject by Margaret W. Henderson. (Contr. Bot. Lab Univ. Penn. 5:42-109, 1919.)

A third and rarely seen plant of this group of a light purplish brown color with several lighter colored flowers and stem rarely over 2 to 4 inches tall is occasionally found nearly or entirely covered by the leaves in the woods. It is found from Maryland to North Carolina during April and May, is known as the Sweet or Fragrant Pine-sap and was described as *Monotropopsis* (meaning like *monotropa*) *odorata* by Stephen Elliott, and early Carolina botanist, in 1817. One will often be attracted by its spicy odor in the air before the plants are discovered, so if you notice a delicate spicy odor in the woods during April or May, search carefully for these plants in the leaves. On account of their small size and being nearly covered with fallen leaves, they are probably not nearly as

rare as they are supposed to be. Two other species of *Monotropopsis* (*M. lehmaniae* and *M. reynoldsiae*) have been described from North Carolina and Florida, respectively, the former with calyx lobes twice as long as the corolla instead of equaling it as in *M. odorata*, and the latter with corolla twice as long as the calyx. Field study of ample material may show these are only forms of a single variable species.

The books of this country and Europe on plant lore are strangely wanting in references to these plants and the white form of the Indian-pipe is the only plant here mentioned that is at all well known to the general public. Those who are inclined to be superstitious have long regarded these ghost-like plants with awe. The name Corpse-plant sometimes used refers to the belief among some country folks that when these plants are found there is some dead person or animal buried under them. This idea, however, is entirely without foundation as the plants grow from seed like any other plants and in any shaded wooded region where there is plenty of well-decayed leaves or leaf mould, as it is often called.

Ed. Note: This article was reprinted from a Wild Flower Preservation Society circular, June 1936. Today, most botanists include these plants in the Monotropaceae and not the Ericaceae.



Three of Maryland's rare species not recorded in the Gorge in the 20th century (but extant elsewhere in the state) were seen in 1997 and 1998. The Dwarf Crested Iris (*Iris cristata*), historically known from High Island, was found many miles further upstream in dry, rocky woods dominated by Chestnut Oak. This is a fairly tenuous occurrence of 5 non-flowering plants. A few plants of Rigid Tick-trefoil (*Desmodium rigidum*) are present below Great Falls on xeric river-scoured "prairies" dominated by Big Bluestem and other bunchgrasses. The Bashful Bulrush [I am not making this name up] (*Scirpus verecundus*) occurs on Bear Island in rich, rocky Oak-Hickory woods. True to its name, this fairly inconspicuous plant is likely to be overlooked. This is one of those somewhat difficult species that may be somewhat under-reported. It is known to occur in disturbed areas.

A lone Shellbark Hickory (*Carya laciniosa*) tree was seen near Great Falls. This is believed to be a Montgomery County record for this primarily midwestern species. It is a fairly large specimen, producing nuts and growing in a frequently flood-battered zone along the river with Shumard's, Pin, and Swamp White Oaks, Green Ash, River Birch, Sycamore, Bitternut Hickory, and Black Walnut. Although some Shellbark (or Kingnut) Hickory found growing in eastern Maryland have been suspected to have been planted, this is certainly a naturally occurring individual. Shellbark Hickory resembles Shagbark Hickory, but has larger ("king") nuts. It has pubescent rather than glabrous leaves with usually seven rather than usually five leaflets, and orange-tan rather than red-brown twigs.

In the District of Columbia, the Chain Bridge Flats also yielded some interesting rarities. The Northern Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium montanum*) was found in grassy savannahs in the District of Columbia at Chain Bridge Flats in 1997. This would appear to be the southernmost station in the east for the species, which is apparently disjunct from east-central Pennsylvania. It is one of two native vascular plants extant in the District that have not yet been recorded for Maryland or Virginia. Ed Terrell apparently discovered this species here in the late 1960s, though the significance of this occurrence appears to have gone largely unnoticed since then. *S. montanum* is similar to the locally common, simple-stemmed, short-pedicelled Blue-eyed Grass, *S. mucronatum*,

but has a wider stem, larger flowers, and, locally, seems to bloom somewhat earlier. A note of caution: the keys for this genus in Brown & Brown would identify this species as *S. angustifolium*, a species that typically has branching stems.

The Soft Fox Sedge (*Carex conjuncta*), was ranked as extirpated in Maryland on the Department of Natural Resources 1994 list. In the District, it had been once found where the Lincoln Memorial now stands. This species' presence at Chain Bridge Flats was suspected from occasional immature plants seen as early as 1995, and it was positively identified during the 1997 DC Bio-Blitz (it is also extant in Maryland). It is now considered to be somewhat frequent at the Flats, which may be a stronghold for this regionally uncommon sedge. *C. conjuncta* grows in damp swales in open, grassy savannahs and has a rather stout, spongy stem. Its inflorescence closely resembles several common species, at least one of which also occurs at the Flats.

Two other rare sedges were found, apparently each for the first time in the District, in 1995. They were determined only this year, thanks to Maryland DNR botanist Chris Frye. Hitchcock's Sedge (*Carex hitchcockiana*) was found at Chain Bridge Flats. Currently ranked as highly rare (S1) in Maryland, it is known mostly from limestone and other basic substrates, although, in this case, it was found in open floodplain. There are several historical and once recent (1997) reports from the Maryland section of the Gorge.

Rigid Sedge (*Carex tetanica*) was found at Roosevelt Island. Chris Frye reports only one record for Maryland (also from the Gorge) - this was in 1879. Other D.C. area records for *C. tetanica* have apparently referred to Wood's Sedge (*C. woodii*), formerly *C. tetanica* var. *woodii*. Despite the former lumping, the two species are actually fairly distinct both in appearance and ecology. *C. tetanica* generally occurs in low, moist woods and open, wet areas. *C. woodii* occurs in rich, but usually quite dry, forests. *C. woodii* was also considered extirpated from Maryland as recently as 1994, but has since been found to be locally common in the Potomac Gorge. It has not been relocated in the District proper, but is likely still extant.

Chris Lea is a plant ecologist with the National Park Service who has extensively studied the flora and ecology of the Potomac Gorge.