

Native News

Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

May/June 2002 Volume 2 Number 3

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Upcoming Monthly Meetings

“The Flora of the Greater Washington, D.C. Area”
Tuesday, May 28, 7:00 pm
Visitors Center Auditorium of the National Zoo,
Washington, D.C.

Stanwyn Shetler, Botanist Emeritus, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, and author of *Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of the Washington – Baltimore Area*, will give a presentation on the botanical work in the greater Washington, D.C. area, from the early botanists and floras up to and including the current flora checklist. Changes in spring flowering times will also be discussed. This regular monthly meeting of the Maryland Native Plant Society is cosponsored by the Virginia Native Plant Society and the National Zoo.

Directions: From the Capital Beltway (I-495) take the Connecticut Avenue Exit 33 south for about 5 miles. The Zoo will be on your left at 3001 Connecticut Ave. Parking Lot A is closest to the Auditorium. After-hours parking is free. Follow signs to the Visitors Center/Auditorium.
By Metro: take the Red Line to the Woodley Park/Zoo/Adams-Morgan stop or the Cleveland Park stop; the Zoo entrance lies halfway between these stops. Please note that it is an uphill walk from the Woodley Park stop to the Zoo.

For more directions and other information, visit the Zoo Website:
www.natzoo.si.edu

“Native Plants & Ecological Gardening”
Tuesday, June 25, 2002
Aspen Hill Library, Rockville

Lou Aronica and Mary Pat Rowan will give a presentation on the use of local native plants as a means of reconnecting natural areas, healing disturbed sites, and providing habitat for wildlife, drawing from many local examples. A variety of plants will be discussed, including mosses, ferns, herbaceous plants, shrubs, and trees. Alternatives for replacing lawns with mosses, sedges, and native grasses, called “no-mow lawns”, will also be discussed.

Directions: From the Capital Beltway (I-495) take the Connecticut Avenue Exit 33 north for about 5.5 miles. Turn left onto Aspen Hill Road. The library is about 0.5 miles on the right at 4407 Aspen Hill Road just past the stoplight at Parkland Drive. The library phone number is 301-871-2094.

Maryland Native Plant Society

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President's Letter

Greetings,

I hope that everyone has been reveling in the blooming of shadbush, the budding of tulip trees, and the emerging spring ephemerals. Spring is quite miraculous, as the sparse winter landscapes of gray and tan burst into a million shades of green. And just as quickly as this spring phenomena appears, it soon becomes overshadowed as the canopy of the towering trees restricts the sunlight hitting the forest floor, sending many understory plants into dormancy. So get out now and relish the joy of birth and re-growth.

MNPS has been very busy over the past two months. We recently joined the Native Plant Conservation Campaign, a project of the Center for Biological Diversity and the California Native Plant Society, whose mission is to promote the appreciation and conservation of native plant species and communities through education, law, policy, and land use management. Some goals include increasing the awareness of the importance of native plants, and of the decline and threat to native plants and communities; improve K-12 and university level education on native plants and ecosystems; and improve local, state, national and international laws and policies affecting the conservation of native species and ecosystems. A brochure describing this campaign will be available on www.mdflora.org.

MNPS is co-sponsoring a meeting with the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) on May 13, 2002 at the ARC Garden in Annapolis (see announcement on page 10). Something to brag about - our Gardeners Guidelines Series #2, *Collecting Seeds from Native Plants*, has received praise from the botanical community. It will be reprinted in a future issue of *Chinquapin*, the newsletter of the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society.

As mentioned in the last issue, the Board of Directors held their second annual retreat in February. We met for a full day to develop the vision and mission of the Society. We tried to define what difference the Maryland Native Plant Society would make over the next 10-20 years, and after much thought and discussion we came up with a list of 38 actions the Society could undertake (visit the Society Website to see the list). Each committee will meet over the next month to further identify one and five year goals. Therefore, I wanted to update you on a few of the Committee activities that are the heart of Society (see page 3). The items mentioned are only a selection of what is in the works. If you need more information, or are interested in helping out, please contact the appropriate committee contacts listed on this page. We need many more people involved in these actions if we are to succeed. I hope you will play a role in preserving Maryland's natural heritage for future generations.

Sincerely,

Karyn Molines

Committee Updates and Volunteer Needs

Botany

This committee is responsible for research, surveys, identification, and reports of native (and exotic) plants and their habitats for purposes of conservation, education, and publications. Frequently, the Society is contacted to assist in surveying a variety of lands—private acreage, natural areas, and land threatened by development. At this point, we have very limited resources and only a few qualified botanists to adequately survey a site. We felt the need to have a systematic approach to evaluating which sites we would be able to survey. Therefore, one goal for this year is to develop a list of criteria for surveying sites. This list will enable MNPS to respond to requests for surveys and not over-burden the botanists who are often volunteering their services. We also plan to publish more of our findings in *Marilandica*, pamphlets, and other journals.

Conservation

This committee is responsible for active participation in efforts to protect natural landscapes throughout Maryland and Washington, D.C. whenever and wherever possible, by surveying threatened sites, increasing awareness of threats, preparing reports and/or testimony, writing letters, and/or appearing in court to defend threatened sites. Goals include getting more people involved with local conservation issues and providing more information to people in the way of articles, reports, and updates.

Educational Programs & Outreach

This committee develops and organizes programs such as monthly meetings, field trips, and the fall conference. One of our goals is to reach out to non-members to inform them about the importance of native plants and their habitats. We have several different jobs that need to be done including:

- Advertise our monthly meetings and field trips in local papers. We have fax numbers, emails, and addresses to several papers, but more resources could be contacted.
- Write articles about MNPS events or projects that you have attended that we could send to various newspapers and publications.
- Create Public Service Announcements about Society events or projects for radio stations.

Executive

This committee consists of the officers of the Board and forms the backbone of the Society's functions. The presence of Executive Committee members on other committees provides the authority and leadership to fulfill the Society's mission. The Executive Committee may meet and make decisions relating to Society policies, initiatives, and actions, as long as they report their actions at the next general Board meeting. If you have ever tried to reach the Society, you soon realize that there is not a central office or even phone for the Society. One of our goals is to establish a central office

to house our library, organizational records, and to have a regular meeting space. At our current financial state, renting an office would be prohibitively expensive, and restrict what funds we would have to fulfill our mission. Over the next year, we will be contacting compatible organizations in the Annapolis area or other centrally located spot to inquire about sharing office space. If you work for an organization or business that might be interested in discussing the possibility (no commitment will need to be made yet, it's mostly investigating the feasibility), please let us know.

Invasive Exotic Plants

This committee is responsible for coordinating a statewide effort to reduce the presence of alien invasive plants from our natural areas. Efforts will include removal projects, education (via publications and programs), and coordination with regional and national groups. Our efforts to remove invasive species from natural areas have multiplied over the past few years and we want to double our efforts over the next year and start removal projects at another fifteen locations. We will pursue funding through the Pulling Together Initiative and the Chesapeake Bay Trust to further these goals.

Propagation & Restoration

This committee is responsible for propagating, planting, and rescuing native plants, as well as restoring landscapes with native plants, and educating others in these areas. The most important goal is to get more volunteers on this committee! Two specific projects will be undertaken this year. We will be updating our native nurseries list to ensure that the nurseries are still in business, offer a wide range of native plants, propagate the plants, and have no wild-collected plants for sale (unless they were legally collected during a rescue). Another goal, which you will hear about in future issues of *Native News*, is to provide native conifers at a reasonable cost as an alternative to a traditional Christmas tree. If you own or know of a native nursery and think it should be listed, please contact Lou Aronica (see page 2).

Publications

This committee is responsible for all Society publications including *Native News*, *Marilandica*, the Website, and other productions such as the Gardener's Guidelines brochure series. The committee will determine content, develop publication schedules, and produce copies for distribution. We now have ten years of publications, so an important goal is to create an archive of past issues of *Native News* and *Marilandica*, and have back issues available in the MNPS library and on the Website. We will also create information sheets about field trips (the ecology of a site and species found) to educate participants about an area. Submissions of articles or artwork for our publications are always needed.

Montgomery County Celebrates Legacy Open Space Acquisition

By John Parrish and RG Steinman

On March 2, 2002, "a broad gathering of public and private groups celebrated the permanent protection of 800 acres of unique forest habitat in Boyds, Maryland." This is the largest, single land preservation acquisition in Montgomery County history according to local officials. This land was a high priority for preservation under Montgomery's recently adopted Legacy Open Space Program.

This land purchase is part of a larger area known as the Hoyles Mill Diabase Area, and it is one of the largest forested areas remaining in Montgomery County. The unusual nature of diabase bedrock has provided the foundation for the rare plant assemblages found overlying this geological formation. The concentration of rare plant species in the Hoyles Mill Diabase Area is the second highest in Montgomery County, surpassed only by the famous Potomac River gorge.

The newly acquired property is now named the Hoyles Mill Conservation Park. This park "is at the center of a green corridor stretching between the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers, linking together more than 5,000 acres of protected land" and provides a green passage between these two rivers.

The Trust for Public Land and a very generous and wealthy landowner purchased the 800 acres bordering Little Seneca Creek to protect the land from development. In turn, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) was able to utilize \$7.2 million in State of Maryland GreenPrint funds to reimburse and purchase the initial acquisition. While ownership and management of the Hoyles Mill Conservation Park will transfer to M-NCPPC, the State will retain the conservation easements to ensure protection of the land. This generous and ecologically-minded landowner has also purchased for preservation the 905-acre property directly abutting the 800 acres. It is our understanding that there will be some form of a conservation easement agreement to preserve this acreage as well. The M-NCPPC has expressed interest in acquiring part of this property for parkland under its Legacy Open Space (LOS) Program and has also targeted an additional 304-acre site next to the 800 acres for preservation under the LOS program.

The Trust For Public Land, an organization that conserves land for public use, played a critical role in negotiating and facilitating this complicated 800-acre park acquisition. The anonymous wealthy landowner is a model citizen of integrity and vision that other wealthy citizens can follow to contribute to our future green quality of life. This acquisition would not have happened without each of them. Many thanks as well to the State of Maryland and to M-NCPPC for recognizing and responding to this special opportunity to preserve our natural heritage.

Note: language in quotations excerpted from the March 2, Celebration brochure.



Serviceberry or Shadbush
Amelanchier arborea

It's Your Website <http://mdflora.org>

The MNPS Website is your Website. We encourage you to use it. Log on and you'll find the most recent issues of the Society's publications, *Native News* and *Mariandica*, available in PDF format. The Website always has the most current information about meetings and field trips.

Your Website can be used as a tool for many other native plant activities. The main page has links to dozens of relevant websites including all of the internet's largest botanical databases like the USDA "PLANTS" database, and Linnaeus, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's huge online bibliography. There are also links to a collection of useful map servers at http://mdflora.org/maps_on_line.html. These map links include TopoZone with detailed topographic maps for the entire USA, as well as a number of very useful physiographic maps from the Maryland Geological Survey.

You'll find links to the websites of every other native plant society in North America at http://mdflora.org/other_societies_links.html. There is an extensive native plant bibliography at <http://mdflora.org/booklist.html> that lists almost every book that will be of use to a Maryland native plant enthusiast.

The Website also features an ever-changing collection of links relevant to the issue of invasive alien species. This list can be found on the restoration projects page at http://mdflora.org/volunteers_restorations.html. Here you can also find at least one invasive removal project that is happening every weekend of the month.

It is your Website. You should be making use of it.

Late Spring Field Trips

Downs Park

Leaders: Rod Simmons & Meghan Tice

Saturday, May 4 @ 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (with a lunch stop)

Downs Park lies along the shore of the Chesapeake Bay and is a beautiful example of a coastal, sandy, oak/pine/heath forest community. We will mostly walk along the perimeter trail, which is paved. The trip will focus on the whole forest and numerous species of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants will be pointed out. The woodland contains a dense understory of ericads including fetterbush (*Leucothoe racemosa*) and gigantic highbush blueberries. Birds, butterflies, and other creatures will be observed. Some plants that should be blooming for the walk will be swamp azalea (*Rhododendron viscosum*), whorled loosestrife (*Lysimachia quadrifolia*), and Indian cucumber-root (*Medeola virginiana*).

Directions: From 97 or 295 (B/W Parkway) north or south take the Route 100 exit east toward Gibson Island. When 100 splits with Route 10, stay on 100 (you will have to change lanes). From 695 (Baltimore Beltway) you can take Route 10 South to 100 (10's lanes become 100). Follow 100 to its end at Mountain Road. You will merge right onto Mountain Road. Follow Mountain Road for @ 4 miles. Not far past Chesapeake High School bear left onto Pinehurst Road. The park entrance will be on your right. We will meet in the first parking lot on the right.

Please note that there is a \$4.00 park entrance fee.

Bring: Water and lunch. Picnic tables are available.

Contact: Rod & Meghan's email – cecropia13@msn.com or Rod's phone – 703-256-7671

Civil War Fort Sites

In the Washington, D.C. Region

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan & Lou Aronica

Sunday, May 5 @ 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (13th in the series)

We will return to visit Fort Dupont, this time to a portion dominated by chestnut oak and mountain laurel, which may be in bloom.

Directions: From D.C., take East Capitol St. to Ridge Rd, N.E. (just past Minnesota Ave.). Head south on Ridge to the 800 block. Park adjacent to Fort Dupont. From Maryland, take East Capitol west to Texas Ave, N.E (just past Benning Rd.). Proceed south on Texas to Ridge Rd, make a left and proceed to the meeting place.

Bring: Lunch and water. Easy to moderate walk.

Contact: Mary Pat Rowan 202-526-8821

Plant ID at Thorpewood

Leader: Joe Metzger

Sunday, May 12 @ 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Help develop a list of plants occurring naturally at Thorpewood. We'll also briefly discuss the possibility of forming a Catocin Chapter of MNPS.

Directions: From I-495 (Washington Beltway) take I-270 to Frederick where it joins U.S. 15. Take U.S. 15 north about

18 miles to MD 77 in Thurmont. Take MD 77 west about 3 miles to Park Central Road. Turn right and then turn into Visitor's Center Lot. Meet in front of Visitor's Center.

Bring: A lunch & water. Moderate walk.

Contact: Joe Metzger 410-775-7737 or jmetzger50@hotmail.com (preferred)

Indian Creek – Braided Stream Area

Leaders: Lou Aronica, Rod Simmons, and Meghan Tice

Saturday, May 18 @ 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

This site is a portion of the Hollywood Swamp, which contains a variety of plant communities and is host to many uncommon species. This is the only known station for bog chickweed in Maryland. The site is a significant breeding area for amphibians and five turtle species have been observed. Maryland has recently purchased 75 acres to be saved but intense development is under consideration at neighboring sites, which may well leave this 75 acres so isolated as to be totally dysfunctional as an ecosystem. Our visits will expand the biological inventory of the site. Co-sponsored by CCRIC (Citizens to Conserve and Restore Indian Creek). CCRIC also has bird walks to the site June 2, August 11, and October 13. Visit our Website for details: www.mdflora.org.

Directions: Take Greenbelt Road east of Route 1. Turn left at Cherrywood Road, go a short distance and park in shopping center corner near Petsmart. If you reach Brezewood Dr., you've gone too far.

Bring: Watertight footwear or boots for stream crossings, water and snack.

Contact: Lou Aronica 202-722-1081 (evenings)

Blockhouse Point Conservation Park

Leader: Carole Bergmann

Sunday, May 26 @ 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Blockhouse Point Conservation Park encompasses approximately 630 acres and contains a variety of exceptional resources including mature upland forest, floodplain forest, wetlands, streams, and magnificent views of the C&O canal and the Potomac River from high rocky outcrops above the river. To date 9 species of endangered, threatened, and watchlist plant species have been identified in the park, along with 25 species of fish, 9 species of amphibians, 4 species of reptiles, 39 species of nesting birds, and 10 species of mammals. Blockhouse Point also has important archeological and historic sites. We will spend most of this hike walking through upland forests and looking out over the rock outcrops in the section of park South of River Rd.

Directions: From 495, take River Road NW towards Potomac. Continue on River Rd. for 8-9 miles. Once you pass Esworthy Rd. and Maidens Bower Rd. on the right, start looking for the Blockhouse Point parking lot (20 car gravel lot with trailhead map) on the left.

Bring: Water, snack. If steady rain, trip will be cancelled. If weather is questionable, call Carole Bergmann at 301-253-3354.

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Carrie Murray Nature Center

Leaders: Rod Simmons, Meghan Tice, and Lloyd Tydings

Sunday, June 9 @ 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Come visit the Nature Center and wander some of the trails in the 1,216-acre Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park complex. This trip will assist the Nature Center with putting together a checklist of wildflowers for park visitors. Jerome Golder, a longtime resident of the area, has spent many years documenting the local plants and fungi and will be present to display his collection of photographs. Jerome can recall the location where every picture was taken but would appreciate help from trip attendees with identifying species. Some plants that he has captured on film include dwarf ginseng (*Panax trifolius*) and bowman's root (*Porteranthus trifoliatius*). The formation of a Baltimore Chapter of MNPS will be discussed.

Directions: From the Baltimore Beltway (695) take the Security Boulevard exit 17 toward Woodlawn. You'll pass shopping centers and a few stoplights. Turn left at the stoplight onto Forest Park Avenue. At the first stoplight make a right onto Windsor Mill Road. Just past the Leakin Park entrance is the (marked hidden) entrance to Carrie Murray. The parking lot is just downhill from the Center.

Bring: Water and lunch.

Contact: Rod & Meghan's email – cecropia13@msn.com or Lloyd at Carrie Murray – 410-396-0808

Civil War Fort Sites In the Washington D.C. Region

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

Sunday, June 16 @ 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (14th in the series)

We will visit Fort DeRussy, in Rock Creek Park, northeast of the intersections of Oregon Ave. and Military Rd., N.W.

Directions: Meet at the Rock Creek Park Nature Center parking lot, 5200 Glover Rd., N.W., just south of Military Rd.

Bring: Lunch and water. Easy to moderate walk.

Contact: Mary Pat Rowan 202-526-8821



Mayapple
Podophyllum peltatum

A Search for Ferns

Carderock Area of the C & O Canal

Leader: Joe Metzger

Sunday, June 23 @ 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Explore the forest and rock outcrops of the Carderock area of the C & O canal for ferns. Should see at least 5 species. May see ramps (wild leeks) in bloom.

Directions: From I-495 (Washington Beltway) take the Carderock exit for the Clara Barton Parkway. Follow the Parkway, (outside the beltway) one exit and get off. Go across the overpass and turn right into the entrance for the Carderock area. Follow until it ends at a crossroad and turn right. Follow the road all the way to the last Parking Lot. Meet at the dead-end of the Parking Lot.

Bring: A lunch & water. Moderate walk.

Contact: Joe Metzger 410-775-7737 or jmetzger50@hotmail.com (preferred)

Invasive Exotic Plant Removal Workdays

If an agency or corporation were covering 30-90% of our natural areas with asphalt we would focus at least half our efforts in the conservation movement on removing that asphalt, especially if a few individuals or groups were already heroically succeeding in removing some of it with very limited resources. Well there is, in fact, a remarkable consensus in the conservation community worldwide that alien (non-native) invasive species do form monocultures over 30-90% of our parkland and other natural areas, depending on the ecoregion. The asphalt is just green, not black.

So let's recruit people, including newcomers, to protect (and rediscover in the process!) native plants and animals from the aliens we humans brought over.

What you can do:

- Participate in non-native invasive plant removal projects in your area.
- National effort is being made on behalf of The Harmful Non-native Weed Control Act of 2001, HR 1462 and S 198. Please see the Website <http://mdflora.org> for details. The federal matching funds provided for in the Craig-Daschle bill constitute a critical lifeline for cash-strapped weed control/eradication efforts in Maryland and around the country. It combines volunteer work with contract or staff work to do what volunteers cannot do effectively as equal matching in kind contribution. Please send your letter of support to your congressmen. If we who love native plants do not, who will?

-Marc Imlay, Invasives Committee Chair

Invasive Exotic Removal Workdays

Greenbelt National Park

First Saturday, monthly @ 11:00 a.m.

Directions: Take Route 1 South from the 495 Beltway. Take Greenbelt Road East past Beltway Plaza. Cross Kenilworth Avenue. Greenbelt Park is on the right hand side before the turnoff for the Baltimore Washington Parkway. Meet in the Sweetgum picnic area. To carpool meet at the University of Maryland College Park Student Union on the Parking Garage side at 10:30 am.

Bring: Lunch, drink, appropriate clothing for weather

Contact: Lauren Urgenson 301-699-1947 or email urggie@wam.umd.edu for more information.

Chapman Forest/Ruth Swann Park

First Sunday, monthly @ 10:00 a.m.

Directions: Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Ruth B. Swann Park/Potomac Branch Library, 20 miles S of Beltway on Rt. 210, Indian Head Hwy. Give yourself 30 to 40 minutes from the Beltway.

Bring: gloves, lunch, & water (beach picnic). Long sleeves and pants recommended.

Contact: Marc Imlay 301-283-0808.

Brookside Gardens

Second Sunday, monthly - May 12th and June 9th
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Directions: From I-495, (Capital Beltway), take Route 97, (Georgia Avenue) north, 3 miles. At Randolph Road, turn right. At Glenallan Avenue, turn right. At the four-way stop sign, turn right into Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Ave. Meet at the Visitors Center Information Desk.

Bring: Tools are provided but if you have pruners and leather gloves please bring them.

Contact: Cheryl Beagle 301-962-1413 or cheryl.beagle@mncppc-mc.org

Howard County – Middle Patuxent Environmental Area

Thursday, May 16 - Bird walk and invasive removal. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Southwind Circle in Columbia.

Thursday, June 20 - We'll be learning about wetland flora and fauna while we work to remove mile-a-minute vine. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at MPEA Trotter Road parking lot located 0.8 miles south of Route 108 in Clarksville.

For info, directions or to register contact Aylene Gard at 410-992-9889, or Robin Hessey at rh158@umail.umd.edu.

Northwest Branch

Saturdays, May 18, and June 15, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Directions: From the East, take exit 29A off the beltway. Turn right onto Williamsburg at the first light. From the west take exit 30 Colesville Rd. northbound, and turn right (East) onto University and then left onto Williamsburg. Stay on Williamsburg at the first fork you come to (bear left), then at the second fork (Williamsburg N. vs. S.) bear left again.



Showy Orchid
Galearis spectabilis

Williamsburg turns into Big Rock Rd. at the bottom of the hill. Meet at 10204 Big Rock Rd. MNPS members welcome and there's no need to register. Group size is limited for non-members of MNPS; please register in advance by phone. No registrations by email.

Bring: Water and gloves. Veggie lunch provided.

Contact: Jane Osburn 301-754-1564.

Myrtle Point Park, St. Mary's County

Third Saturday, monthly @ 8:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Directions: From Washington, take Rt. 4 south, crossing over the Patuxent River at Solomons. About 2 miles past the bridge, make a right onto Patuxent Blvd. Go about 2 miles to Myrtle Point Park. Meet in the Park lot.

Contact: For more info, or to receive updates about workdays email Bill Burruss at billburruss@olg.com

Calvert County - American Chestnut Land Trust

Sunday, May 19, 9:00 a.m.-noon

ACLT is a non-profit land trust working to preserve the Parkers Creek and Governors Run watersheds in Calvert County. The work party leader is a relative novice, so volunteers skilled in plant identification and invasives control will be warmly welcomed. Bring water, gloves and appropriate clothing. Meet at the ACLT parking lot in Port Republic. From Washington: follow Maryland Rt. 2/4 4.0 miles south from the intersection of Rt. 321 in Prince Frederick. Turn left onto Parkers Creek Road, and then right onto Scientists Cliff's Road. The ACLT parking area is 0.8 miles in on the left next to the small barn. For more information, please contact Dan Sampson at 410-586-1570 or danaclt@chesapeake.net.

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Cheverly Control Ivy League

Last Sunday, monthly @ 1:00 p.m. till dark, rain or shine. With the approval of the Town Council, The Control Ivy League has begun the process of removing English Ivy from trees on public lands in Cheverly. Youths twelve and up and adults desiring to improve our urban forests in Cheverly are welcome. Meet at the entrance to the Nature Park off Lockwood Drive at Crest Avenue (near the Green Mountain sign).

Bring pruning saws, pruning shears, small crowbars or large screwdrivers and garden gloves. Dress for the weather and wear hiking boots, if available.

Questions or to register, call Mary Vogel at 301-772-9276.

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

Sunday, April 28, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Join the Eastern Panhandle Native Plant Society's SNIP (Save our Natives from Invasive Plants) team's effort to clear garlic mustard and English ivy from a section of HFNHP called Virginius Island. Please bring gloves, and anything you might want to eat or drink in the afternoon.

Directions: Take US 340 from Frederick, MD or Charles Town, WV to the only stoplight in Harpers Ferry (about 1/2 mile southwest and uphill from the Potomac River bridge). Follow brown Park Service signs to the Visitors Center. At entrance gate, tell ranger you are with the SNIP group working on invasives removal with Resource Specialist Dale Nisbet. Meet at the Visitor Center, at the bus stop area. For more info, contact Laurie Potteiger dickandlaurie@earthlink.net or 304-535-2307 (before 8 pm), or Lynn Wagner at lwagner@intrepid.net or 304-876-7027.

WEED WARRIORS WANTED

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's (M-NCPPC) Forest Ecologist is assembling a team of volunteers (Weed Warriors) to monitor and remove non-native invasive plant species in Montgomery County Parks, and we need your help! As a Weed Warrior volunteer, you will receive a short training session from the Forest Ecologist in the identification of, removal and control techniques for non-native invasive plants. Weed Warriors can then work at their own pace and choose a schedule that best suits them. Many current Weed Warriors live near a M-NCPPC Stream Valley Park or Regional Park and do their volunteer work while walking their dogs or taking an occasional hike through their neighborhood park. Whether you choose to work individually or in a group, your efforts will contribute to the control of non-native vegetation in the 28,000 acres of Montgomery County parkland. Please contact Carole Bergmann, M-NCPPC Forest Ecologist at 301-949-2818 for more info or to sign up.

Friends of Sligo Creek is in the process of establishing stewardship areas, each a half mile or so along Sligo Creek. Volunteers are needed to remove invasive non-native plants from these areas. Contact Sally Gagne at 301-588-2071 or sgagne@erols.com for more information.

The **Audubon Naturalist Society** is seeking volunteers to help remove non-native plants from **Woodend Sanctuary** during weekdays. Hours are flexible and volunteers will be trained by staff and/or experienced volunteers. Call 301-652-9188 x 30 for more information or to sign up.

Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary in Anne Arundel County is seeking volunteers to assist with invasive plant removal and habitat enhancement projects. For more information call 410-741-9330.

Adkins Arboretum in Caroline County on Maryland's Eastern Shore is seeking volunteers to assist the staff in the removal of invasive non-natives on the Arboretum's 400 acre site. Volunteers will be trained by the Arboretum staff. Workdays are Tuesday from 9:00 a.m.-noon. For more information, contact Paul McMullen at 410-634-2847.

Some good news!

Thanks to Kathleen Michels of Silver Spring, Maryland for her vigilance in working with local and state agencies to keep the highly invasive Bradford Pear from being planted as a street or landscape tree. In response to her efforts, the National Arbor Day Foundation has decided to remove the Bradford Pear from their selection of flowering tree mixes. This tree, once thought to be sterile, has spread rampantly throughout Maryland, D.C., and Virginia, interfering with the natural successional process by smothering native vegetation. Once established, this tree is nearly impossible to eradicate. Recently, however, the horticultural staff of the City of Alexandria hand dug over 500 Bradford Pear saplings (up to 3" in caliper) from the Duke Street and Telegraph Road interchange. For more info on the pear problem, read the article "The Coming Plague of Pears" linked to our Website.



Cockspur Hawthorn or "Mayflower"
Crataegus crus-galli

Native News

Brickbats & Kudos

Brickbats

- To Maryland Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend for promoting urban sprawl by voicing support for the Arundel Mills mega-mall and the "environmentally disastrous" Inter County Connector (ICC). In March 2002, Townsend broke with Governor Glendening, who had killed proposals for the connector highway in 1999, by enthusiastically backing the project. (Washington Post 3/26/02) The ICC Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS April 1997) study states that the ICC would destroy up to 552 acres of forest, 21 acres of wetland, and 60 acres of floodplain. Furthermore, the DEIS states it would require up to 77 stream crossings and fragment 11 forest tracts larger than 100 acres, as well as up to 145 acres of public parkland. The current estimated cost for 18 miles of pavement is 1.4 billion. Moreover, the DEIS V1-23 states that, "**none of the ICC alternatives will have a substantial impact on levels of service experienced by motorists on the Capital Beltway, I-270, or I-95 within the study area.**"

- To Prince Georges County Executive Wayne Curry for proposing shoreline development along the Patuxent River, including areas of public parkland. (Washington Post 2/24/02)

Kudos

- To the wealthy landowner (he wishes to remain anonymous) from Boyds, Maryland who recently purchased 2,000 acres (\$11million) of prime forest and farmland near his home to save this land from development. His purchase is the single largest land preservation acquisition in Montgomery County history! 800 acres of this acquisition is now conservation parkland, which protects many rare plant species. The remaining 1,200 acres are placed under conservation easement stipulations. This man sets a great example of generosity for the benefit of future generations.

- To Governor Parris Glendening for arguing against cuts in spending on environment and education, despite budget shortfalls, because he valued these as "investments in the future."

- To the two employees of a Danish shipping company who went against their bosses' wishes to report secretly to the U.S. Coast Guard that their vessel was leaking oil into the Baltimore Harbor and Chesapeake Bay. The ship's operator was sentenced on Friday, March 8th to pay \$250,000 in fines for conspiring to conceal the leak thereby breaking federal environmental law. (The Sun Maryland section 3/9/02)

Native Plant Enthusiasts, ACTION IS NEEDED NOW.

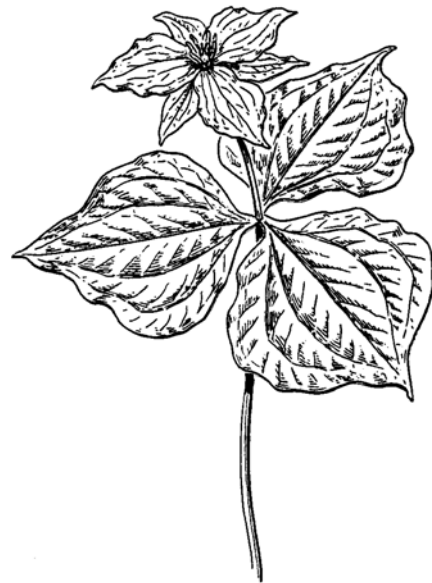
For the second year in a row, Home Depot is selling *Trillium grandiflorum*, 6 rhizomes for \$7.96, under the Growing Colors line. WalMart is selling *Trillium grandiflorum* and two other species, 6 rhizomes/rootstocks for \$6.47, under the Better Homes & Gardens label. Both have the MISLEADING statement: "Grown in the USA from cultivated stock. Inspected by the US Department of Agriculture." According to the Investigative Division of the USDA (APHIS), the USDA does NOT inspect any plant material. Not only is the label blatantly false, but also the price of these plants is so low that the plants are surely wild-collected. No respectable propagator could afford to sell appropriately propagated plants at this price. These plants will be in retail stores any day now (if not already) and the shelf life of the plants is probably less than a month. We need to head into these stores immediately and protest the sale of un-ethically, and often illegally, collected plants. Bring along copies of the Plant Cards (available from the MNPS website http://mdflora.org/publications/shopping_cards) that show your disappointment (you'll need to change it to state your concern about selling wild-collected plants) and you can tell them the plants you want to buy. Also, please inform all your friends, family, and co-workers who may not know about this problem and threat to our native plants, that they should not purchase these plants for the same reasons that they should not be sold. Also, contact APHIS to show your concern.

Write to Larry Fowler: Larry.Fowler@aphis.usda.gov

Write to the plant companies to protest the misleading labels and disreputable method of wild-collecting plants: Gardens Lines, Growing Colors, P.O. Box 6339, Freehold, NJ 07728-6339

Better Homes & Gardens, P.O. Box 37428, Boone, IA 50037-2428

We must speak our concerns, and give voice to these threatened species. Our actions will be the only way to stop the pillaging of our natural heritage.



Large-flowered Trillium
Trillium grandiflorum

Announcements

D.C. Herbarium Database Now Online

The Flora of the Washington-Baltimore Area Website (<http://www.nmnh.si.edu/botany/projects/dcflora/>) now has a new feature. The Smithsonian's DC Herbarium is now online, and the specimen database can be queried for collection information and distribution maps. Included are modern collections and collections that date back to the early 1900's. Most specimen collection localities are linked to specific map locations using www.topozone.com. Visit this site at <http://persoon.si.edu/dcflora/dcspecimens/query.cfm>.

The Maryland Chapter of the **American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)**, in conjunction with the Maryland Native Plant Society will be hosting a lecture on native plants. Field ecologist Rod Simmons will speak about native plants in this region. Trees, shrubs, and perennials will be discussed, with emphasis on the technical aspects of specifying and planting natives. All are welcome to attend. This event will be held at the A.R.C. of Anne Arundel County, Inc. (931 Spa Road in Annapolis) on Monday, May 13 at 7:00 p.m. For additional information and directions please contact Jennifer Lilly at 410-263-4838.

Lecture and Plant Sale: Butterflies, Hummingbirds, and Native Plant Gardening

Sunday, May 26 @ 2:00 p.m.

Baltimore and Annapolis Trail; 51 W. Earleigh Heights Road, Severna Park, MD

Ranger Adam Smith will present a slide show about common butterflies and the ruby-throated hummingbird that are found in gardens and natural areas. Karyn Molines, president of MNPS, will discuss designing a native plant garden to attract these animals and to provide host plants for the caterpillars of the butterflies. A native plant sale benefiting the Society will occur as well. For ages 10 and up. An adult must accompany children. Enrollment is limited.

Call the B & A Trail at 410-222-6244 to register.

Native plant vendors include Mary-Stuart Sierra of Lower Marlboro Nursery.

NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING:

Tuesday, June 4 @ 6:30 p.m. (Location: TBA)

Our Board meetings focus on the policy and administration of the Society. All members are welcome to attend. An agenda will be made available upon request. Contact Karyn Molines, President, or Jane Osburn, Secretary, for more details.

Native Plants in the Landscape Conference 2002

June 6-8 at Millersville University, Millersville, PA.

30 speakers including John Cronin, America's first Riverkeeper and Time Magazine's "Hero for the Planet." Largest, exclusively native plant sale in the mid-Atlantic. For more info call 717-872-3030.

On Saturday, June 15, the **Friends of Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve** organization will conduct a Bio Blitz to determine the population densities and habitat structure for vertebrate and plant species found at the new **Banshee Reeks Preserve** in Loudoun County, Virginia. Experts and amateurs in the any of the natural sciences are invited to help. If interested, send an email to VaHerper@bigfoot.com, or to Ron Circe at Bansheereeks@Starpower.net and include your name and contact information as well as your area of interest or expertise. To find out more about the park, please see <http://www.bansheereeks.org/>

Irvine Nature Center's 2002 Native Plant Seminar & Sale

Saturday, August 24

Seminar: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.; Workshops: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Plant Sale open to the public 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Speakers will include Rick Darke, Landscape Design Consultant/Author/Photographer, and Johnny Randall, Assistant Director of the North Carolina Botanical Gardens.

Concurrent workshops led by ecologists Charles Davis and Jeffrey Wolinsky. Seminar Fee: \$45 donors/ \$55 non-donors; Workshop Fee: \$25

For more information or a brochure call 410-484-2413 or visit Irvine's Website at www.explorenature.org

MNPS Networking:

Forming a Frederick County Chapter

Jim and Teresa Gallion would like to form a chapter in Frederick County and would like interested individuals to contact them. They plan to host tours of their native plant butterfly garden in Walkersville and to arrange for field trips and invasive exotic plant education/removal in their area. Meetings will also be planned and will likely take place at the Fountain Rock Nature Center, where Jim and Teresa currently serve as board members. Their goals include building the Frederick County membership base and providing educational materials, workshops, and presentations about using native plants in the landscape and creating wildlife habitat.

Contact: Jim and Teresa Gallion at 301-898-0678 or jimbo21793@aol.com

[Please note the Thorpewood Field Trip listed on page 5]

Welcome New Members!

Janet Ady, Eric Anderson, Raymond Arent, Stu & Kitt Booher, L. Brooks, Eileen Buckley, Jane Carroll, Linda Chappell, Jesse Dobbs, Alice Eastman, Gloria Edynak, Angela Ferri, Lydia Grinage, Muriel Lewis, Andrea Mangum, Fran McClure, Rick Morgan, JoAnn Mueller, Rebecca Orris, Amy Pollock, Arlene Rodenbeck, Joe Saliunas, Ellen Scaruffi, and Leslie Ulman.

Announcing the 11th Annual

Maryland Native Plant Society

FALL CONFERENCE 2002

Saturday, October 12

With Associated Field Trips on

Sunday, October 13

This Year's Theme will be

Native Plants, Natural Communities, and Geology of the Fall Line

Join us at the Gabrielson Lab building
in the Patuxent Research Refuge complex
for an educational and social event
featuring slide presentations, poster sessions, lunch,
the MNPS annual meeting and election, field trips,
the Saturday evening social, and more!

Registration and other information about the 2002 Fall Conference will appear in later issues of *Native News* and on the MNPS Website.

The plant pictured on the front cover is the Mayflower or trailing arbutus (*Epigaea repens*). It is a member of the Heath Family (Ericaceae).

Wondering when your MNPS membership expires? Take a look at your mailing label. You are valid through the month shown. For example, if your label reads "5/1/2002", your membership expires at the end of May 2002. If it's time to renew, you can do so using the membership form on the back of this newsletter or by downloading one from the web at http://mdflora.org/join_mnps.html. Thanks for your support.

Maryland Native Plant Society

P.O. Box 4877
Silver Spring, MD 20914

Dated Materials:
Please Deliver Promptly

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**Membership is for a 12-month period from the time of initial application.
We thank you for your support!**

Name 1 _____
Name 2 _____
Comp./Org. _____
Street Address _____
City _____
State _____ **Zip Code** _____
(Your county is the basis of your local chapter affiliation. Please include.)
County _____
Home Phone _____
Work Phone _____
E-Mail _____

Membership Dues:

- Individual: \$25.00/year
- Double: \$35.00/year
- Student/low income: \$15.00/year
- Lifetime: \$250.00

Additional Donation _____

Total Enclosed _____

- Please do not list me in your membership directory.
- Please do not send me monthly Society announcements by e-mail in addition to post.

**If you are a business you can be included on the MNPS providers list.
Please indicate the name of your business and what type of business it is:**

Business's name _____
 Native plant propagator or grower
 Native plant supplier
 Native plant landscaper or gardener

**Please make checks payable to the Maryland Native Plant Society and mail to: Maryland Native Plant Society;
P.O. Box 4877; Silver Spring, MD 20914.**

The Maryland Native Plant Society is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible.