

Native News

Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

November/December 2005

Volume 5 Number 6

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Upcoming Monthly Meetings

“The Importance of Hybridization in the Systematic Evolution of Oaks”

Tuesday, November 29, 7:30 pm
White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

The oaks are one of North America's most widespread and important trees. Nearly 80 native species of oaks occur in North America, not including the numerous natural hybrids and app. 100 species in Mexico. Maryland is one of the most diverse areas in the east for oaks, with 21 of the 41 oak species native to the eastern U.S., not including hybrids. Join Alan Whittemore, research botanist and systematic taxonomist with the USDA and *Flora of North America* contributor, for a presentation on the evolution, diversity, and importance of oak species.

Directions: Please see below.

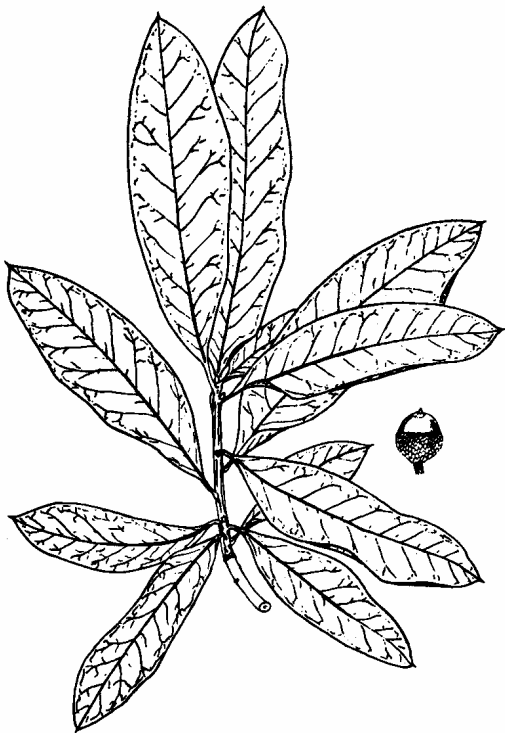
“Annual Holiday Social & Members Share Night” Plus Annual MNPS Business Meeting

Tuesday, December 20, 7:00 pm
White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Please bring your slides to present (@ 10 minutes) or photos to display to the group. A slide projector (Vivitar) and carousels will be available. We may be able to arrange for a PowerPoint projector – let us know if you would like to have one available. Share the images or stories of your local or distant adventures experienced in the past year. Also being an annual business meeting, our 2005 election results will be announced. Please bring holiday cookies to share. Coffee, tea, and cider will be provided. Please also consider joining us early for the *Native News* mailing party.

Directions: Exit the Washington Beltway at New Hampshire Ave (exit 28). Go north about 2 miles. The library is the first building on the right, once you have passed under Route 29, just after the Sears store.

Refreshments are served at each monthly meeting. Feel free to bring cookies or snacks to share.



Quercus imbricaria
Shingle Oak

Native News



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President's Letter

Dear Members,

The final President's Letter for 2005 will be a bit different from the previous letters of the calendar year. Rather than talk about themes near and dear to my heart, like the importance of getting out and seeing and experiencing (and therefore hopefully coming to Value and work to Conserve and Preserve) the natural areas in our state, I want to center this short letter around the importance of—no make that—the necessity for: Volunteer Help.

A good base of Volunteer Support is absolutely essential in order for us to run our Society in the "manner to which we have all become accustomed."

I know that a sizable number of those reading this letter had the opportunity to attend our very successful Fall Conference in the beginning of October. I have heard only good comments about it—we had 3 informative speakers, approximately 15 different Field Trip options, good food, and a well-run dinner/social/silent auction. All in all a good weekend where people heard about issues, hiked out and learned about native species in their natural environments, met other plant-oholics... And all of this was made possible by—and was due totally to—Volunteer Help.

We are a Society that is run entirely by people who have decided that this group—the Maryland Native Plant Society—is one that they appreciate having around, is one that they find value in maintaining and supporting. Everything this Society accomplishes is done by people like yourself—people who have a family, have a job, have a life beyond MNPS, but who have decided that they have a talent of some stripe that they are willing to share with others to ensure that this Society can keep on doing its excellent work.

Not everyone has the desire or time to be a Board Member but, plainly stated, we NEED to have more MNPS members realize:

That they can lend a hand.

That many hands make light work.

That even a few hours every other month would help.

That you don't have to be an accomplished botanist to make an important contribution to the Society. (We need people who can help with publicity, who can help with mailings, who can write an article for *Native News*, who might help with work in one of the area Chapters, etc.)

There are several real benefits to volunteering beyond meeting new contacts who share at least some of your interests and helping MNPS get necessary tasks completed on time without overloading a very few people. One of the most important benefits is that the Maryland Native Plant Society expands, grows, and improves with each new person's ideas, perspectives, and contributions.

Maybe you can be one of the members who decide to lend your talents, skills, time to our Society next year. I hope so.

~ Carole Bergmann

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.

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MNPS Announcements

Important Information about Memberships

About a year ago, we began sending an email renewal reminder to members. Thank you everyone who responded to these emails—you have saved the Society money!

Recently, we have noticed a slight decrease in renewals from these emails. Perhaps these emails are getting blocked by your email service's spam filter? Since we also mail out a monthly email reminder about upcoming meetings and field trips, members will want to make sure that our emails are not getting blocked. Most spam filters allow you to add emails that will not get blocked, if so, please add kmolines@chesapeake.net and memberships@mdflora.org.

You may have noticed that we added a new membership category for organizations. Yearly membership dues of \$50 gives an organization the privilege of being listed as an organizational member of the Society, receive our publications, and receive membership discounts for three employees. As an organizational member, the Society will acknowledge your organization at least yearly, and allow you to publicize some of your events that would be of interest to our members in *Native News* (space permitting and if received in a timely fashion). We'll also provide a link to your organization's website from our website (and we hope you'll link to ours). So consider joining at the organizational level.

To tell when your membership expires, (and what type of membership you have) take a look at your mailing label. For example, if your label reads 11/1/2005 your membership expires at the end of November. If it's time to renew, please use the form on the back of this newsletter, or download one from the website. Mail your dues to MNPS Membership, P.O. Box 4877, Silver Spring, MD 20914. Sometimes, membership checks and renewal notices cross in the mail. We apologize if this happens; we do try to update our membership database weekly. If we accidentally receive two renewals for a membership, we have a policy to extend the membership for an additional year. So if you send in your membership dues twice, we treat it as if you renewed for two years. Thanks for your support.

Native News Deadlines:

Nov 25 January/February Winter Issue
Jan 25 March/April Early Spring Issue
March 25 May/June Late Spring Issue
May 25 July/August Summer Issue
July 25 September/October Early Autumn Issue
Sept 25 Nov/Dec Late Autumn/Holidays Issue

Tentative 2005 Mailing Party Dates (preceding regular Monthly Meetings at White Oak):

Tuesdays: October 25, and December 20

Chapter Events

Greater Baltimore Chapter

The Greater Baltimore Chapter will meet on Wednesday, November 16 at 7:30 pm at Irvine Nature Center. Our speaker will be Bob Stanhope, Baltimore County's Chief Naturalist. He will speak on "A Sense of Place" and give us a look at the variety of landscapes and natural resources in our local parks.

Our January 18th meeting will be held at Irvine Nature Center at 7:30 pm and our speaker will be Dr. Sara Tangren of Chesapeake Natives Nursery. She will talk about our native grasses and show samples as well as slides.

For more information about the Baltimore Chapter, contact Ann Lundy at 410-366-9365 or aplundy@attglobal.net.

Fall Field Trips

Beach to Bay, Assateague Island Nat. Seashore

Date: Saturday, November 5 **Time:** 1:45 pm

A naturalist from the National Park Service will lead us on a special two hour interpretive program called "Beach to Bay." A hike through the diverse barrier island habitats will highlight various living organisms and their interactions, with an emphasis on plants.

Directions: Directions will be provided to those who have registered for the program. **Carpool Info:** If anyone has an interest in carpooling, please mention it when you sign up. **Bring:** Dress in layers, including windbreaker or raincoat, as weather on the island tends to be a bit cooler and breezier than the mainland. Boots or good walking shoes are a must. Water and snack recommended. Field guides and binoculars are optional. **Note:** The program has a limit on the number of participants that may take part. Those who sign up will be sent confirmation, directions, and meeting instructions.

Contact: Leslie Hunter-Cario at HUNTERL@dmv.com (preferred) or 410-463-2890.

Leakin Park, Baltimore City

Date: Sunday, November 6 **Time:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Leakin Park is a mature forest on the west side of Baltimore City. It is an unusually high-quality urban forest that is not dominated by invasive plants. We will explore winter tree identification and look for late fall composites.

Directions: From the Baltimore beltway (I-695), exit onto I-70 East (toward the Park and Ride) and take the first exit onto Security Blvd. Then take the first right (a small street leading to Franklinton Rd) and then turn right onto Franklinton Rd. Proceed for about 1.3 to the parking lot on the left.

Bring: Lunch and water. Binoculars might be handy.

Note: Rain or shine.

Contact: Dwight Johnson 410-366-7239 (home), 443-695-0307 (cell), or dwrightmj@bcpl.net.



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Membership Dues:

- Individual: \$25.00/year
- Double: \$35.00/year
- Student/limited income: \$15.00/year
- Lifetime: \$250.00
- Organization: \$50.00/year

Additional Donation _____

Total Enclosed _____

Please Check: New Renewal