

Native News

Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

March/April 2008

Volume 8 Number 2

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Harbinger-of-Spring
Erigenia bulbosa

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

“Spring Flowering Native Plants of Maryland”

Tuesday, March 25, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

MNPS offers this lecture each year in spring, as a celebration of the season but also to give new members an introduction to spring-flowering native plants and places to see them in the wild. Join botanist Rod Simmons for a presentation on many of the common and rare, spring-flowering native plants of Maryland. Spring ephemerals – plants of early spring which bloom and largely disappear before the forest canopy substantially leafs out – will be the main focus, although other spring wildflowers will be included as well. Plant identification, habitats and natural communities, and places in Maryland to see them will also be discussed. Directions below.

“Wavyleaf Basketgrass Moves in Waves through Maryland Forests”

Tuesday, April 29, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Join Kerrie Kyde, Invasive Plant Specialist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), for a presentation on the rapidly-spreading, highly invasive Wavyleaf Basketgrass (*Oplismenus hirtellus* ssp. *undulatifolius*) in Maryland. Two small populations of this Eurasian grass never previously found in the U.S. were discovered in Patapsco State Park by sharp-eyed botanists in 1996. Smithsonian Institution and international experts confirmed its identity as an exotic subspecies of a grass that is native to subtropical and tropical regions, including the southeastern coast of the U.S. The native grasses are Basketgrass (*O. hirtellus*) and its related native subspecies Bristle Basketgrass (*O. hirtellus* ssp. *setarius*). The exotic subspecies is Wavyleaf Basketgrass (*O. hirtellus* ssp. *undulatifolius*) [source Maryland DNR]. Kerrie will discuss the serious threats to forest ecosystems from this species, its identification, where it is known in the state, and control and eradication methods, including DNR's efforts.

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.

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.



P.O. Box 4877
Silver Spring, MD 20914
www.mdflora.org

Contacts:

Botany..... Rod Simmons
botcom@mdflora.org
Conservation.....John Parrish
advocacy@mdflora.org
Field Trips.....Meghan Tice
trips@mdflora.org
301-809-0139
Flora of Maryland.....Joe Metzger
jmetzger50@hotmail.com
Habitat Stewardship.....Marc Imlay
ialm@erols.com
Membership.....Karyn Molines
membership@mdflora.org
410-286-2928
Monthly Meetings.....Rod Simmons
monthlymeetings@mdflora.org
Outreach.....Carolyn Fulton
cofulton@chesapeake.net
President.....Cris Fleming
cjfleming@aol.com
Publications:
Marilandica..... Rod Simmons
marilandicaeditor@mdflora.org
Native News..... Meghan Tice
nativenewseditor@mdflora.org
Website.....Iris Mars
webmanager@mdflora.org

Executive Officers:

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President's Letter

On this frigid, blustery day in mid-February, it is hard to believe that spring will come soon. However, our ephemeral wildflowers are just waiting to emerge. One year, I found Harbinger-of-Spring blooming on February 21, but usually it pops up in mid-March or early April. On a south-facing hillside along the C&O Canal, I often find Spring Beauty blooming in late February or early March. Bloodroot, Twinleaf, and Cut-leaved Toothwort follow in short order and by the first week of April, our woodland habitats are carpeted with dozens of early spring wildflowers. This blooming sequence holds true with later dates in Maryland's northern and western regions.

On January 21, the MNPS board had our annual all-day meeting with the morning session spent on regular business matters and the afternoon session featuring longer-range goals and planning for the year. I'll report on the regular meeting in this letter and some of the highlights of the planning meeting in later letters.

There has been a lot of action on the conservation advocacy front. The board approved a letter to PEPCO urging them to adopt and implement a mowing schedule that protects native plants and wildlife in all their rights-of-way. We also voted to sign on to a petition advocating an Environmental Impact Statement along the route of the proposed Charles County Cross-county Connector. The board voted to recommend to Prince George's County that they use the list in the USFWS booklet *Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping – Maryland Coastal Plain* as their source for suggested plants to be used by landscape planners and developers.

In the Jan/Feb newsletter, I wrote that the MNPS board was waiting to see if the Audubon Naturalist Society, the senior partner in our suit against the ICC, was planning to join us in an appeal against the judge's decision. Unfortunately, ANS decided not to appeal. With much disappointment, the Executive Committee realized that MNPS did not have the legal, personnel, or financial resources to pursue an appeal alone and determined that we had to drop it.

Another advocacy effort turned out better. On November 16, 2007, MNPS had written to DNR and Governor O'Malley protesting the proposed closing of New Germany State Park in Garrett County due to budget restraints. On January 20, 2008, I received a letter from Secretary Griffin notifying us that "a substantial increase in funds...will negate the need for closure of state parks." Liz McDowell of the Western Mountains Chapter then alerted us to a new threat in the mountain region – plans for industrial wind facilities to be built on ridge tops in state forests. MNPS sent a letter to DNR and the Governor protesting the destruction of habitats that would be caused by this construction and Karyn Molines also presented it at a hearing in Annapolis.

The Habitat Stewardship Committee also has been busy. Marc Imlay reported that DNR is requesting an \$80,000 grant to jump start a program to control Wavyleaf Basketgrass, a highly invasive grass that has been found in Patapsco Valley State Park and Little Paint Branch Park. The MNPS board voted to approve \$1000 in matching funds for this proposal and also recommended that we invite Kerrie Kyde, the DNR Invasive Plant Specialist, to speak at an upcoming members meeting to teach us how to recognize this newly discovered scourge of our woodlands. Linda Keenan has signed up to help monitor ash trees for the Emerald Ash Borer, which has been found on several species of ash in Prince George's County. The board also suggested that we obtain someone to speak about this insect pest at an upcoming members meeting.

Despite the chill in the air and the ice on the trees, I comfort myself with the words of the poet: "If winter comes, can spring be far behind?" Happy Spring to all!

Cris Fleming

MNPS Announcements

Greater Baltimore Area Chapter Meeting

The Greater Baltimore Area Chapter will meet on Wednesday, March 19 at 7:30 pm at the Irvine Nature Center. Please check the website for speaker information! There will be a Steering Committee meeting at 6:00 pm for all who are interested in the workings and program of the group. For more information contact Ann Lundy at annlundy@verizon.net or 410-366-9365.

Western Mountains Chapter Meeting

The Western Mountains Chapter of MNPS will hold its regular meeting at New Germany State Park on Tuesday, April 15 at 7:00 pm. The guest speaker will be Sunshine L. Brosi who will give a presentation called "Integrating Ecological and Ethnobotanical Approaches to American Chestnut and Butternut Restoration." Ms. Brosi coordinates Frostburg State University's new Ethnobotany Major, an integrated program that began last fall. She is also actively involved in the Appalachian Center for Ethnobotanical Studies (ACES), a collaborative, inter-institutional effort devoted to multidisciplinary study and conservation of native plants. Her program will begin immediately following a brief business meeting. The public is welcome to attend.

According to Brosi, natural resource management is able to achieve ecological restoration and promote healthy diverse forests which also produce products, such as edible nuts to revitalize rural economies. The loss of the American chestnut is one of the great environmental tragedies to have occurred in eastern forests of North America which had significant impacts on local economies. Many other tree species face similar attacks by invasive, exotic pests, including the native butternut or white walnut. Restoration success will be aided by an approach which integrates ecological, historical, and cultural knowledge. Ms. Brosi will discuss silvicultural, biological, and social aspects of chestnut and butternut restoration. She will present results from seven year old chestnut plantings in Pennsylvania and Kentucky on surface mines, clearcuts, log landings, and natural gap openings. Ms. Brosi will also share research on preserving and restoring butternut trees while maintaining a supply of material for traditional Cherokee Indian artisans in western North Carolina. She will discuss how these integrated approaches can also be applied to other threatened species in Maryland.

Directions: From I-68 take exit 22 and follow signs for New Germany State Park. Turn left into the park onto McAndrews Hill Road. The meeting will be held in the Lakehouse. Parking is available in Lots #4 or 5; there are also handicap accessible parking spaces at the Lakehouse. For more information contact Liz McDowell at 301-895-3686 or info@elkridgenatureworks.com.

Welcome New Members!

Regina Carson, Beth Churchill, Kate Eldred and Israel Lederhendler, Shannon Garden and J.D. McGuirk (Native Roots of Shannon's Garden), Janet Getgood and Ernie Johnson (Meadowood Native Plant Nursery), Daniel Gruner, J. Christopher Havran, Barbara Hurd, Kesa Koresko, Vikram Krishnamurthy (Eastern Shore Land Conservancy), Deborah Landau, Peter and Antonia LeFevre, Janet Mackey, Nancy McIntyre, Amy Neal, Joann Pettinicchio and Tom Powell, Matt Salo, Janet Siddle, Barbara Thomas, Juner Torres, and Nancy and Holly Wagner. Thank you for your support.

Photos Wanted for the MNPS Website

Requests keep coming in ... for more photos on the website! You can help by sending in pictures of plants and other things of interest, such as scenes from your favorite natural areas or "horror sites" where invasive plants have taken over.

Guidelines for photos with people: Get permission from the individuals in the photo to use the photo on the website; include that with your photo. Many people don't like to unexpectedly find themselves in pictures on websites.

Guidelines for all photos: Images must be in JPEG (.jpg) format; file size should be < 200 KB. Mail must include the following: your name, the photographer's name, the date taken, the location taken, a description of the subject (e.g., if it's a plant, identify the plant). Email photos to mnps_photos@yahoo.com.

Iris Mars

MNPS Web Content Manager

Do you know when your membership expires?

We appreciate every member who renews because every society activity is made possible by member dues. If you remember to renew before your expiration date, you'll help us save money by reducing the number of renewal letters we have to mail. We send an email renewal reminder the month before your membership expires – thank you everyone who responds to these emails – you have saved the Society money! We also mail renewal letters out the month you expire, and send two reminder letters if we don't hear from you. Early renewals allow us to spend your membership dollars on projects, not stamps for renewal letters. So, prompt renewals just make sense. To tell when your membership expires, take a look at your mailing label. For example, if your label reads 3/1/2008 your membership expires at the end of March. 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 receive two renewals for a membership, we have a policy to extend the membership for an additional year. Thanks for your support.

Native News

List of Native Plant Professionals

One of the services we provide to members is the chance to be listed as a "Native Plant Professional." This list is made available on our website. People can also email Karyn Molines, kmolines@chesapeake.net, or write to the Society to request a copy. If you are a native plant professional and wish to be included in this list, please email Karyn Molines.

This list is not an endorsement by MNPS. We do have a committee of volunteers who are working on criteria for native plant nurseries. If you are interested in helping them develop criteria for certifying or endorsing nurseries and other native plant professionals, please contact Marney Bruce 301-652-0492, marney@simplicity-matters.org or Jim Gallion, jimbo21793@aol.com, 301-898-7025, or 301-898-0678. [Note: List continues on Page 9]

G=Grower or Propagator; S=Supplier; L=Landscape Professional Gardener. Members are located in Maryland unless noted otherwise.

Christine Abelow, L, Frederick, 202-439-5364, 301-846-4170

Nancy Lee Adamson, S, L, Blacksburg, VA, 540-231-6498, nladamson@gmail.com

Mary M. Alves, L, Lusby, 240-895-4964, 410-326-9622, mmalves@smcm.edu

Lou Aronica, Landscapes by Aronica, G, L, Tower City, PA, 703-597-3711, lou_aronica@yahoo.com

Russell J. Balge, L, Timonium, 410-252-5593, rb410@comcast.net

Miles Barnard, South Fork Studio, L, Chestertown, 410-778-1098, 410-778-4576, miles@southforkstudio.com

Colleen E. Bathon, Mahan Rykiel Assoc., L, Baltimore, 410-258-6001, cbathon@mahanyrykiel.com

Dan Beisel, Home Garden Design, L, Ellicott City, 410-461-6377, danielbeisel@aol.com

David A. Boswell, L, Bryans Road, 703-922-0200, 301-743-5191

Keith Bowers, Biohabitats, L, Baltimore, 410-554-0156, 410-252-5477

Kirsten Coffen, Garden Architecture, LLC, L, Fork, 410-593-9989, kc@gardenarchllc.com

Paul Crumrine, Watershed Landscapes, Inc., L, Silver Spring, 301-588-0070, 301-588-0070, pcrumrine@hotmail.com

Susan Dieter, Heartwood Nursery, Inc, G, S, Monkton, 410-343-0390

Carrie Dike, Landscape Gardener, L, Lanham, 301-522-1457, 301-522-1457

Doyle Farm Nursery, G, S, L, Delta, PA, 717-862-3134, 717-862-3134, jld@doylefarm.com

Daryl C. Dutrow, Wildlife Landscapes, L, Monkton, 410-667-9453, 410-667-9452, daryl@wildlifelandscapes.net

Environmental Concern, G, S, L, St. Michaels, 410-745-9620, nursery-sales@wetland.org

Kevin Fabula, Signature Horticultural Services, G, S, Freeland, 410-329-6466, 410-357-4838

Serena Fossi, Gardening & Gentle Redesign, L, Chevy Chase, 202-302-7734, 301-664-6461, rsanse@verizon.net

Barbara L. Franklin, Pine Island Designs, L, Washington, D.C., 202-686-0882, 202-686-0882

James W. Gallion, Wildlife Gardening Adventures, L, Walkersville, 301-898-7025, 301-898-0678, jimbo21793@aol.com

Melissa W. Gerber, L, Queenstown, 410-827-9783

Denise Gibbs, Wings and Wildflowers, G, S, Gaithersburg, 301-916-0220, 301-253-6903

Greenery Nursery and Landscape Center, S, L, Hollywood, 301-373-2596

John P. Gutting, Landscape Architect, L, Church Hill, 410-556-6716, 410-556-6778, jpg-la@closecall.com

Audrey Hillman, Windy Meadow Landscape Design, L, Emmitsburg, 301-447-2220, 301-447-2220, audrey@emmitsburg.net

Leslie F. Hunter-Cario, G, S, L, Easton, 410-745-9620, 410-820-0441, cario@goeaston.net

Larry Hurley, Benke Nursery Company, S, Bethesda, 301-937-1100, 301-530-3586

Joan M. Janssen, Cityscapes Landscaping, Inc., L, Silver Spring, 301-439-3011, 301-252-3672, cityscapesland@aol.com

Sylvan Kaufman, Adkins Arboretum, G, S, Ridgely, 410-634-2847, 410-479-0316, skaufman@adkinsarboretum.org

Alan Kettler, Kettler Ecological Design, L, Alexandria, VA, 703-721-1560, 703-721-1560, akettler@kettler.com

Tony Lhotsky, Enviro-Art Horticultural Services, Inc, S, L, Baltimore, 410-335-9444, 410-686-1843

Ann P. Lundy, Landscapes by Design, L, Baltimore, 410-366-9365, annlundy@verizon.net

Jim MacKenzie, Octoraro Native Plant Nursery, G, S, Kirkwood, PA, 717-529-3160, jim@octoraro.com

Scott Matherly, G, Pikesville, 410-504-5887, matherly35@hotmail.com

Fran McClure, Landscape Designer, L, Kensington, 301-933-2587, 301-933-2587, flmccclure@earthlink.net

Liz McDowell, Elk Ridge NatureWorks, LLC, G, S, Grantsville, 301-895-3686, 301-895-3686, info@elkridgenatureworks.com

Alice Neily Mutch, BaySmart Gardening, L, Annapolis, 410-353-3861, 410-841-6202, alice@baysmartgardening.com

Eileen M. O'Brien, L, Crownsville, 410-923-3505, 410-923-3505, brightlyyellow@comcast.net

Christina Pax, Pax Garden Design, L, Emmitsburg, 301-271-1971, chrispax@earthlink.net

Robert W. Pickett, L, Dickerson, 301-394-2496, pickett@us.net

Dominic Quattrocchi, L, Silver Spring, 301-650-4361, 301-237-8733, dominic.quattrocchi@mncppc-mc.org

Bud Reaves, Woodland Management Services, L, Pasadena, 410-746-7402, 410-437-1056, bud@woodlandmgt.com

Jenny Reed, Gardens by Design, L, Takoma Park, 301-891-1569, jenny010@earthlink.net

Louisa Rogoff Thompson, Landscapes that Work!, L, Columbia, 410-715-9737, louisagardener@verizon.net

Mary Pat Rowan, Mary Pat Rowan, Landscape Architect, L, Washington, D.C., 202-526-8821, 202-526-8821, blair-rowan@starpower.net

Deborah M. Schwab, Deborah M. Schwab, LA, L, Annapolis, 410-268-5291, dschwabla@comcast.net

Irene S. Sinclair, Garden Designs, L, Washington, D.C., 202-966-5204

Brenda Skarphol, Green Spring Gardens, L, Hyattsville, 703-642-5173, 301-927-0043, bskarp@fairfaxcounty.gov

Kathleen Spry, Stone Creek Landscape Design, L, Odenton, 410-271-4152, 410-672-6420

Barry Stahl, G, L, Washington, D.C., 202-438-6624, 202-832-1525, jb.stahl@verizon.net

Shirley J. Street, L, Washington, D.C., 703-248-5105, 202-234-9622

Sara Tangren, Chesapeake Natives, G, S, Takoma Park, 301-580-6237, 301-580-6237, SATangren@chesapeakenatives.org

Native News

President's Annual Report for 2007

The Society is in good shape financially. As of December 31, 2007, we have over \$42,000 in the bank. Some monies are restricted to certain causes. Our annual budget income and expense was within the \$22,300 budgeted. All of our expenses have stayed within budget, thanks to the judicious management of the board members responsible for our various activities.

At the end of the year, our membership is at 530, just 4 over the previous year. This indicates that we need to have a new emphasis on member recruitment. However, we had 9 new life memberships and \$1340 in donations associated with memberships.

During 2007, the Society sponsored 12 monthly meetings for members, with subjects ranging from plant identification workshops to tree branch anatomy to "Why do these plants grow here; not there?" and "Economics: A very important subject for conservationists." Attendance lists kept during the year indicate that at least 200 individuals attended these meetings; many people came to numerous meetings. Several chapters, especially the Baltimore Area and the Western Mountains, also had regular members meetings. Other smaller chapters sponsored occasional meetings, field trips, and special events.

In addition, we had a very active field trip program, with almost 50 field trips being offered throughout the year. Our popular series, Civil War Fort Sites, had a field trip each month and by the December walk, had completed 67 field trips in the series. Among other field trips were Buck Lodge Community Park in Prince George's Co., a native plant garden tour, Nassawango Creek Canoe Trip, Gunpowder State Park-Hereford Area, Rock Creek Park, and the traditional Winter Solstice Walk at Chapman Forest.

At the annual planning meeting in January, the board established a standing Conference Committee. In the past, conferences had been organized by the chapters, but small chapters had trouble finding enough volunteers. It is hoped that having a standing committee with experienced volunteers will enable us to continue to have our conferences in different regions throughout the state.

With the newly established committee working with the Western Mountains Chapter, we were able to have the 2007 annual fall conference at Frostburg State University on the Allegany/Garrett County border. The theme was "Climate Change: Global Effects, Local Impacts/Western Maryland's Flora – At Risk? Two excellent speakers from the Nature Conservancy spoke on the difficulties facing northern species in western Maryland as the climate warms. For the first time, we had a photography contest with the winning photos exhibited at the conference. Over 90 people attended, and because the University offered us space free of charge, we actually broke even on the conference. Members of the Society had opportunities to see rare northern species in field trips to Cranesville Swamp, Finzel Swamp, Rock Lodge, The Glades, New Germany State Park and other special habitats of the Allegheny Plateau.

Regular invasive plant removal programs were sponsored by the Society at Ruth Swann Park near Chapman Forest. We support and cooperate with several other organizations such as Anacostia Watershed Society, Friends of Sligo Creek, American Chestnut Land Trust, Patuxent Research Center, Patuxent River Park, and Jug Bay Wetlands Center in efforts to remove invasive plants from natural areas. Society members also participated in identifying plants, removing English ivy, and planting native species at Magruder Park in Hyattsville.

This year, members of the Botany Committee initiated an effort to maintain lists of species seen on our field trips. Field trip leaders and participants were encouraged to keep checklists and send them to the committee representatives. Over 20 lists were prepared during the year and once they are standardized for format and nomenclature, they will be published on the website. At the invitation of the Izaak Walton League of Montgomery County, three board members visited their large property which contains well-known shale barren habitat. Both organizations hope that we can develop a mutually beneficial arrangement where we would survey the plants on the property for them and they would let us use their facility for field trips and/or meetings.

Activities of our conservation advocates continued strong. Our Montgomery County advocate testified for the Society on a proposed master plan for Little Bennett Regional Park. He also continued to monitor the progress of the lawsuit that the Society joined with the Audubon Naturalist Society against the proposed Inter-County Connector. After the judge ruled against our suit, in November the board voted to file an appeal of the decision. However, since the ANS later voted not to appeal, our appeal was left without the major partner and the pro-bono attorneys.

In Prince George's County, our conservation advocate worked to eliminate non-native invasive plants from the list of recommended plants in the county's Landscape Manual. She also brought local residents and officials to see the Buck Lodge Magnolia Bog. Later, when it was discovered that Pepco had mowed the bog, she helped facilitate the Maryland Department of Natural Resources arrangement with Pepco to establish a vegetation management plan in the bog area.

Our newsletter, *Native News*, continued to be published every other month. The newsletter contains announcements of upcoming meetings, field trips, invasive plant removals, a Wildflower in Focus column, and other items of interest to our members. Many volunteers help with mailing parties, held every other month before the members meeting. The website, www.mdflora.org keeps up to date information about programs, field trips, and other society activities, as well as links to other organizations and resources. Our list of recommended native plant nurseries was updated this year and is now available on the website. In September, the board reactivated the Native Plant Nursery Advisory Committee which will keep the list current.

Cris Fleming, 2007 President

Early Spring Field Trips

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C.

Region (70th in Series) – Fort De Russey

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

Date: Sunday, March 2 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

We will return to **Fort De Russey**, located in Rock Creek Park in Northwest Washington, D.C. We will investigate the Fort and then move down to the stream and look for early spring ephemerals.

Directions: Get to the intersection of Oregon Avenue and Military Road NW. Travel north on Oregon passing St. John's High School on the west and a military retirement home also on the west and then turn west on Tennyson St and park on the street there across from the park.

Bring: Water and lunch. **Note:** Easy to moderate walk. Light drizzle or snow is fine but cancelled if pouring rain.

Contact: Mary Pat Rowan blair-rowan@starpower.net or 202-526-8821.

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C.

Region (71st in Series) – Fort DuPont

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

Date: Sunday, April 6 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

We will return to **Fort DuPont**.

Directions: We will meet in the parking lot of the Ft. DuPont Activity Center off Randall Circle. Randall Circle is on Minnesota Avenue SE at Massachusetts Ave SE. Access via East Capital Street and go south on Minnesota Ave SE to Randall Circle which is at Mass Ave SE. Or, take I-295 from the beltway north to Pennsylvania Ave SE and turn north on Minnesota Ave. Travel north until you get to Mass Ave SE which is Randall Circle. Go around the circle and into the park at the sign and you will see the parking lot on your left.

Bring: Water and lunch. **Note:** Easy to moderate walk. Light drizzle is fine but cancelled if pouring rain.

Contact: Mary Pat Rowan blair-rowan@starpower.net or 202-526-8821.

Wildflowers for Beginners, Scott's Run, VA

(Joint VNPS-MNPS Field Trip)

Leaders: Laura Beaty and Marianne Mooney

Date: Saturday, April 12 **Time:** 10:00 am – noon

The spring wildflower season will be in full bloom in mid-April. Scott's Run Nature Preserve is the perfect place to celebrate spring and see a wonderful assortment of native plants in an enchanted setting. Hillside of trout lilies, Dutchman's breeches, and spring beauties are renowned in our area. Upland woods, a stream, waterfall, and the Potomac River ensure a rich and scenic variety of plant habitats. This walk is geared towards beginners and will be led by VNPS Potowmack Chapter board members Laura Beaty and Marianne Mooney.

Directions: From MD, take the Capital Beltway over the American Legion Bridge into Virginia and look immediately

for the Georgetown Pike (Rt. 193) exit on right. Take Georgetown Pike West approximately .7 of a mile to the second parking lot on the right (across from Swink's Mill Road). Meet in the lower parking lot at 10 am. No reservations necessary.

Spring Wildflowers in Ridge and Valley in PA

Leader: Lou Aronica

Date: Sunday, April 27 **Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Join us in a visit to a portion of a 40,000+ acre state game lands site for early wildflowers. We will try to cover a 2-5 mile route along stream valley and adjacent boulder strewn lower slopes, mostly dry hardwoods with rhododendron and hemlock along moist bottom. Small seeps throughout, mostly gentle slopes.

Directions: Proceed to Harrisburg, PA via I-83 (Baltimore area) or I-270 and Route 15 (D.C. area). Take Route 22-322 about 7 miles north to town of Dauphin – exit into town about 1000 feet – and gather in front of small shopping area on left. Together, we will take back road 6 miles to state game lands.

Bring: Lunch, water, and footwear for some moist but rocky terrain.

Contact: If you are late or lost, call cell phone 703-597-3711 to hook up.

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C.

Region (72nd in Series) – Fort Chaplin

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

Date: Sunday, May 4 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

We will return to **Fort Chaplin**, always a very special trip in May. We see wildflowers which only appear in May and each year at Fort Chaplin we seem to see more than the year before.

Directions: Meet on East Capital Street at 41st Street NE. Traveling east on Benning Road from Minnesota Ave NE go all the way to where Benning curves to the right and intersects with East Capital Street. Take a right on East Capital and head west a few blocks until you get to 41st Street NE on your right. Take a right and park on 41st or on East Capital if you can.

Bring: Water and lunch. **Note:** Easy to moderate walk. Light drizzle is fine but cancelled if pouring rain.

Contact: Mary Pat Rowan blair-rowan@starpower.net or 202-526-8821.

Native News Deadlines:

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

2008 Mailing Party Dates (preceding regular Monthly Meetings at White Oak Library):

Tuesdays at 6:30 pm: April 29, June 24, August 26.

~ Wildflower in Focus ~

TROUT-LILY (FAWN-LILY, ADDER'S-TONGUE, DOGTOOTH VIOLET)

Erythronium americanum Ker Gawler.

Lily Family (Liliaceae)

Written by
Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Artwork by
Tina Thieme Brown



Trout Lily
Erythronium americanum

Tina Thieme brown © 2008

Trout-lily is a common spring wildflower of floodplains, bottomlands, and moist woodlands throughout Maryland. Its mottled leaves and nodding yellow flowers carpet the ground in concert with spring beauty, Virginia bluebells, wild ginger, Jack in the pulpit, and other early flowering plants. **Flowers:** Yellow, nodding, with six petals (three petals and three petal-like sepals) that are reflexed when the blossom is mature. Flowers $\frac{3}{4}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ " long, borne singly on a 3 - 10" stalk. **Leaves:** Two basal (or nearly basal) leaves are $2\frac{1}{2}$ - 8" long, green with brown mottling (pattern is "trout"-like), ovate, lanceolate, oblanceolate or elliptic, entire. Young, sterile plants send up a single leaf and these often grow in dense colonies. **Height:** 3 - 10". **Range:** Eastern U.S. and Canada. **Similar Species:** Use the mottled leaves to separate this species from most other yellow-flowered members of the lily family. The white trout-lily (*E. albidum*), a Midwestern species which is rare in Maryland, grows in a few spots along the Potomac. A third *Erythronium* species, dimpled trout-lily (*E. umbilicatum*), which also has yellow flowers, has been found in western Maryland. **Blooming Time:** March - May. **Locations:** Rich moist woodlands throughout the state.

Wildflower in Focus text adapted from *An Illustrated Guide to Eastern Woodland Wildflowers and Trees: 350 Plants Observed at Sugarloaf Mountain, Maryland* (Choukas-Bradley and Brown, University of Virginia Press, paperback edition published January 2008).

Invasive Exotic Plant Removal Workdays

Ruth Swann Park/Chapman Forest, Charles

Dates: Sundays, March 2 and 9 and Saturday March 8
Time: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

On Saturdays we will walk through Swann Park and on Sundays we will walk through Chapman Forest. We will rescue native plants from non-native invasive plants, remove trash, participate in water quality sampling, and hear introductory talks about climate action. We will look for and remove invasive plants, identify and appreciate the native plants and animals we have rescued, bag trash we come across, and participate in water quality sampling on the wetlands meadow tributary to the Mattawoman Creek in Swann Park. Starting in 1999, volunteers have removed almost all of the English ivy, Japanese stiltgrass, Chinese privet, Swedish ivy, Asiatic bittersweet, Japanese knotweed, Japanese honeysuckle, and other plants from Europe and Asia to rescue native violets, ferns, orchids, asters, St. Andrew's cross, and other native American plants that contribute to global biological diversity. These native plants provide ecosystem services that reduce CO2 emissions and storm water and nitrogen runoff to the Chesapeake Bay. Invasive species, especially vines, generally can survive the new climate better. Participating organizations with speakers include MNPS www.mdflora.org, Sierra Club, <http://maryland.sierraclub.org> and Chesapeake Climate Action Network www.chesapeakeclimate.org.

Directions: Meet at the Ruth B. Swann Park-Potomac Branch Library parking lot, 20 miles south of Capital Beltway on Rt. 210 (Indian Head Hwy), about a mile and a half south from the traffic light on Rt. 210 in Bryans Road. Give yourself 30 to 40 minutes from the Beltway.

Bring: Casual clothing, long sleeves and pants, sturdy comfortable walking boots/shoes; gloves are encouraged for these events.

Contact: Marc Imlay, 301-283-0808, 301-442-5657 cell.

Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, Anne Arundel

Date: Saturday, April 5 **Time:** 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Join our team to remove the non-native invasive plants from our forests and nip these NIPs in the bud before they spread and threaten the special habitats and rare plants found on the Sanctuary. Those interested in continuing this effort throughout the year can adopt their very own plot to monitor, map, and manage the invasives.

Directions: JBWS 410-741-9330 or www.jugbay.org.

Bring: Wear long sleeves, long pants, and sturdy work shoes. Bring water, and if you have them, work gloves and hand pruners. **Note:** Children should be at least 8 years old.

Contact: Karyn Molines kmolines@chesapeake.net or 410-286-2928.

Battling Botanical Bullies in Bear Pen Wildland, Garrett County

Date: Friday, April 18 **Time:** 9:00 am – noon

Adult volunteers are needed to continue control efforts of Japanese spiraea in the Bear Pen Run area of Savage River State Forest. Bear Pen is designated as a Type 1 Wildland and like other natural areas around the State is threatened by a variety of exotic invasive species. We'll be working to continue our efforts to reduce the infestation using both mechanical and chemical control methods. Kerrie Kyde, Invasive Plant Specialist with the Maryland Wildlife & Heritage Service, is providing technical support. Larry Maxim, Savage River State Forest manager, is providing work tools. Mike Gregory, Big Run & New Germany State Park manager, is providing free camping the night before for any out-of-town volunteers. Ron Boyer, Elk Ridge NatureWorks, is coordinating the project and providing snacks and drinks for volunteers with assistance from the Savage River Watershed Association.

Note: For more details or to register, contact Ron Boyer 301-895-3686 or info@elkridgenatureworks.com.

Sligo Creek Park, Montgomery County

Friends of Sligo Creek will have a number of events for easy-pull garlic mustard this spring, starting **April 19-20**. See www.fosc.org/RIPEventSched.htm. We welcome newcomers, can provide gloves, and are accepted by MCPS for volunteer service hours. No need to pre-register.

Contact: Sally Gagne 301-588-2071 or RIP@fosc.org.

Greenbelt National Park, Greenbelt, Prince George's County

Days/Times: First Saturday monthly, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Located just 12 miles from Washington, D.C., Greenbelt Park is a beloved retreat from the city and an important refuge for native plants and animals. Come join us in defending Greenbelt Park from encroachment by alien invasive plant growth. Volunteers will be hand pulling harmful non-native plants such as Japanese honeysuckle, beefsteak mint, mile-a-minute weed, and garlic mustard. People of all ages, backgrounds, and interests are invited to spend a fun day outdoors while learning about the differences between native and non-native plants and helping to preserve the health and native wildlife of this local natural area.

Directions: From the Capital Beltway, take Kenilworth Ave south about ¼ mile to Greenbelt Rd, MD 193 (Kenilworth goes under 193). Stay to the right so you can take MD 193 East (a left to go over Kenilworth) for only a few hundred yards to the park entrance. Follow the signs to the Sweetgum picnic area.

Bring: Lunch, drink, and appropriate clothing for weather.

Contact: For any questions and information about upcoming events, contact Tom Crone at tomnjan@erols.com or 301-864-1959.

MNPS Announcements, Contd.

MNPS Board Meeting Schedule for 2008

MNPS members are welcome at the bi-monthly meetings of the Board of Directors. The meetings are held every other month on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Shorefield House in Wheaton Regional Park. From the center of Wheaton, go north on Georgia Avenue, turn right at Shorefield Road (traffic light), go to the end of Shorefield Road and bear left to Shorefield House. Since the meetings are held in a back room, you may have to go around to the back door if the front door is locked. The schedule for 2008 is: Mondays, March 10, May 12, July 14, September 8, and November 10.

List of Native Plant Professionals

[Continued from Page 4]

Thorpewood L, Thurmont, 301-271-2823

Janet Townshend, Neighborhood Design Center, L, Hyattsville, 301-779-6010, 301-864-0817, jtownshend@ndc-md.org

Charmane W. Truesdell, Dreamscape Associates, Inc., L, Montpelier, 301-490-4478, 301-490-4478, dreamscapesassoc@comcast.net

Keith Underwood, Keith Underwood & Associates, L, Annapolis, 410-849-3211, bogs@comcast.net

Sydney Vallentyne, St. John's Botanicals, Inc., G, S, L, Bowie, 301-262-5302, stjohnswholesale@aol.com

Frank Vleck, Wakefield Valley Nursery, S, L, New Windsor, 410-635-2169, 410-635-6964, wfvn@qis.net

Rebecca J. Wertime, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (BayScapes Program), L, Greencastle, PA, 717-737-8622, 717-597-2213

Lauren Wheeler, L, Washington, D.C., 202-489-6215, 202-832-9660, natural_resources@earthlink.net

Erik Wicklein, Wicklein's Water Gardens, G, S, L, Baltimore, 410-823-1335, 410-296-2711, ewicklein@earthlink.net

Virginia Lee Winston, Virginia Provenzano Winston Landscape Designs and Gardens, G, S, Martinsburg, WV, 304-264-4783, 304-267-6924, virginia@winstongardens.com

Jeffrey Wolinski, Consulting Ecologist, L, Lovettsville, VA, 410-274-7678, 540-882-4947, jeffwolinski@aol.com

General Announcements

American Chestnut Land Trust, Prince Frederick Hiking Trail Maintenance Day - Join ACLT staff and volunteers as we work on the hiking trails in preparation for spring and summer hikers. Cook out and picnic lunch provided for volunteers at Noon.

Saturday, March 8, 9:00 am – 12:00 Noon

Vine Vindicator Workdays - This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about native species in the mid-Atlantic area and what you can do to help create healthy landscapes. Non-native invasive species are detrimental to the health of native species. The ACLT will provide instructions, showing where invasive plants and vines are of the greatest threat, how and when to remove them, and how and why they are here. Saturday: March 29

Special Presentation - "A Sense of Wonder: A Play Based on the Life of Rachel Carson"

Acclaimed actress Kaiulani Lee has written and will perform this one-woman play based on the life and works of environmentalist Rachel Carson at St. John Vianney Family Life Center. Sunday, March 30, time to be announced; Admission fee.

For the most up to date information, details and directions please visit www.acltweb.org or contact Charity R. Higgs, ACLT Community Relations Coordinator, 410-414-3400 or volunteer@acltweb.org.

Lahr Native Plant Symposium/Plant Sale

Saturday, March 29, 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

U.S. National Arboretum

The annual Lahr Symposium explores the importance of native plants in our landscapes. This year's program, Native Plants: Cultivars Considered, will focus on how native plant cultivars fit into our gardens and the possible effects our garden choices have on the natural world. Tony Avent, renowned horticulturist and owner of Plant Delights Nursery, will explore this topic along with speakers from research, public gardens, and the nursery trade. All registrants gain early entry to the **Native Plant Sale**. Lunch included with registrations received before March 22.

Fee: \$85 (\$68 FONAs) Registration required.

For full program details and registration form:

<http://www.usna.usda.gov/Education/events.html>

10th Annual Audubon Society of Central Maryland Native Plant Sale

Date: Saturday, April 26 **Time:** 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

This event features plants selected to support watershed-friendly gardening, and is a major fundraiser for our local Audubon programs. Please visit our website for a full listing of plants: <http://www.centralmdaudubon.org/>

Directions: Sale will be held at the Audrey Carroll Sanctuary which is located at:

13030 Old Annapolis Road, Frederick, MD 21701

Bring: A garden cart to help get your new plants safely to your car.

Contact: Lisa Taylor ldtaylor9901@verizon.net or us013410@mindspring.com.

Maryland Big Tree Program Volunteers Needed

The Maryland Big Tree Program Committee is looking for volunteers to help with measuring Maryland's Big Trees. There is no cost to you and training will be provided. Typically a Big Tree Measurement Day takes place on a Saturday and lasts for about 5 hours, but other BTMDs may occur on weekdays and be of shorter duration. Volunteers should be able to walk up to ½ mile at a time over rough ground if necessary. For additional details, contact John Bennett at dottiejobennett@aol.com.

Capital Science 2008 Conference

Dates: Saturday and Sunday, March 29-30

The Washington Academy of Sciences and its Affiliated Societies will hold the third in our series of our biennial pan-Affiliate Conferences, Capital Science 2008. It will be held in the Conference Facility of the National Science Foundation in Arlington, VA at the Ballston Metro stop. With over 20 of our Affiliates participating, the Conference will serve as an umbrella for scientific presentations, seminars, tutorials, and talks. These pan-Affiliate Conferences underline the fact that the Washington, D.C. area is not only the political capital of the country but, in many respects, the nation's intellectual capital -- with several major universities and government laboratories that are the homes of an astonishing number of Nobel laureates. The Maryland and Virginia Native Plant Societies, Botanical Society of Washington, American Society of Plant Biologists - Washington Section, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, Society of American Foresters - Washington Section, and Biological Society of Washington are all affiliates and will be giving presentations and talks at the conference. Google Capital Science 2008 or go to <http://www.washacadsci.org/capsci08/Index.htm> for complete information and directions.

Microscopic Identification and Characterization of Botanicals and Plant Materials

Objective: To introduce the student to the terms, techniques, and literature used to identify unknown botanical material as a basis for further study.

Goals: During this course the student is expected to learn basic optical theory and to have enough practice that they become comfortable purchasing, maintaining, and using compound light microscopes, brightfield, and polarized light for the analysis of plant material. The student is expected to learn the value of voucher specimens, the diagnostic features of ground plant material and where to go in order to get information on botanical nomenclature, literature, botany, and plant anatomy. This is an intensive five day course with an approximately equal mixture of lecture and hands on training. At the end of the course the student should be able to write a brief monograph identifying the different cell types present in the sample and use the web to gather additional information on plant taxonomy. Maximum class size is 12 with a teacher to student ratio of 1:6.

Dates/Times: March 10 - 13, 2008, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm and March 14, 8:00 am to noon. **Location:** Food and Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, College Park. **Cost:** This course has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, Office of Dietary Supplements. The participants are responsible for their own travel, lodging, and meals while attending the course. There is a \$50 registration fee. **Instructors:** George C. Ziobro, Ph.D. and Stanley Cichowicz (FDA retired).

Registration: Contact Mr. Stanley Cichowicz at microscopist@yahoo.com.

Working to Conserve Wildlife Habitat in Your Community

Deadline for Registration is March 7.

Communities that are enriched with green space are providing a critical connection with nature that is becoming scarce in traditional developments. To help communities create or preserve wildlife habitat the Howard County Dept. of Recreation & Parks has teamed up with the National Wildlife Federation for the 5th year to offer Habitat Stewards training. The Department is looking for adult volunteers to attend this training to be available as resource persons to assist members of their community to create an environment that is beneficial for humans and wildlife. Specifically, Habitat Stewards volunteers will help others create and restore wildlife habitat in backyards, schoolyards, and other private and public areas in the community. The Department and the National Wildlife Federation believes that enhancing and conserving wildlife habitat in your community fosters a sense of ecological awareness and responsibility in children and adults alike, and provides limitless hands-on learning opportunities, as well as the ability for individuals to positively impact their local environment. Native wildlife, citizens of the community, and neighboring communities all feel the rewards of efforts to preserve wildlife and wildlife habitat. A Habitat Stewards volunteer is: someone who is interested in wildlife, ecology, gardening, and habitat conservation, and believes in hands-on, experiential learning. The training includes comprehensive study on topics ranging from butterfly gardening to creating your own water garden. It will be offered at Recreation & Parks Headquarters in the evenings on 3/11, 3/13, 3/18, 3/20, 3/22, 3/25, and 3/27 from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. The Saturday class will be from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Participants must be able to attend all classes to qualify. The cost of the program is \$45.00. The National Wildlife Federation has certified over 70,000 backyards, schoolyards, workplaces, and other community spaces across the nation since the program began in 1973. For a habitat site to become officially certified by the NWF, it must provide four essential habitat elements: a source of food, water, cover, and places to raise young. Persons interested in registering for this training should contact Brenda Belensky, Natural Resource Manager 410-313-4724.

Environmental Concern 2008 Wetland Training Schedule

The Wetland Learning Center in St. Michaels (Eastern Shore) includes the nation's first wholesale wetland plant nursery - currently growing over 120 different species, and an active restoration department engaged in cutting edge enhancement, restoration, and creation initiatives. Learn more about us at www.wetland.org. Register now - Spaces are Limited

Basic Wetland Delineation

Students and professionals just entering the field of wetland science, as well as those needing a review, should attend this five-day (40-hour) course on the 1987 Corps of Engineers

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wetland delineation method. The course covers the Clean Water Act Section 404 regulations, individual wetland parameters of vegetation, soils, and hydrology. Both routine and comprehensive methods as well as atypical situations and problem area wetlands are covered. Participants complete several wetland delineations. Instructor: Marc Seelinger. Dates: March 10-14 and November 10-14. Cost: \$900. Wetland Permit Writing (Maryland) - June 25 (NEW 2008) Introduction to Wetland Botany - July 10-11 Advanced Plant Identification - August 4-5 Living Shoreline Design and Construction - August 20-21 Scholarships are available. Full course descriptions, instructor bios, and registration information can be found at www.wetland.org. Call or email Bronwyn Mitchell, Education Director for more information: dir.educate@wetland.org or 410-745-9620.

Celebrate Trilliums!

April 17 – 19, Wilmington, Delaware
Mt. Cuba Center and its sponsoring partners invite you to the Trillium Symposium. The setting for the symposium is the Brandywine Valley, an area in northern Delaware known for its natural beauty, world-class museums, and magnificent gardens. The purpose of this two-day conference (and optional third-day field trip) is to bring together academic and industry professionals, as well as expert gardeners, to address the science, conservation, and horticulture of trilliums of Eastern North America. Attendees will gain an understanding of the biology of trilliums, their ecology, conservation challenges, and issues impacting their propagation and production. Colleagues with a wide range of expertise will join us to share ideas and information to further our understanding of this intriguing genus. To access schedule and session descriptions: <http://trilliumsymposium2008.org>. To access registration information: <http://trilliumsymposium2008.org/registration.html>.

Olmsted Woods Walk and Bird Walks

All Hallows Guild at Washington National Cathedral launched the Olmsted Woods Restoration Project in 1997, completed the final phase, the restoration of the Amphitheater, in 2007. All Hallows Guild was founded in 1916 to be responsible “for the care and beautification of the Cathedral gardens and grounds.” In fall 2008 a new Olmsted Woods program for group tours will be announced.

WOODS WALK

Thursday, April 24 at 10:00 am – THE HISTORY AND FOLKLORE OF FLOWERS

Leaders: Annette Lasley, native plant specialist. How did wildflowers get their names? This Walk will focus on identifying wildflowers and their natural history, religious symbolism, and folklore.

BIRD WALKS

Thursdays, May 7 and May 14 at 8:30 am

In the restored Woods a guiding principle is the inclusion

of groundcovers, shrubs, and trees attractive to birds and other wildlife. Bring your binoculars and catch the spring migration with experienced birder Sheila Cochran.

For the tours: Participants meet at the George Washington Statue on Pilgrim Road, which is on the south side of the Cathedral. Visitor parking is available in the Cathedral garage accessible off Wisconsin Ave. No reservations are required and all programs are free. Programs will be cancelled in the event of heavy rain. Woodlands Info Line: 202-537-2319. Please wear sturdy waterproof shoes.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Care of the Olmsted Woods is an ongoing effort. If you would like to help, please call Maureen Alonso, Cathedral Horticulture Manager: 202-537-2203.

Red Spruce Restoration Workday at The Glades Preserve, Garrett County

Date: Saturday, April 26 **Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Please join us as we transport red spruce seedlings rescued from a West Virginia right-of-way and replant them on a beautiful preserve. The Glades used to be covered with spruce before intensive logging stripped them from the landscape. This is the first of a 3-year “follow-up” planting effort at this preserve. From 1996-1998, we planted 14,000 red spruce seedlings at The Glades. In order to create some age diversity among these trees, we are now returning to the site to plant another 3-year round of seedlings.

Directions to meeting location will be sent directly to volunteers who sign up.

Carpool Info: We will help coordinate carpools to those interested as we get closer to the date.

Bring: Water and lunch, work gloves, and comfortable boots that you don't mind getting wet. Dress for variable weather, it can be cool and rainy!

Contact: Deborah Landau dlandau@tnc.org or 301-897-8750 x211.

Maryland Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation

(MDTACF) is a member of the Maryland Native Plant Society. Our goal is to restore the American chestnut to eastern forests. An important part of our mission is carrying out the backcross breeding program of TACF in Maryland using Maryland American chestnut trees as mother trees. We had a very successful pollination program for Maryland mother trees in 2007 which produced more than two thousand advanced backcross seeds. We will be planting these seeds in Maryland orchards this spring, during the last half of March and the first half of April. I invite members of MNPS to visit our website at www.mdtaf.org to view the specifics of our planting plans, and to **contact** me, Essie Burnworth, President, by email at mdchapter@acf.org or by phone 301-762-6715 if you would like to help.



Maryland Native Plant Society
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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

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