

Native News

Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

September/October 2008

Volume 8 Number 5

Inside This Issue:

President's Letter
Page 2

~

MNPS Contacts
Page 2

~

MNPS Announcements
Page 3

~

Members' Moments
Page 5

~

Late Summer/Autumn Field Trips
Page 6

~

Wildflower in Focus
Page 8

~

In Memoriam
Page 9

~

Upcoming Native Plant Sale
Page 9

~

General Announcements
Page 9

~

MNPS Bylaw Amendments
Page 9

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

“The Case of the Promiscuous Quillworts”

Tuesday, September 30, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Join Carl Taylor, botanist with the National Science Foundation, for a presentation on one of the world's most ancient, adaptable, but little-known plant groups called Quillworts (*Isoetes*). Carl will show how to recognize Quillworts by their incredibly conserved form and how they are identified when you find them in their diverse and wonderful habitats worldwide. He will also take you through their almost human-like life history, and explain how DNA, with evidence from other clues, is used to help us define species in general and Quillwort species in particular. The extraordinary evolutionary history of Quillworts will be revealed in “The Case of the Promiscuous Quillworts.”

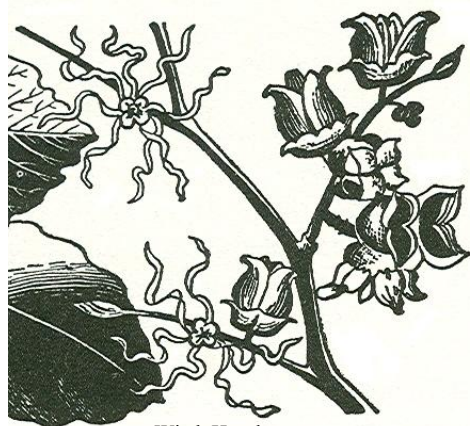
“Roots: The Underground Business End of the Tree System”

Tuesday, October 28, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Richard Murray, Arborist and MNPS member, will continue with his series of talks about tree biology. This topic, roots, involves action, drama and mystery. Components of the root system, tied to growth and metabolic processes are continuously active and changing. The drama occurs through the quest for space and the competition for resources with thousands of soil organisms and other plants. Mystery lies below ground. Roots are physically difficult to study, which has contributed to confusion and generalizations. Let's take a closer look, together, to better understand this topic. Samples will be used to help convey concepts. A summary period for questions and answers will follow the break. Richard would like to announce the release of his new book, *Tree Biology Notebook: An Introduction to the Science and Ecology of Trees*. Copies will be available at the talk.

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.



Witch Hazel



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

Contacts:

Botany..... Rod Simmons
cecropia13@msn.com
Conservation..... John Parrish
info@mdflora.org
Field Trips..... Meghan Tice
cecropia13@msn.com
301-809-0139
Flora of Maryland..... Joe Metzger
jmetzger50@hotmail.com
Habitat Stewardship..... Marc Imlay
ialm@erols.com
Membership..... Karyn Molines
kmolines@chesapeake.net
410-286-2928
Monthly Meetings..... Rod Simmons
cecropia13@msn.com
Outreach..... Carolyn Fulton
cofulton@chesapeake.net
President..... Cris Fleming
cjfleming@aol.com
Publications:
Marilandica..... Rod Simmons
cecropia13@msn.com
Native News..... Meghan Tice
cecropia13@msn.com
Website..... Iris Mars
info@mdflora.org

Executive Officers:

Cris Fleming, President
Marc Imlay, Vice President
Linda Keenan, Vice President
John Parrish, Vice President
Carolyn Fulton, Secretary
Gary Steele, Treasurer

Board of Directors:

Lou Aronica	Albert Hartley
Matthew Bazar	Brady Hartley
Carole Bergmann	Beth Johnson
Marney Bruce	Kirsten Johnson
Melanie Choukas-Bradley	Karyn Molines
Amy Doll	Mary Pat Rowan
Jim Gallion	Roderick Simmons

President's Letter

A few cool days this week have hinted at the bright, clear days of early fall. It is one of my favorite times of year. Suddenly the air is clean, the sky bright blue, and the sunlight filters softly across the fields.

Just three weeks to go before the MNPS Fall Conference! If you haven't sent in your registration form yet, do it right now! This year we are returning to the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay to learn about several diverse natural communities of the region, such as Freshwater Tidal Wetlands and Pine Barrens Woodlands. Field trips planned in nearby areas, including the estuarine habitats of the Jug Bay Wetlands Center and the dry woods of the Pine Barrens communities, will illustrate some of the examples of the morning speakers. A special treat will be a talk at the Saturday evening Social by Bill Sipple, well-known expert wetland ecologist.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the Governance Committee has been working for several months to reword the MNPS mission statement and update the bylaws. At the July 14 meeting, the board unanimously approved the two revisions proposed by the Governance Committee. The mission statement, which was revised to include our work in advocacy and to be stated more actively, does not have to be approved by the membership. The new statement reads "The Maryland Native Plant Society's mission is to promote awareness, appreciation, and conservation of Maryland's native plants and their habitats. We pursue our mission through education, research, advocacy, and service activities." This wording will be posted on our web page and on our publications as soon as possible. The updating of the bylaws has been very carefully discussed and researched by the committee through many meetings and emails. The Society is fortunate to have an attorney, Kirsten Johnson, as the chair of the committee. This revision does need the approval of the members so please read the article by Kirsten in this newsletter [inside back cover]. The complete revised bylaws can be read on the MNPS web page.

The Nominating Committee is looking for nominations for the Board of Directors for one or two year terms starting in January 2009. Please see the article by Melanie Choukas-Bradley in this newsletter and contact Melanie if you want to nominate someone (including yourself).

Some activities of your board since the last newsletter include four members representing MNPS at a walk of the Upper Paint Branch sponsored by the Anacostia Watershed Society in an effort to gather support in the state legislature to cut off funds for the ICC. We also contributed \$200 to this cause. Representing MNPS, Marc Imlay testified against the proposed Charles County Connector at a hearing on July 31. And happily to be "for" something rather than "against," MNPS joined the new Maryland chapter of "No Child Left Inside," an organization dedicated to getting kids out-of-doors and supportive of environmental education in our schools. Several chapters had requests to join this group, so the whole organization's membership will cover all the chapters.

Far more than on New Year's Day, fall always seems like the beginning of the year to me. It is a time to make lists and do chores, but also a time just to be outdoors to revel in the glorious weather. After a day spent walking along the towpath or paddling on the river, I always agree with the poet who wrote, "The autumn sheaves are dewless, dry; but I have had the day."

~ Cris Fleming



MNPS Announcements

Greater Baltimore Area Chapter Meeting

Introduction to Irvine Nature Center's

New Location in Caves Valley

Wednesday, September 17

NEW Time: 6:00 pm short walk (optional) through the upland woods to the overlook, from which we can see the rest of the property; 6:30 pm program.

NEW Location: Irvine Nature Center, 11201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD

With Irvine Nature Center's move to their new Caves Valley site, the Greater Baltimore chapter inaugurates a new phase. In addition to our usual calendar of speakers and field trips, we now have the opportunity for volunteers to establish a long-term relationship with a piece of land – a native plant demonstration garden or meadow or forest restoration planting. Join us for an overview of the existing plant communities, Irvine's programs and its plans for the land, and a discussion of our potential roles there. Gardening, teaching, even research, are possibilities. We are also looking for additional members for our Steering Committee. For more information, contact Louisa Thompson (louisagardener@comcast.net) or Ann Lundy (annlundy@verizon.net).

Directions: From the Baltimore Beltway (I-695) take exit 19 (I-795 North) to exit 4 (Owings Mills Blvd). Stay in right-hand lane of the exit toward Rte. 140/Reisterstown Rd. Go 2.3 miles (4 stoplights); take a right at the 5th light onto Crondall Lane. Continue on Crondall Lane until it dead-ends in Garrison Forest Road. Turn right onto Garrison Forest Rd. The entrance to Irvine Nature Center is .3 miles on left.

A New Opportunity to Put Down Roots

Getting to know individual native plants over the seasons and through the years, watching their habitat evolve, and observing how animals interact with them deepens our understanding of the web of life and can develop into a profound connection with nature. Plants are living beings, and it is no coincidence that ecologists refer to the way plants and animals live together in their shared habitat as a "community." Many of us joined MNPS to become more conscious members of our ecological community. Some of us grow native plants around our homes and some participate in MNPS' habitat stewardship projects, removing invasive plants to give the natives a better chance to survive, but also to give ourselves a chance to get our hands into the soil and, in effect, to put down roots of our own.

This summer, Irvine Nature Center moves to its new home in Owings Mills, and MNPS' *Greater Baltimore Area Chapter* moves with it. Situated on the edge of Caves Valley, one of Baltimore County's limestone valleys on the Cockeysville Marble Formation, the property is a farm surrounded by wetlands, woodlots, and steep but short

forested slopes climbing to an acidic schist plateau. The lime-influenced wetland soils resemble those of the Midwest more than those typical of the Maryland Piedmont, which is why a number of Midwestern plants otherwise rare in Maryland are found there.

Plant ecologist Charlie Davis, restoration ecologist Jeff Wolinski, and Irvine's Land Manager Erin Wisnieski have inventoried the plants and animals in each habitat, creating a database that school children – and MNPS members – will add to over the years.

The site is very far from pristine, having been farmed for centuries. That has one great advantage: We can plant there.

On land preserved because it is relatively undisturbed, MNPS stewardship projects remove invasives in order to allow the roots of existing natives to resprout and their seeds to germinate. But volunteer projects limited to weeding are not for everyone. Some of us have a great urge to plant. And then to nurture those plants from seed or seedling to maturity and on through the years. And maybe to observe and record what we have seen, or to teach others how to guide degraded plant communities, impoverished or overrun with invasives, toward a healthy, resilient diversity.

At our September 17 meeting there will be a half-hour walk before the program to see some of the areas in need of restoration (including a large deer enclosure). Then we will have a presentation by Nature Center staff, followed by a discussion of the opportunities there and the desires of our members. Thus we will begin to shape our future involvement in the stewardship of these hundred-odd acres.

If you've been looking for a place to put down some roots in a native plant community, please join us.

~ Louisa Thompson

Western Mountains Chapter Meeting

The Deep and Tangled Roots of Pennsylvania's Ginseng Industry

The *Western Mountains Chapter of Maryland Native Plant Society* will hold its regular meeting at the Appalachian Lab in Frostburg on Tuesday, October 21 at 7:00 pm. The guest speaker will be Eric Burkhart, instructor and program director for Shaver's Creek Environmental Center in Pennsylvania. Mr. Burkhart will give his PowerPoint presentation called "The Deep and Tangled Roots of Pennsylvania's Ginseng Industry." His program will begin immediately following a brief business meeting. The public is welcome to attend.

American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius* L.) is a native North American forest plant whose root is harvested for the international medicinal plant trade. In this talk, Eric Burkhart, doctoral candidate with the Penn State School of Forest Resources, will share results from his recently concluded four-year study of the Pennsylvania ginseng industry. The history, importance, and complexity of the industry will be discussed along with what is known about

Native News

the current status of one of North America's most valuable, and vulnerable, plants.

Eric Burkhart provides training and outreach in botany and horticulture including teaching courses for the Penn State School of Forest Resources on agroforestry, woody and herbaceous plant identification, and nonnative invasive flora. Working with partners such as the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Eric also conducts research on native plants of economic and conservation importance (e.g., American ginseng and goldenseal) and offers practical guidance through related workshops and publications. Eric holds degrees in Economic Botany/Ethnobotany (B.A, Idaho State University) and Horticulture (M.S., Penn State University), and is completing a PhD in Forest Resources (Penn State University). A native of the Pittsburgh region, he and his wife Lisa White, a local artisan, live in Pine Grove Mills, Pennsylvania.

Directions: From I-68 take exit 33 (Braddock Rd & Midlothian Rd exit). Follow Braddock Road approximately .2 miles to the entrance to the Appalachian Lab on the left side of the road (301 Braddock Road). There is plenty of parking in front of the building. For more information call Liz McDowell at 301-895-3686.



2008 Annual Fall Conference

Ecological Communities of the Western Shore of the Chesapeake Bay September 20-21

Location: Smithsonian Environmental Education Center
Edgewater, Anne Arundel County

Early Registration Fee: Members: \$50; Nonmembers: \$65
(includes lunch) Saturday Social Fee: \$30 (includes dinner)

This year we will focus on the Western Shores of the Chesapeake, from brackish tidal wetlands to the riparian forests of the Patuxent River. We will highlight the recently described Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*) Coastal Plain Bottomland Forest communities found in Prince George's County. Our annual fall conference starts Saturday with a morning of speakers followed by afternoon and Sunday field trips throughout the region. The evening Saturday Social offers an opportunity to catch up with others. Additional details can be found on our website www.mdflora.org or contact Karyn Molines, Fall Conference Chair kmolines@chesapeake.net (preferred) or 410-286-2928.

2008 Photo Show and Contest

Please bring your best photos to the Fall Conference for our second annual photography show. Entries must be framed and matted with no name displayed. At the photo show registration we will record the photographer's name and assign a number and category to be displayed beside each entry in the show. The categories are the same as last year: Maryland Native Plants; Wildlife with Native Plants; and Threatened Maryland Habitats. Attendees will cast their votes on (recycled) paper ballots by selecting a numbered photo for their favorite in each category. Winning photographs in each category will be announced at the social, and they will receive recognition on the mdflora.org website. You can contact Albert Hartley with questions at albert@sprucent.com (please put "MNPS photo show" in the email subject header).

Nominating Committee Announcement

The Nominating Committee is seeking interested members for the Board of Directors. Nominees do not need botanical expertise, but must be interested in native plants and their habitats, able to attend 6 Board meetings a year, and to serve on at least one committee. Serving on the Board is a fun and rewarding way to pursue your passion for native plants, education, and conservation. If you're interested, please write Melanie Choukas-Bradley at choukas@erols.com or 7100 Oakridge Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

Anne Arundel/Prince George's Cos. Chapter

Matt T. Salo 301-341-1261

mtsalo1@excite.com or mtsalo1@gmail.com

Catoctin Chapter

catchapter@mdflora.org

Joe Metzger 410-775-7737

Jim and Teresa Gallion 301-898-0678

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/catoctinmnps/>

Eastern Shore Chapter

eschapter@mdflora.org

Leslie Hunter-Cario 410-745-9620

Greater Baltimore Area Chapter

baltchapter@mdflora.org

Ann Lundy 410-366-9365

Northeast Chapter

(Matthew Bazar) nechapter@mdflora.org

Southern Maryland Chapter

somdchapter@mdflora.org

Karyn Molines 410-286-2928

Washington, D.C. Chapter

dchapter@mdflora.org

Mary Pat Rowan 202-526-8821

Western Mountains Chapter

wmdchapter@mdflora.org

Liz McDowell 301-895-3686

Not receiving our monthly emails?

Check that mnps@chesapeake.net is in your address book or list of approved emails—spam blockers might be rejecting the emails. To verify that we have your correct email address, send a message to mnps@chesapeake.net.

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: Mondays, September 8, and November 10.

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. 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 9/1/2008 your membership expires at the end of September. 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.

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:

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.

All photos: Must be in JPEG (.jpg) format; file size should be < 200 KB; email to mnps_photos@yahoo.com. 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).

The Maryland Native Plant Society's mission is to promote awareness, appreciation, and conservation of Maryland's native plants and their habitats. We pursue our mission through education, research, advocacy, and service activities.

Members' Moments

Maryland Autumn

By Melanie Choukas-Bradley

There comes a time in mid-summer when a cool day with low humidity reminds me of autumn rather than spring. Today is one of those days!

I grew up in Vermont, where autumn hillsides of sugar maple, white birch, spruce, and hemlock are legendary. However, I've lived in Maryland for many years, and I would no longer trade a Maryland fall for a Vermont one. The promise of this cool day reminds me of why.

For the next three months, we Marylanders will experience a profusion of fall wildflowers, changing leaves, ripening and falling fruit, and—hopefully—a delightful mixture of sunny and rainy days. On the first crisp autumn days I like to climb Sugarloaf Mountain, a small monadnock that crowns the rural piedmont near Frederick. The mountain's tupelos turn a mixture of peach, scarlet, and wine and the black birches near the summit create golden windfalls of sharply toothed leaves. The dramatically sculpted table mountain pines springing from Sugarloaf's quartzite cliffs overlooking the Frederick Valley stand out in sharp relief in autumn sunshine or mist. Asters, goldenrods, and Eupatoriums—pink Joe-Pye-weeds, violet-hued mistflowers, and brilliant white snakeroot—adorn the mountain from the wooded base to the rocky summit. In the seeps and springs along Bear Branch (a small tributary of Bennett Creek), the great blue lobelias bloom. And along the mountain trails, the curious wiry stems of small dittany plants bear lavender-colored blooms. When the chestnut oaks start letting go of their acorns, look out!

Chestnut Oak (*Quercus prinus*)



On misty later autumn days I like to wander leisurely along Rock Creek, where I'm sure to hear the loud scolding of a kingfisher making its way down the creek, between the boughs of brassy-leafed sycamores, golden tulip-trees, cinnamon-barked river birches, sinewy ironwoods, and fruit-laden spicebush. The tall trees of this historic park disappear into the autumn mist and fallen leaves and bitternut hickory nuts line the path.

As I sit at the picnic table in my back yard with Joe-pye-weed plants bending over the garden fence and black-eyed Susans and blue vervain in bloom on this summer day, I anticipate all these autumn pleasures. Before the witch-hazels bloom and the first snow flies, I hope to spend many hours and days soaking up the beauty of our regional woods, fields, and wetlands. Maybe I'll see you out there!

(Melanie Choukas-Bradley is a MNPS board member. MNPS members are welcome to submit short essays for consideration for the "members' moments" column.)

Late Summer/Autumn Field Trips

Gunpowder State Park – Hereford Area

Leader: Dwight Johnson

Date: Sunday, September 7 **Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

This will be a 4-mile nature and exercise hike along the Gunpowder from Masemore Rd to Prettyboy Dam. There will be steep and very rocky sections along the trail. We will stop for anything that is interesting. We should find a good variety of ferns and wildflowers.

Directions: From the Baltimore Beltway go north on I-83 for 12 miles and take exit 27 onto Mount Carmel Rd. Proceed west for 0.7 miles and make a right at Masemore Rd and proceed for another 1.5 miles to parking area. The speed limit is posted at 10 miles at the bottom of Masemore Rd. Believe it. There is a very sharp narrow turn at the mill.

Bring: Lunch and water. Binoculars might be handy. Hiking boots are highly recommended.

Note: Rain or shine. If you need to pick up a sandwich, Graul's Supermarket is located in the shopping center on Mt Carmel Rd at the I-83 exit. You will want to ask to have it packed in a bag instead of their usual plastic box.

Contact: Dwight 410-366-7239 or
dwightmjohnson@comcast.net.

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (74th in Series) – Fort Circle Connector

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

Date: Sunday, September 7 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

We will trek along the **Fort Circle Connector** near Eastern Avenue at the edge of Washington, D.C. Along this stretch there are a number of terrace gravel sites which we have not explored in the last few years. It is time to revisit these to understand why they are preserved and worthy of future preservation.

Directions: Heading Southeast on South Dakota Ave NE from Riggs Road take a left on Gallatin St and park where 17th Street comes in on your right (the woods are on your left). Or, if coming from the Southeast (such as from the BW Parkway), travel Northwest on South Dakota to Gallatin St (remember it is in the 3 syllable sequence) and turn right on Gallatin St and travel to the intersection with 17th coming in on your right with the woods on your left. Park on the street.

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.

Plant It & They Will Come!

Wildlife Habitat Garden Tour, Garrett County

Leaders: Ron Boyer and Liz McDowell

Dates: Saturday – Sunday, September 13 – 14

This is the final open house event at the native plant nursery at Elk Ridge NatureWorks for the 2008 season. Tour this wildlife garden to discover a variety of conservation landscaping and wildlife habitat practices that individuals can use to enhance biodiversity around homes, schools, and businesses. Experience the joys of conservation landscaping: a garden filled with bees, birds, butterflies, and beautiful plants.

Directions: From I-68 take exit 22 and follow signs for New Germany State Park. Turn left into the park onto McAndrews Hill Road and travel ~ 2 miles to stop sign at Westernport Road. Turn right and travel .25 mile to Red Hill Road. Turn right and drive ~ .5 mile to Elk Ridge Lane. Turn left onto Elk Ridge Lane (private road) and travel .3 mile out gravel lane to site on right.

Note: Free guided tours at 10:00 am, 12 noon and 2:00 pm; native plants and habitat boxes available for purchase. Sorry, but no pets allowed and no restroom facilities available. For more info call 301-895-3686 or email
info@elkridgenatureworks.com.

Jean Ellen DuPont Sheehan Audubon Sanctuary Field Trip

Leader/s: Audubon Staff

Date: Tuesday, September 16 **Time:** 3:00 pm

The Sheehan Audubon Sanctuary is a 952 acre property in Talbot County bordering tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay. There are woodlands (some historically drained, some with vernal pools), grasslands, tidal and non-tidal wetlands, and shoreline areas. The non-tidal wetlands, formerly agricultural fields, have recently been restored, and the plants will have had a full growing season to develop. The grasslands are in the midst of some management trials. To get a good look at all of the various habitats, we'll travel partially by vehicle and partially on foot.

Directions: From the north, follow US 50 E to Easton. Take a right on Rt. 322 Easton Bypass. Take a right on Rt. 33 St. Michaels Road and follow approximately 12 miles. (From the south, follow U.S. 50 W to Easton, turn left on Rt. 322, and turn left on Rt. 33.) After passing through the town of St. Michaels, look for signs for Bozman. Take a left on Rt. 579 Bozman Neavitt Road. Travel about 1.7 miles to the sanctuary, which will be a left turn. We will meet by the gate and travel in together.

Carpool Info: If interested in carpooling, e-mail Leslie and let her know where you would be able to meet up with others.

Bring: Binoculars are a must, as well as good solid walking shoes or hiking boots. You may also wish to bring water to drink or a field guide for reference. Ticks and chiggers and mosquitoes abound, so be prepared to tuck in and spray up.

Note: The tour is provided free of charge, however donations to the sanctuary are appreciated.

Contact: RSVP to Leslie Hunter-Cario
eschapter@mdflora.org or leave a voice mail at 410-463-2890.

Native News

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (75th in Series) – Fort Stanton Connector

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

Date: Sunday, October 5 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

We will return to the connector between FORT DUPONT and FORT STANTON.

Directions: In Southeast Washington, D.C., get onto Martin Luther King Blvd SE traveling south and take Morris Road east. Go 5 or 6 blocks to where the road curves north and changes name to Erie Street. Go 5 blocks and turn right onto 18th Place (a block after 18th St) and park on street alongside park at Anacostia Smithsonian Museum.

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.

Revisit to Box Huckleberry site in Perry County, Pennsylvania

Leader: Lou Aronica

Date: Saturday, October 11 **Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

This field trip is jointly sponsored by MNPS and the newly founded Williams, Powell, Clark, and Stony Valley Botanical Society (WPCS Bot Soc). On July 13th we paid a short visit to a Box Huckleberry site, at which time we compiled a list of more than sixty (60) plants. Box Huckleberry (*Gaylussacia brachycera*) has a spotty occurrence in Maryland, Delaware and Penna., as well as a wider distribution on the western side of the Appalachians. The one Md. site is now down to a few stems. Penna. has 3 historical locations in Perry County. The site we will visit is by far the largest patch, covering a number of acres and may be one plant. Since we had to cut our last visit short, a number of people asked to schedule a full day this time.

Directions: Proceed to Gettysburg, PA via Route 15 from D.C. area. Take Route 34 north approximately 35 miles to Mecks Corner, continue about 2 miles and look for a sharp, left turn onto Huckleberry Lane. Site will be on the left. You should park across the road from the site.

Bring: Lunch and water.

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

Drive, Stop, & Explore trip through Stony Valley in the Ridge and Valley Province of Pennsylvania

Leader: Lou Aronica

Date: Sunday, October 12 **Time:** 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

One day a year, the PA State Game Commission allows a drive-thru of the seventeen (17) mile gated abandoned railroad right-of-way through the heart of Stony Valley. This will be our third visit to Stony Valley and we will take advantage of this opportunity so as to be able to easily reach the interior parts of the site. On our April and June visits, we

botanized perhaps the first three quarters of a mile, along the stream. This time we will be able to drive and park at select areas from which we will have one-half to one hour stops, as previews of future visits.

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 the town of Dauphin – exit into town about 1000 feet – and gather in front of small shopping area on left.

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.

Tree I.D. walk at the Irvine Nature Center, Baltimore County

11201 Garrison Forest Rd, Owings Mills, MD

Leaders: Dwight Johnson and Ann Lundy

Date: Sunday, October 12 **Time:** 2:00 – 4:00 pm

See the woodlands at the new Irvine Nature Center and learn how to identify Maryland trees in a natural setting.

Directions: please visit www.explorenature.org.

Contact: Please respond to Ann Lundy at anlundy@verizon.net.

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (76th in Series) – Fort Dupont Connector

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

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

We will return again to a different spot on the FORT DUPONT CONNECTOR. This spot is located south of Fort Dupont. It will be an exercise, as always, in plant identification as well as geology guesswork.

Directions: Take Pennsylvania Ave SE to Branch Ave SE and turn south (right turn from the city) on Branch. The first street on your right is Park Drive. Turn right on Park Drive and park on the street there about where 32nd Place comes into Park Drive.

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:

Sept 25	November/December Late Autumn/Holidays Issue
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

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

Tuesdays at 6:30 pm: October 28 and December 16.

~ Wildflower in Focus ~

SILVERROD

Solidago bicolor L.

Aster or Daisy Family (Asteraceae)

Written by
Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Illustration by
Tina Thieme Brown



Solidago bicolor Silver-rod
Tina Thieme Brown ©2008

Goldenrods are graceful flowering plants of late summer and fall that are often falsely accused of causing the allergies that stem from ragweed pollen. Botanists have another, more legitimate, bone to pick with goldenrods. They are notoriously difficult to identify. However, one species in Maryland's flora has flower parts that are white, rather than yellow, giving the flower heads an overall "silvery" appearance, and giving rise to the poetic name: "silverrod." Silverrod and its golden brethren are members of the highly evolved aster or daisy family. What you think you see is deceptive. Examine a silverrod (or goldenrod) flower cluster up close and you will find many individual flower heads that look like single flowers with "petals" and golden centers. Look more closely, preferably with a hand lens, and you will find tiny perfect 5-parted disk flowers at the center of the "blossom" and individual pistillate ray flowers surrounding them like petals. **Flower Heads:** Small rays are creamy white, 7 - 9 per flower head; tiny disks are yellow. Each flower head $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{3}$ " long. Flower heads in upright terminal clusters and springing from the uppermost leaf axils. The clusters are not one-sided and curved, as are many members of the *Solidago* genus. **Leaves:** Alternate, simple. Upper leaves lanceolate or elliptic; lower leaves oblanceolate or obovate. Upper leaves untoothed, sessile; lower leaves toothed and often tapered to a petiole. Uppermost leaves may be less than an inch long; lower ones up to several inches. **Height and Growth Habit:** 6 - 30"; usually upright; single-stalked or branched. **Habitat and Range:** Dry woods, rocky outcrops, roadsides; Nova Scotia and Quebec to Wisconsin; south to Georgia and Louisiana. **Similar Species:** Other goldenrods (*Solidago* and *Euthamia* species) have yellow rays, but note that silverrod disks are yellow and the white rays may wither early. Hairy goldenrod (*S. hispida*) is very similar to silverrod, but has yellow ray flowers. **Blooming Time:** Late summer - fall. **Locations:** C & O Canal, Sugarloaf Mountain, throughout Maryland.

"Wildflower in Focus" 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).

In Memoriam

Joyce Holmes, one of the founding members of the Greater Baltimore Area Chapter of MNPS, died suddenly on May 28, 2008. She was an active volunteer at Baltimore's Cylburn Arboretum for over 20 years where she maintained the plantings of native plants on the trails of the Arboretum and raised funds for the Cylburn Arboretum Association by growing wildflowers for sale at the annual Market Day. The family has requested that memorial donations be made to Cylburn Arboretum Association (www.cylburnassociation.org).

Upcoming Native Plant Sale

Fall Native Plant Sale at Environmental Concern

Friday, September 12, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Saturday, September 13, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
201 Boundary Lane, St. Michaels, MD
Bring your gardening and native plant questions and enjoy the opportunity to browse Delmarva Native Species offered at Environmental Concern's Native Wetland Plant Nursery! Specific retail plant orders may be placed in advance. For more information call 410-745-9620 or see our website: www.wetland.org.

General Announcements

Fall Woody Plant Identification Course and Class

A ten-week course through the USDA Graduate School is taught by Cris Fleming at the Audubon Naturalist Society headquarters in Chevy Chase this fall. The course meets Thursday evenings from 7:00 – 9:15 pm from Sept 18 through Nov 6. There are three Saturday morning field trips: Oct 4, Oct 18, and Nov 1. Participants study the major woody plant families and species found in Central Atlantic forest communities. Field trips feature the use of recognition characteristics and botanical keys to identify many local woody plants. Tuition is \$345. For more information and to register, contact the Graduate School at www.grad.usda.gov/evening or call 202-314-3320.

A program on Introduction to Tree Identification also will be taught by Cris at the Audubon Naturalist Society on Tuesday, Oct 7 from 7:30 – 9:30 with a full-day field trip to Scott's Run Nature Preserve on Saturday, Oct 11. The evening lecture will discuss characteristics to observe, the use of a simple key, and common trees of our area. The Saturday field trip will give an opportunity to see many species. Program is free but registration is required. For more information or to register contact the ANS Education Program Department at 301-652-9188, x16.

Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes Course

Date: September 8-11, 2008 Time: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm
Location: Wetland Learning Center, St. Michaels, MD
Instructor: Bill Sipple. Cost: \$700. Complete course descriptions, instructor bio, and scholarship and registration information may be found online at www.wetland.org.

Maryland Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation Annual Meeting and Picnic

Saturday, October 4 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Izaak Walton League Headquarters, Rockville
Check www.mdtaf.org for details or call 301-762-6715.

FOR MEMBERS ONLY – MNPS Bylaw Amendments

At the July 14 meeting, the Board approved amendments to the Bylaws for submission to the membership. You can view both the current Bylaws and the proposed amended Bylaws on the MNPS website. If you would like to have a copy mailed to you or if you have questions, please call Kirsten Johnson at 410-366-7239.

The proposed changes would:

- Conform the Bylaws to the Society's usual practices with regard to time of the Annual Membership Meeting, members' voting by mail, Officers' and Directors' terms of office, and the submission of the Treasurers' annual report.
- Permit the Board to amend the Bylaws without a member vote, unless the proposed amendment would diminish members' right to vote on other matters.
- Eliminate references to an Executive Director and a Chairperson of the Board. (The President serves as Chair.)
- Make various technical corrections.

BALLOT on Proposed Amendments to the Maryland Native Plant Society Bylaws, as described in the Sept/Oct Native News.

A non-response will be counted as a vote in favor. Do not send in a ballot if you favor the amendments.

- I vote against the proposed amendments.
 I am a member of the Society.

Please cut out the ballot, and mail it to Maryland Native Plant Society, PO Box 4877, Silver Spring, MD 20914. **BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 31, 2008.**



Maryland Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 4877
Silver Spring, MD 20914

Dated Material:
Please Deliver Promptly

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SILVER SPRING, MD
PERMIT NO. 3567

Membership is for 12 months.
We thank you for your support!

Name 1 _____
Name 2 _____
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 _____

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 landscape professional

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. V8N5S/O08

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