



Maryland Native Plant Society, Inc.

## 2011 Annual Report

*Our 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.*

### ~ HIGHLIGHTS OF 2011 ~

**Year of the Fern.** In 2011, we decided to focus on a single plant group for the entire year. We picked ferns, those ancient, ubiquitous, and hard-to-distinguish species. Seven field trips and three monthly meetings were devoted to ferns, and two issues of *Marilandica* featured ferns as the plant in focus. Dwight Johnson's *Key to the 25 Common Ferns of Maryland* proved indispensable throughout the year; it's available for download on our website.



Common Polypody. Photo by C. Bergmann

**Field Trips and Meetings.** Field trips are our core activity. Last year the Society sponsored over 30 field trips, plus a weekend field excursion to the Pocono Plateau, and additional field trips at the conference. We thus enabled hundreds of people to experience the deep satisfaction that comes from going out and paying attention to what we see. Thanks to Cris Fleming and Bob Yacovissi, plant lists from field trips at 35 locations are now posted on the website. Attendance at our meetings and field trips is at an all-time high. The Society held regular meetings in Montgomery County, Allegany County, and in Baltimore City and County. The annual fall conference is a highlight of the year. Our 2011 Conference at LaPlata in Charles County focused on Southern Maryland's rich plant communities and the urgent necessity to protect them from encroaching development.

**Advocacy.** We continue to advocate for native plant conservation. Carol Jelich testified on behalf of MNPS in favor of legislation (subsequently enacted) that will regulate the sale of invasive non-native plant species. Linda Keenan testified at a hearing on Prince Georges County's Preservation Area Functional Master Plan. Kirsten Johnson and Mary Pat Rowan were invited to speak at a US National Arboretum stakeholders meeting. Kirsten Johnson, Eugene Meyer, and other MNPS members participated in the Coalition for Responsible Deer Management that successfully petitioned for a change in the Baltimore Co Code to permit deer control in the County parks. Dwight Johnson joined the board and Environmental Committee of the newly formed Robert E Lee Park Nature Council, where he is an advocate for conservation of the park's rare serpentine barren. In addition, we often cosign petitions and testimony prepared by other organizations.

**Chapters.** The Greater Baltimore Chapter welcomed Chris Partain as its new Chair. Outgoing Chair, Ann Lundy, a founding member of the chapter who served for ten years, will continue on the chapter's board. The chapter is now holding meetings monthly, up from bimonthly, and is experimenting with meetings at different locations in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. Under Liz McDowell's leadership, our Western Mountains Chapter continued its regular meetings with speakers and outreach activities.

## Field Trips



*Fort Totten, D.C.*



*Soldiers Delight*

Cris Fleming and Bob Yacovissi are our plant list editors. See our website for lists compiled on field trips to many different locations.

<b>January</b>	Rock Creek Park – Mary Pat Rowan Jug Bay Natural Area – Karyn Molines
<b>February</b>	Ft Dupont – Mary Pat Rowan, with Anacostia Watershed Society (Jorge Bogantes) Patuxent River Park – Karyn Molines Woodworth Park, Cheverly – Matt Salo Cheverly Nature Park – Matt Salo
<b>March</b>	Ft Stanton – Mary Pat Rowan
<b>April</b>	Wheaton Regional Park – Matt Cohen Ft DeRussy – Mary Pat Rowan Ft Dupont – Mary Pat Rowan, with Anacostia Watershed Society (Jorge Bogantes) Leakin Park – Dwight Johnson Carderock Recreation Area – Marney Bruce
<b>May</b>	Ft Chaplin – Mary Pat Rowan Triadelphia Reservoir – Kimberly Knox and Joe Metzger Snyders Landing – Cris Fleming NJ Pine Barrens – Joe Metzger
<b>June</b>	Mattawoman Bottomlands – Jim Long Gunpowder River (Kingsville area) – Dwight Johnson Kenilworth Park – Mary Pat Rowan
<b>August</b>	Magruder Branch Stream Valley Park – Carole Bergmann
<b>September</b>	Severn Run Natural Environmental Area – Christa Partain Roosevelt Island – Mary Pat Rowan Gunpowder River (Hereford area) – Dwight Johnson
<b>October</b>	Patuxent Environmental Area – Heidi Pringle and Karyn Molines Wild Urban Plants in Baltimore – Lynn Cazubon and Christa Partain Marshy Point Park by canoe – Bob Stanhope Soldiers Delight Natural Environmental Area – Christa Partain Ft Dupont – Mary Pat Rowan
<b>November</b>	Tree Anatomy Walk at Wheaton Regional Park – Richard Murray US National Arboretum – Mary Pat Rowan
<b>December</b>	Winter Solstice Walk at Chapman Forest – Rod Simmons, joint with VA Native Plant Society and Botanical Society of Washington

## Conference: “A Delightful Land” — Natural Communities of Southern Maryland

September 24-25, 2011, College of Southern Maryland, LaPlata, MD



Left: Conference Chair Karyn Molines and MNPS President Kirsten Johnson

Right: Piscataway National Park, destination of a conference field trip. Photos by Carole Bergmann

On Saturday morning, Kathy McCarthy of the MD Natural Heritage Program described the natural communities of Southern MD, with emphasis on rare plant species. Jim Long of Mattawoman Watershed Society took us on a historic, geographic and ecological tour of the Mattawoman Watershed, demonstrating its critical importance to the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Saturday afternoon and Sunday field trips let us explore the diverse plant communities of the area. Field trip leaders included: Cris Fleming, Bob Boxwell, Rachel Holden, Mary Kilbourne Jim Long, Mary Alves, Karyn Molines, Carole Bergmann, Jessica Milstead, and Marc Imlay.



Resting and chatting at Tannersville Bog Preserve.  
Photo by Kirsten Johnson

## Field Excursion: Pocono Plateau

May 27-29, 2011

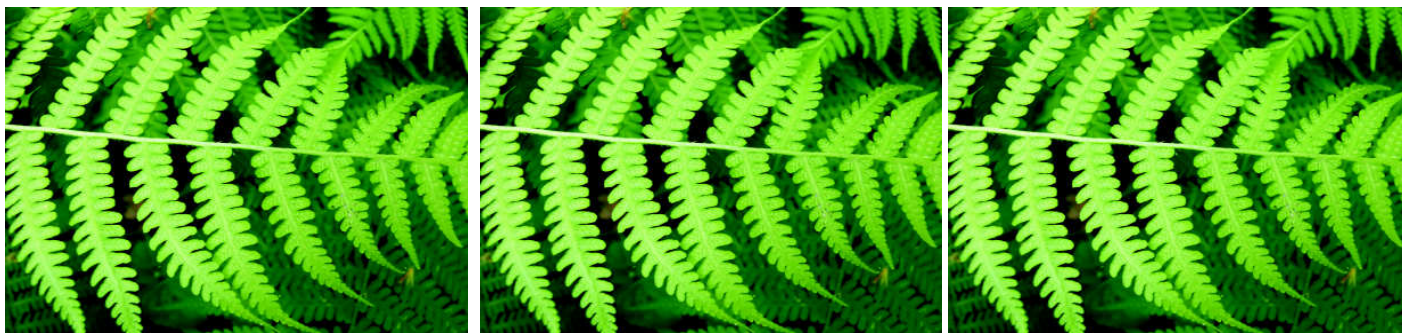
Kirsten Johnson, Lou Aronica, organizers

A group of 15 members visited Raymondskill Falls in the Delaware Water Gap Recreation Area, Tannersville Cranberry Bog Preserve (a Nature Conservancy site), and Long Pond Preserve, in the vicinity of Tannersville, PA.



## Meetings and Workshops

	Montgomery Co	Greater Baltimore	Western Mountains
Jan	Pine Barrens of DC, Rod Simmons		
Feb	Winter Tree ID, Cris Fleming		Saving Biodiversity Through Native Plants, Doug Tallamy DVD
Mar	Alien Weeds Art, Patterson Clark	Native Shrubs	
Apr	Fern Identification, Dwight Johnson		Sundial Lupine and its Western MD Habitats, Sara Tangren
May	Botanical Illustration and Writing, Melanie Choukas-Bradley and Tina Thieme Brown	Fern ID, Ann Lundy	
Jun	Deer Management, Eugene Meyer		FSU Herbariums: New Website, Collecting and Making Specimens, and Tour, Mary Kruger
Jul	Ferns in the Landscape, W. Carl Taylor	Beach Plants and Climate Change, Louisa Thompson	
Aug	Pimple Dunes of the Eastern Shore, Brett McMillan		Medicinal Compounds in Wild-harvested Black Cohosh, Amanda Vickers
Sep	Baltimore's Wild Plants, Lynn Cazubon	Fall Composites, Dwight Johnson; Seed collection and storage workshop, Chris Partain	
Oct	Old Growth Forests, Joan Maloof	Blue Water Baltimore, Darin Crewe	Butterflies of Western MD, Fran Pope
Nov	Sugarloaf Mountain, Melanie Choukas-Bradley	TreeBaltimore, Eric Dihle	
Dec	Christmas Party	Christmas Party	



*Deparia acrostichoides*, Silvery Glade Fern. Photo by Bob Yacovissi



***Marilandica***: Carolyn Fulton, editor

Two issues were published, including the first of a series of three peer-reviewed articles. We're especially grateful to Tina Thieme Brown for her beautiful cover art, and to Melanie Choukas-Bradley for her Wildflower (or Fern or Tree) in Focus articles.

**mdflora.org**: Iris Mars, Webmaster

Our website continues to provide our members and the public with up-to-date information on our events, plus a wealth of additional information on native plants.

## Advocacy

- Carol Jelich testified in favor of legislation (subsequently enacted) [Title 9.5 Invasive Plants Prevention and Control], by which the Maryland will begin to regulate the sale of invasive plant species.
- Dwight Johnson is a member of the board of the RE Lee Park Nature Council and its Environmental Committee, advocating for protection of the serpentine area in the park and conducting a plant survey of the park.
- MNPS members including Kirsten Johnson, Gene Meyer, Bob Stanhope, Linda Davis and others, participated in the Coalition for Responsible Deer Management, which resulted in a code change in Baltimore Co to permit hunting by deer cooperators in county parks.
- Linda Keenan testified at a hearing on the Prince Georges County Preservation Area Functional Master Plan.
- MNPS sent a letter to the Army Corps requesting reassessment of a possible rare wetland in the vicinity of Ft Lincoln, in an area to be commercially developed (Mary Pat Rowan, Rod Simmons, Kirsten Johnson).
- Linda Keenan and Marc Imlay initiated a plan to remove bamboo from Buck Lodge Bog in Prince Georges County.
- MNPS supported efforts of Mattawoman Watershed Society to protect the watershed and advocate for smart growth by co-signing various letters and comments on county and state proposals (Kirsten Johnson).
- MNPS sent a letter to Baltimore Co Dep't of Parks and Planning, urging deer management as part of the county parks and recreation plan (Kirsten Johnson).
- MNPS co-signed testimony of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and others urging a moratorium on natural gas extraction by fracking (Liz McDowell and Kirsten Johnson).
- Kirsten Johnson and Mary Pat Rowan attended and spoke at a stakeholders meeting at the US National Arboretum.
- Along with Audubon Naturalist Society, MNPS urged Potomac Conservancy to repair damage to a wetland in the Sugarloaf Mountain area, due to a trout conservation project. (Tina Brown, Cris Fleming, Kirsten Johnson)
- Chris Partain wrote to Baltimore's Office of Sustainability urging exclusion of known invasive plants from Baltimore's Landscape Manual.

## **Invasive Plant Removal**

June: Quiet Waters Park, Karyn Molines

Ongoing: Ruth Swann Park, Marc Imlay

## **Outreach**

This list is unlikely to be complete. MNPS members are often asked to speak, lead field trips, and consult for other organizations.

- Exhibit at the Home and Garden Show, Baltimore, Kirsten Johnson and volunteers from the Greater Baltimore Chapter
- Exhibit at the Riderwood Retirement Community Earth Day Event, Linda Keenan
- Exhibit at Anita C. Leight Estuary Center Wade-In, Matt Bazar
- Display at Kickoff event for Cheverly Green Plan, Matt Salo
- Plant ID walks at Cylburn Arboretum, Kirsten Johnson, Christa Partain, Dwight Johnson
- Rock Creek Park family walk for the Wellesley Club of DC, Mary Pat Rowan
- Plant ID Walk for Mountain Club of MD at Gunpowder(Hereford area), Dwight Johnson
- Plant survey walk at Izaak Walton League of Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Cris Fleming
- Plant survey walk at Izaak Walton League of Potomac, Cris Fleming, Ken Bawer, Beth Johnson
- Liz McDowell led tours of her Native Plant Demonstration Garden: in May with Savage River Watershed Ass'n Native Plant Sale; in June for the Conservation Committee of the Mt Laurel Garden Club; in October for students in Frostburg St U Ethnobotany class.
- Native Plants talk for Women's Club of Bethesda, Cris Fleming
- Native Plants talk for Crofton Garden Club, Karyn Molines
- Native Plants talk for Garden Club of Guilford, Kirsten Johnson
- Native Plant Talk at Muddy Branch Alliance, Matt Bazar
- Alien Invasion program for American Ass'n of University Women, Frostburg, Liz McDowell
- Liz McDowell presented "Going Native in Your Backyard" programs for Pennsylvania Native Plant Society at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, PA; for UME Master Gardener Training at Mountain Lake Park, MD; and for Piedmont/Blue Ridge Horticulture Society at Blandy Experimental Farm, VA.
- Battling Botanical Bullies with Native Plants – March program for 14th Annual Home Gardener's School, Milton Area High School, PA, Liz McDowell
- Screening of Doug Tallamy video at Cecil College Horticultural Program, Matt Bazar
- Liz McDowell created a PowerPoint program on Invasive Plants of Garrett County to play throughout the day during the Mt Laurel Garden Club annual garden tour event.
- Sally Gagne represented MNPS on the TAME Coalition, a group of organizations opposed to building an extended Route MD-83 in Montgomery County.
- Liz McDowell serves on the Frostburg State U Arboretum Task Force, and on the FSU Tree Campus USA Advisory Committee.
- Advice on native plants & distribution of MNPS brochures at April SRWA sale New Germany State Park, Liz McDowell

**Financial Summary:** Matt Cohen, Treasurer  
Karyn Molines, Membership Chair

**Total Assets December 31, 2011: \$56,123**

**Total Income 2011: \$18,477**

Member dues and donations: \$13,916

Sales, conference fees, and miscellaneous: \$4,561

**Total Expense 2011: \$18,928**

Conference, educational meetings and field trips: \$6,227

Publications (website and *Marilandica*): \$6,664

Outreach: \$1,000

Insurance and other overhead: \$3,787

Donations to other organizations: \$1,250

Flora of Virginia: \$1000

Worthley Garden at Howard Co Conservancy: \$250



Thread-waisted wasp on Mountain Mint,  
*Pycnanthemum virginianum*. Photo by K. Johnson

**Board of Directors**

Kirsten Johnson, President  
Ginny Yacovissi, Secretary  
Matt Cohen, Treasurer  
Marney Bruce, Vice-President  
Marc Imlay, Vice-President  
Linda S. Keenan, Vice-President

Matt Bazar	Brett McMillan
Ken Bawer	Karyn Molines
Carole Bergmann	Chris Puttock
Melanie Choukas-Bradley	Glenn Rice
Cris Fleming	Mary Pat Rowan
Carolyn Fulton	Rod Simmons
Albert Hartley	Gary Steele
Beth Johnson	
Lou Aronica, Emeritus	
Joe Metzger, Emeritus	