



Maryland Native Plant Society, Inc.

2012 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.



Quercus palustris, Baltimore City

Highlights of 2012 - THE YEAR OF THE OAK

Year of the Oak. In 2011, we began what we hoped would become a tradition, to focus on a single plant group for the entire year. For that year we picked ferns. For 2012 we picked oaks, and our members responded equally enthusiastically.

Field Trips, Workshops, and Programs. Field trips are our core activity. Last year the Society sponsored 30 field trips, and additional field trips at the conference. Cris Fleming and Bob Yacovissi continue to edit plant lists from field trips and post them on our website. We now have lists for 44 locations in Maryland and surrounding jurisdictions. The Society held regular programs in Montgomery County, Allegheny County and Baltimore County. The Baltimore Chapter sponsored our annual conference at which we had record attendance.

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 held 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 Stanton, DC

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

January	Fort Stanton – Mary Pat Rowan
February	Ft Dupont – Mary Pat Rowan Cheverly Nature Hike and Bird Count – Matt Salo and the Cheverly Green Infrastructure Committee
March	Ft Totten – Mary Pat Rowan
April	Fort connector S of Ft Dupont – Mary Pat Rowan Druid Hill Park – Chris Partain and Glenda Weber Governor Bridge Natural Area – Karyn Molines Leakin Park – Kirsten Johnson Herring Run Park – Vince Vizachero Jones Falls at the Baltimore Inner Harbor – Drew Brown Carderock area – Marney Bruce Severn Run – Chris Partain
May	Ft Chaplin – Mary Pat Rowan Enchanted Forest vicinity, Ellicott City – Heidi Pringle Potomac River at Riley Lock – Karyn Molines, with the Maryland Federation for the Blind Jones Falls at Cross Keys – Chris Partain and Lynn Cazabon Gunpowder St Park, Hereford area – Dwight Johnson Piney Orchard Nature Preserve – Beth Johnson and Chris Partain
June	Oaks of Sugarloaf Mountain – Melanie Choukas-Bradley Soldiers Delight – Chris Partain Fort Slocum – Mary Pat Rowan King’s Landing Park – Karyn Molines, with Calvert Co Natural Resources Div Savage River St Forest – Liz McDowell and Wade Dorsey
July	Urban Plants of Baltimore – Chris Partain and Lynn Cazabon Jug Bay Wetlands – Karyn Molines
August	Magruder Branch Stream Valley Park – Carole Bergmann
September	Fort Stanton – Mary Pat Rowan
November	Fort Dupont – Mary Pat Rowan
December	Connector between Forts Dupont and Stanton – Mary Pat Rowan Winter Solstice Walk at Chapman Forest – Rod Simmons, joint with VA Native Plant Society and Botanical Society of Washington, Mattawoman Watershed Ass’n, Chapman Forest Foundation

Conference 2012 at Towson University



“Preserving and Restoring Biodiversity in Developed Landscapes.”

The annual conference rotates among MNPS’s chapters, and this was the Baltimore Chapter’s year. We were fortunate to have Towson University Biodiversity Center join us as co-sponsor.

Three accomplished speakers elaborated on various approaches to the theme. **Chris Bolgiano**, widely-published environmental reporter and prize winning author discussed “Salvaging Biodiversity – Lost Cause or Lifestyle Choice”. Her light touch nicely highlighted the responsibility each of us must bear for the environmental consequences of our own actions. **Dr. William Hilgartner** has focused his research on the paleoecology of wetland and serpentine species before and after European settlement in Maryland and Pennsylvania. He described evidence that prior to European settlement, large portions of Maryland and Pennsylvania were covered with sedge-dominated wetlands that were obliterated when Europeans dammed hundreds of streams for mills. When the dams were later destroyed, the streams began carving passages through the accumulated silt, creating the deep channels we so often see and deplore but whose origin we are only now understanding. **Donald Outen** (Natural Resource Manager at Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability) gave an overview of trends the Department has been tracking for many years. For example, Maryland is losing the dominance of oaks in our forests; the replacements – largely red maple – do not provide even nearly the same wildlife value as the oaks.

For the first time in many years, native plants were for sale at the conference, by two local native plant vendors. We also held a silent auction of crafts and art donated by Jan Partain, Tina Browne, and Dwight Johnson.

Thanks to all who worked so hard to make the conference a success, with particular recognition to the Baltimore Chapter led by Chris Partain and to Drs. Vanessa Beauchamp and Roland Roberts of Towson University.

Field Trips:	Saturday	Sunday
	Hampton Historic Site – Carole Bergmann	Robert E Lee Park – Dwight Johnson
	Soldiers Delight – Cris Fleming	North Point State Park – Charlie Davis
	Oregon Ridge State Park – Don Outten	Towson U Field Station – Roland Roberts
	Native Plant Gardens of Baltimore – Glenda Weber	Marshy Point by canoe – Bob Stanhope
	Gunpowder Falls St Park – Brett McMillan and Dwight Johnson	
	Oaks of Towson U Campus & Herbarium Tour – Roland Roberts	



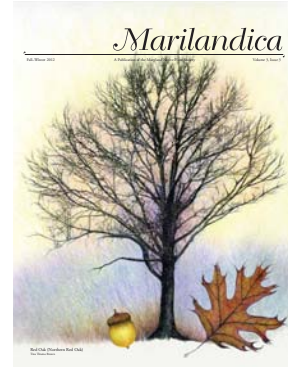
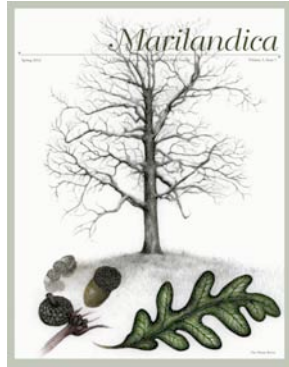
Carex ID Workshop organized by the Baltimore Chapter. Day 2 was a field trip to Gunpowder State Park.

Programs and Workshops

	Montgomery Co	Greater Baltimore	Western Mountains
Jan	Landscaping with Natives, Chris Partain	Soldiers Delight Restoration, Wayne Tyndall	
Feb	Oak Identification – Cris Fleming	Seed Propagation Workshop – Chris Partain Winter Botany Workshop – Roland Roberts and Chris Partain Wavy-leaf Basketgrass – Vanessa Beauchamp	Going Native in Your Backyard – Liz McDowell
Mar	The Flora of VA Project – Marion Lobstein	Sundial Lupine - Sara Tangren	Asimina triloba, A Native Fruit Crop – R Neal Peterson
Apr	Oak-Feeding Insects – John Lill	Native Plant Nursery Roundtable Landscaping with Natives – Chris Partain Baltimore Premier Screening of ‘Green Fire’	
May	Deer Management in Montgomery Co – George Timko	Maryland’s Orchids – Carol Allen	
Jun	The American Chestnut – Gary Carver	Carex ID Workshop – Chris Frye and Wes Knapp Rain Garden Design – Dana Puzey	The XID System for Plant Identification – Donna Ford-Wentz
Jul	An Ozone Monitoring Garden – Jeannie Allen	Plant Conservation at Meadowlark Garden – Keith Tomlinson	Wildflower ID for Beginners – Liz McDowell, with Savage River Watershed Ass’n
Aug	Conservation of Serpentine Ecosystems – Marla McIntosh		Genetic diversity in Remnant Appalachian Red Spruce – Stephanie Keller
Sep	What’s Quirky About Quercus – Chris Puttock	New Pests and Diseases of Maryland’s Forests – Bud Reaves	
Oct		A Bee’s Eye View of Pollination – Sam Droege	Oaks of the Savage – Wade Dorsey
Nov	Oak Tree Anatomy – Richard Murray	Winter Oak ID Workshop – Cris Fleming	

Marilandica: Carolyn Fulton, editor.

Three issues published.



Advocacy

- The Society supported efforts of Mattawoman Watershed Society to protect the watershed and advocate for smart growth in Charles County by co-signing various letters and comments on county and state proposals.
- We joined with other organizations in signing comments to the Maryland Department of the Environment prepared by Choose Clean Water Coalition concerning the Baltimore City separate storm water sewer system permit.
- We joined with other organizations in signing testimony to the Maryland House of Delegates prepared by Audubon Naturalist Society in favor of legislation requiring utility companies to address natural gas leaks in the vicinity of tree roots.
- We testified at a hearing and wrote to the Montgomery County Council in support of legislation to address the destruction of trees by PEPCO.
- We submitted a letter to USDA and other federal agencies objecting to the approval of *Arundo donax* as a biofuel.
- 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.
- We wrote to Speaker Michael Busch in support of the portions of the Governor's proposed budget that protect the state's green infrastructure including Program Open Green Space, the Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund and the Bay Restoration Fund.
- We joined with other organizations in signing comments to the Environmental Protection Agency prepared by 1000 Friends of Maryland concerning the agency's Maryland watershed plan.



Our booth at the Spring Home & Garden Show at the Maryland State Fair Grounds in Timonium

Outreach

MNPS members are often asked to speak, lead field trips, and consult for other organizations. Here are some of our outreach activities in 2012.

- Exhibit at the Home and Garden Show, Baltimore, Chris Partain and volunteers from the Greater Baltimore Chapter
- Plant ID walks at Cylburn Arboretum: Dwight Johnson
- Plant ID Walk for Mountain Club of MD at Gunpowder (Hereford area), Dwight Johnson
- Promoted MNPS at monthly Montgomery County Weed Warrior events: Ken Bawer
- Advised on conservation of rare serpentine habitat and a native plant garden at Robert E Lee Park in Baltimore Co: Dwight Johnson
- Promoted MNPS and native plants at Master Gardeners events in Greater Baltimore – Norman Cohen

Western Mountains Chapter: Liz McDowell, the Chair of our Western Mountains Chapter, is an especially avid advocate for native plants in her area. In addition to conducting tours of her Elkridge Native Plant Demonstration Garden, Liz

- updated “Invasive Plants of Garrett County” PowerPoint program for the conservation committee of Mt Laurel Garden Club for their annual garden tour event
- assessed planting site and donated plants for Hickory Environmental Ed Center
- developed list of woody plants for Garrett County that might be grown as part of “Frostburg Grows” Project
- assisted with native plant garden (weeding and ID) at New Germany State Park
- serves on Frostburg State University Arboretum Task Force
- serves on FSU Tree Campus USA advisory committee
- acted as resource person to answer questions following the February viewing of Doug Tallamy’s DVD (Mountain Laurel Garden Club, Oakland MD)
- advised on native plants & distributed MNPS brochures at Savage River Watershed Assn’s sales at New Germany State Park in April and at Elk Ridge Native Plant Preserve in May
- Conducted the Going Native in Your Backyard Programs for the public at Mountain City Traditions (Frostburg, MD) in June and for UME Master Gardener Training (Mountain Lake Park, MD) in October

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

Total Assets December 31, 2012: \$54,170

Total Income 2012: \$25,300

Member dues and donations: \$17,970

Sales, conference fees, and miscellaneous: \$7,330

Total Expense 2012: \$26,100

Conference, educational meetings and field trips: \$9,000

Publications (website and *Marilandica*): \$11,040

Outreach: \$500

Invasive removal: \$1500

Insurance and other overhead: \$4060

2012 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

Ken Bawer

Carole Bergmann

Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Cris Fleming

Carolyn Fulton

Albert Hartley

Beth Johnson

Lou Aronica, Emeritus

Joe Metzger, Emeritus

Brett McMillan

Karyn Molines

Chris Puttock

Glenn Rice

Mary Pat Rowan

Rod Simmons

Gary Steele