



Maryland Native Plant Society, Inc.

2016 Annual Report

“The Year of the Conifer”

Our Mission: 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.

Maryland Native Plant Society is thriving.

Membership is now over 1200 individuals, and attendance at field trips, evening programs, and the annual conference continue to increase. Our newly published booklet, *Landscaping with Native Plants*, has proved enormously popular.

This report provides an overview of the Society’s activities in 2016. As an all-volunteer organization, we are proud of what we accomplish and we believe we are making a difference in public awareness of the importance of preserving Maryland’s native habitats.



Thuja occidentalis, northern white cedar

Field Trips.

Field trips are the Society's most important educational activity. There is no substitute for getting outdoors, having fun, learning field skills and appreciating the importance of conservation. In 2016 the Society sponsored over 50 field trips and conservation activities, plus additional field trips at the conference. Plant lists from field trips continue to be posted on our website. All are free and open to the public.

Over the years, we've conducted repeated field trips in different seasons to the same locations, particularly the Washington DC Fort Circle Parks and the Hereford area of Gunpowder Falls State Park. As result, we've learned the value of thorough exploration of a single area. Through the combined efforts of Board members Liz Jones and Sujata Roy, a new series of exploratory field trips was started at Little Bennett Regional Park in Montgomery County. In addition to a thorough exploration of the flora of the park, these field trips are being used to encourage and train new field trip leaders.

See pages 7-9 for a list of 2016 field trips and other outdoor events.



Winter solstice at Chapman State Park: traversing the "sandhill" section of the old-age forest.
Photo: R.H. Simmons.

Evening Programs

High attendance continues at our free evening programs in Montgomery County and in Allegany County, featuring noted experts on native plants and conservation.

Please see page 10 for a list of programs held in 2016.



Magnolia virginiana, Sweetbay magnolia. Photo: Stewart Grand

Annual Conference
“Maryland’s Forgotten Bogs & Pine Barrens”
University of Maryland – College Park
September 17-18, 2016

SATURDAY MORNING CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

- Rod Simmons, Plant Ecologist and MNPS Board Member
- Vanishing Pine Barrens Communities of the Fall Zone of the Washington, DC
- Jim Long, President, Mattawoman Watershed Society
- Magnolia Bogs in the Mattawoman Watershed of Charles Co
- Chris Hoess, MNPS grant recipient, Delaware Technical Community College
- Distribution and Habitat of Maidenhair Ferns
- Marc Imlay, MNPS Board Member
- Update on Wavy-leaf Basket Grass

CONFERENCE FIELD TRIPS

Saturday

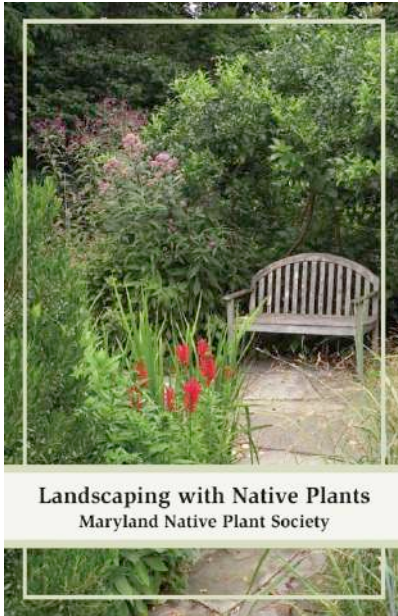
- Pitch Pine Barrens at Beltsville Agricultural Res Center – Rod Simmons & Jorge Montero
Suitland Bog – Cris Fleming
Greenbelt Forest Preserve – Carole Bergmann & Damien Ossi
Rosaryville State Park – Chris Puttock & Rochelle Bartolomei
Patuxent Research Refuge – Bill Harms & Joe Metzger
Greenbelt National Park bogs and forests – Kirsten & Dwight Johnson
The Wooded Hillock on the UMD campus – Karyn Moline and Marla MacIntosh

Sunday

- Central Farm Bog walk– Rod Simmons & Beth Johnson
UMd College Park Herbarium – John David Hall
Canoe trip on the Tidal Anacostia River– Jorge Montero, Anacostia Watershed Society Natural Resource Specialist
Tour of George Washington House in Bladensburg (Anacostia Watershed Society Headquarters) – AWS's Landscape designer Jo-Elle Burgard

Booklet: *Landscaping with Native Plants*

Over 10,000 copies distributed in 2016.

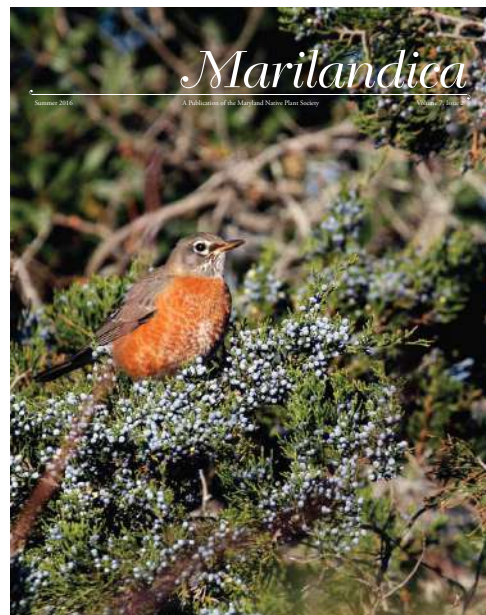
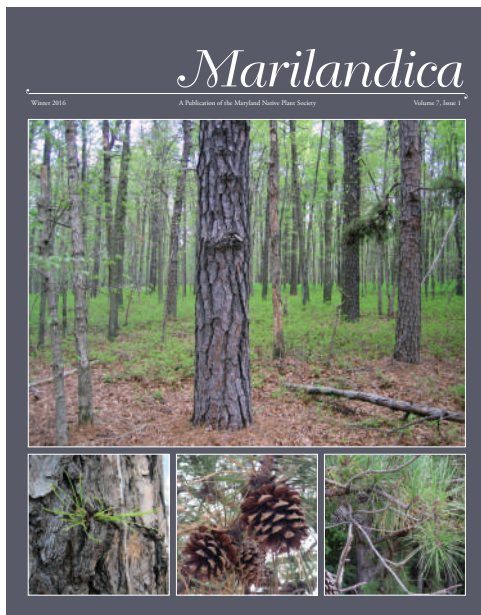


This booklet, published in the spring of 2016 under the leadership of Marney Bruce, explains the importance of native plant landscaping in our increasingly developed world, and provides a list of native plants that are available from regional plant vendors.

The booklet can be purchased at MNPS programs for \$1 or downloaded for free from the website. We also sell bulk quantities to Master Gardener groups and nature centers (@30¢), and we had distributed 10,000 copies by the end of 2016.

Marilandica

Kirsten Johnson, editor. Two issues published. Circulation ~ 1100.



Website: mdflora.org

Our website, administered by Karyn Molines, is the go-to place for registration for upcoming events, a list of native plant vendors, *Marilandica* on line, and lots of information about native plants of our region. Our website host, Wild Apricot, also provides membership management and other services.

Social Media: Facebook and MeetUp

MNPS has two separate Facebook locations. Jane Hill, our Facebook administrator, publishes timely and important information on our Facebook Page, often eliciting comments and discussion. The MNPS Facebook group, with about 1700 members, is a forum for sharing field experiences, questions (and answers!) about plant identification, gardening and more.

Our MeetUp site, administered by Matt Cohen, allows us to reach a wide range of nature enthusiasts with information about upcoming events.

Research Grants

The Research Grant Committee (Brett McMillan, Chair) decided to change the timing of the research grant applications, and this resulted in none being awarded in 2016. As an experiment, applications were solicited from secondary school teachers for student projects pertaining to native plants. An award was made to a high school teacher in at Elkton High School in Cecil County, for a project involving invasive removal and native planting on a wetland on the school property.

Advocacy

MNPS occasionally receives requests from individuals and organizations to comment on conservation issues. For each of them, we carefully consider whether there is a sufficient connection with our mission. As an all-volunteer, charitable organization, MNPS has only a limited ability to research particular issues or to engage in lobbying. So we depend on our members to let us know when our input would be helpful.

Here is a summary of our conservation advocacy in 2016. Particularly heart-breaking was the decision of University of Maryland officials to essentially shut down the Norton Brown Herbarium.

- Wrote to the Montgomery County Board of Appeals to support the application of Audubon Naturalist Society to construct a deer fence around the Woodend property.
- Commended the Department of Natural Resources on the new State Wildlife Action Plan.
- Protested the decision of University of Maryland officials to lay off the staff of the Norton Brown Herbarium, effectively shuttering the herbarium.
- Commented on Montgomery County's Draft Countywide Park Trails Amendment, urging the county to limit the use of trails in relatively unspoiled natural areas to hiking only.
- Commented on Prince George's County's Preliminary Resource Plan, urging the inclusion of Buck Lodge and Adelphi Community Parks as Special Conservation Areas; restricting building in parks and preservation areas; and prioritizing preservation of the tree canopy.
- Co-signed the Smarter Growth Alliance for Frederick County's comment on the County's Legislative Package, supporting proposed changes in Maryland's Public Ethics Law, and also urging continuation of the state ban on fracking.

Financial Summary for 2016

Total Assets December 31: \$67,530

Total Income: \$34,284

Donations and member dues: \$22,619

Sales, conference fees, and miscellaneous: \$11,665

Total Expense: \$36,442

Conference, educational programs, and field trips: \$8,166

Publications (website, *Marilandica*, and *Landscaping with Native Plants* booklet): \$12,888

Research grants (includes carryover from 2015): \$5,285

Grants for botany and conservation projects: \$5,000

Insurance, other overhead, and miscellaneous: \$5,103

Officers (effective January 18)

Kirsten Johnson, Co-President

Liz Jones, Co-President

Matt Cohen, Treasurer

Ginny Yacovissi, Secretary

Directors

Ken Bawer

Carole Bergmann

Allen Browne

Marney Bruce

Cris Fleming

Carolyn Fulton

Jane Hill

Beth Johnson

Brett McMillan

Karyn Molines

Chris Puttock

Mary Pat Rowan

Sujata Roy

Rod Simmons

Tenley Wurglitz

Lou Aronica, Emeritus

Joe Metzger, Emeritus

Members

As of the end of 2016, Maryland Native Plant Society had over 1200 individual members (including 228 lifetime members) and 78 organizational members.



Larix laricina, American larch. Photo: K Johnson

2016 Field Trips and Other Outdoor Events

Jan	Fort Stanton Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and David Culp	Washington, DC
Feb	Bidcoe Gray Heritage Farm Leader: Karyn Molines	Calvert County
	Fort Dupont Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and David Culp	Washington, DC
	Woodworth Park Leader: Matt Salo	Prince Georges County
	Blockhouse Point Leaders: Ken Bawer and Tenley Wurglitz	Montgomery County
Mar	Fort Totten Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and David Culp	Washington, DC
	Goldmine Tract Leader: Marney Bruce	Montgomery County
	Little Bennett Regional Park Leader: Carole Bergmann	Montgomery County
	MD's Largest Known Tree & Two Montgomery Co Champs Leader: Ralph Buglass	Montgomery County
	Cabin John Stream Valley Park Leader: Ken Bawer	Montgomery County
Apr	Connector Park between Fort Dupont & Fort Stanton Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and David Culp	Washington, DC
	Governor Bridge Natural Area Leaders: Karyn Molines and Lisa Bierer-Garrett	Prince Georges County
	Wildflower ID for Beginners Leader: Karyn Molines	Calvert County
	Lake Roland Leaders: Dwight and Kirsten Johnson	Baltimore County
	Blockhouse Point Leaders: Ken Bawer and Tenley Wurglitz	Montgomery County
	Watkins Regional Park Leader: Matt Salo	Prince Georges County
	Little Bennett Regional Park Leader: Sujata Roy	Montgomery County
	Carderock area of C&O Canal Nat'l Park Leader: Marney Bruce	Montgomery County
	Fairhill Nature Center Leader: David Frances	Cecil County
	Invasive Removal, Bear Pen Wildlands, Savage River St Park Leader: Liz McDowell	Garrett County
	Liberty Watershed & Piney Run Park Leader: Bob Ringler	Carroll County
May	Fort Chaplin Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and David Culp	Washington, DC
	Invasive Removal at Emily Bayless Graham Park Leader: Sam Jones	Harford County

Outdoor events continued

	Don Miller Forest Leader: Heidi Pringle	Howard County
	Hellen Creek Hemlock Preserve Leaders: Karyn Molines and Bob Boxwell	Calvert County
	Northwest Branch Leaders: Marney Bruce and Tenley Wurglitz	Montgomery County
	Pinxters of Rachel Carson Park Leader: Steve Parks	Montgomery County
	Lake Frank/Meadowside Nature Center Leader: Ken Bawer	Montgomery County
	Buck Lodge Community Park Leaders: Mike Ellis and Marney Bruce	Prince Georges County
	Mountain Maryland Native Plant Festival Co-sponsored with Friends of New Germany St Park	Garrett County
Jun	Oxon Run Bog Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Jim Rosenstock	Washington, DC
	Kingman and Heritage Islands Leader: Vincent Verweij	Washington, DC
	Little Bennett Regional Park Leader: Carole Bergmann	Montgomery County
Jul	Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Leader: Karyn Molines	Calvert County
	Wetland Plant ID at Jug Bay Leader: Karyn Molines	Anne Arundel County
	Plant Identification Workshops Leader: Liz McDowell	Garrett County
	Little Bennett Regional Park Leaders: Sujata Roy, Allen Browne and Anne DeNovo	Montgomery County
	Exploring Elk Ridge in Summer Leaders: Liz McDowell and Ron Boyer	Garrett County
Aug	Canoe Trip, Anita C. Leight Estuary Leader: Lauren Groeski, Park Naturalist	Hartford County
	North Point State Park Leader: Matt Cohen	Baltimore County
	Great Falls River Trail Leader: Marney Bruce	Montgomery County
	Little Bennett Regional Park Leaders: Allen Browne and Anne DeNovo	Montgomery County
Sep	Fort Chaplin, Washington, DC Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and David Culp	Washington, DC
	Little Bennett Regional Park Leaders: Dick and Julie Kerr	Montgomery County
Oct	Seneca Creek Greenway Trail Leaders: Ken Bawer and Anne DeNovo	Montgomery County
	Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens Leader: David Culp	Washington, DC
	Cavano's Nursery Tour Leader: Tracy Ripani	Harford County
	Little Bennett Regional Park Leaders: Sujata Roy and Allen Browne	Montgomery County

Outdoor events continued

	Rock Creek Park: Shinrin-yoku or “Forest Bathing” Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley	Montgomery County
	Seneca Creek Greenway Trail Leaders: Anne DeNovo and Marney Bruce	Montgomery County
	Catoctin Mountain Park Leader: Louisa Thompson	Frederick County
Nov	Little Bennett Regional Park Leader: Carole Bergmann	Montgomery County
	Sugarloaf Mountain Park Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley	Frederick County
	Wheaton Regional Park Leader: Ken Bawer	Montgomery County
Dec	Fort Dupont Leader: David Culp	Washington, DC
	Little Bennett Regional Park Leaders: Liz Jones and Anne DeNovo	Montgomery County
	Chapman Forest Winter Solstice Walk and Hooley Leader: Rod Simmons: Co-sponsored by Virginia Native Plant Society and Botanical Society of Washington	Charles County



Pinus strobus, Eastern white pine, at Sugarloaf Mountain. Photo: Elizabeth Miller

2016 Evening Programs

	Montgomery County	Allegany County
Jan	Cancelled due to weather	
Feb	Vegetation Dynamics in Serpentine Soil Jerry L. Burgess, Assoc. Director, Environmental Science and Policy Program, Johns Hopkins U	Cancelled due to weather
Mar	Year of the Conifer Karyn Molines	
Apr	Signs of Deer Sally Gagne	Proteas & Other Plants of South Africa's Fynbos Sunshine Brosi, Professor, Biology Dep't, Frostburg State U
May	Update on Wavyleaf Basketgrass Vanessa Beauchamp, Towson Univ.	
Jun	Conifer Diversity in MD, Identification and Ecology Rod Simmons, Plant Ecologist	
Jul	Creating Landscapes for Pollinators and Wildlife James Gagliardi, Horticulturist, Smithsonian Gardens	
Aug	Native Plant Production Using Seeds of Local Ecotype Leslie Hunter-Cario, Certified Professional Horticulturist	Kevin Dodge, Director and Professor of Natural Resources and Wildlife Technology, Garrett College
Sep	Vulnerability of Tidal Wetlands to Sea Level Rise Patrick Megonigal, Senior Scientist, Deputy Director, Smithsonian Environmental Res Center	
Oct	Native Medicinal Plants - Cultivation, Conservation, and Ethnobotany Helen Lowe Metzman, MS Herbal Medicine	Sustaining the Plants Used in Cherokee Basketry Bryan Whitmore, Graduate Student, Dep't of Biology, Frostburg State University
Nov	The Science behind Wild and Designed Plant Communities Claudia West, Author and Horticulturist	