



Maryland Native Plant Society, Inc.

2017 Annual Report

“The Year of the Pea”

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.

This report provides an overview of the Maryland Native Plant Society in 2017, an all-volunteer organization with about 1200 members throughout Maryland. No other organization offers so many field trips and programs, free of charge, for people interested in exploring and learning about the natural areas of Maryland and our region. We believe we make a difference to public awareness of the importance of preserving Maryland’s native habitats



Kate’s Mountain Clover, *Trifolium virginicum* (Rare and Threatened)
Photo: Jim Brighton

Field Trips

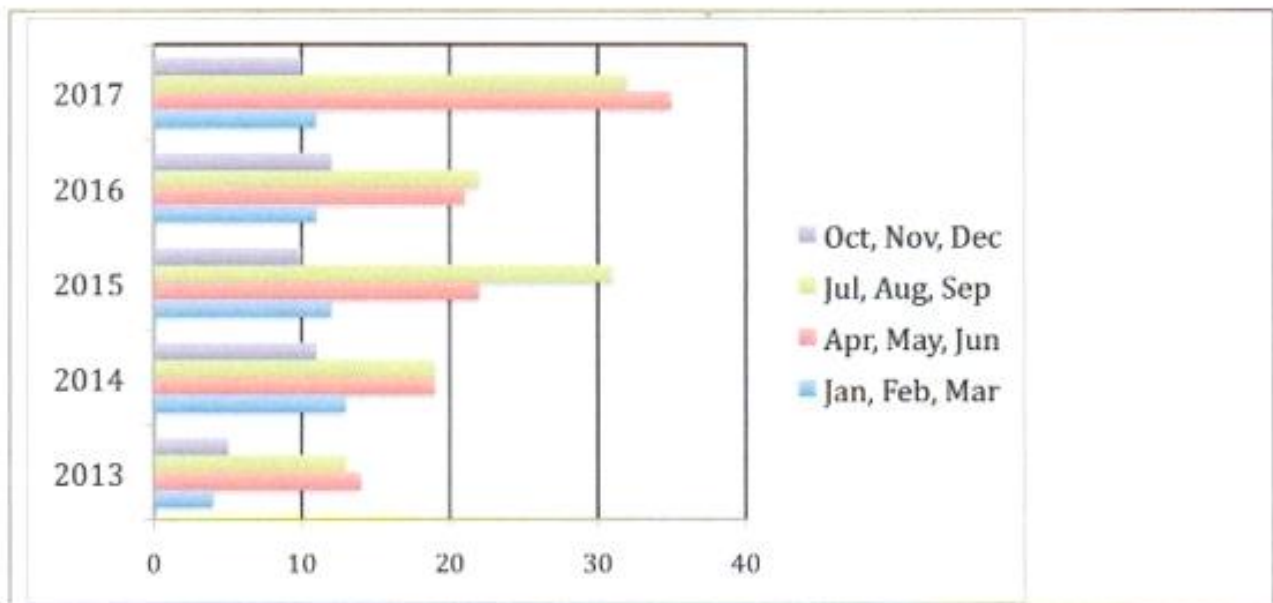


Under the leadership of field trip coordinator, Anne DeNovo, 2017 saw a big increase in the number of field trips, which are the Society's most important educational activity. There is no substitute for getting outdoors, having fun, learning field skills and witnessing the need for conservation. All field trips (except for the conference) are free and open to the public.

We're always looking to explore new areas, and welcome suggestions for field trip locations and leaders.

See pages 8-10 for a list of 2017 field trips and other outdoor activities.

MNPS Field Trips 2013 - 2017



- Seasonal peak in springtime: 35 in 2017
- Conference bolsters the summer numbers
- 22 conference-related field trips in Sep 2017; 10 non-conference trips
- Lower, but consistent number of trips in the fall and winter: 10 fall and 11 winter

Flowers from the Pea Family, the plant group we emphasized in programs and field trips in 2017



Atlantic Pigeonwings, *Clitoria mariana*
Photo: Wayne Longbottom



Spurred Butterfly Pea, *Centrosema virginiana*
Photo: Matt Beziat

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 as well as the opportunity to socialize. It isn't unusual for 75 people or more to attend.

Please see page 11 for a list of programs held in 2017.

Research Grants

The Society awarded research grants to the following applicants:

Eric Griffin PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center
How Plant Identity, Diversity and Traits Structure Microbial Endophyte Communities

David Grow, MS Student, Towson University
*Ecological Implications of *Tetradium daniellii* (Bee-bee Tree) Invasions*

Andrew P Landsman PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Delaware
Nutritional Dynamics of Native and Invasive Forest Plants



~ Nature Knows No Boundaries ~

Tristate Conference Co-Sponsored by Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia Native Plant Societies

**US Fish & Wildlife National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV
September 29 – October 1, 2017**

The 2017 annual conference was an extra special event, as we joined the Virginia Native Plant Society and the West Virginia Native Plant Society to host a three-day conference at the US Fish & Wildlife's beautiful National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. There were field trips to natural and historic areas in all three states, plus on-campus workshops and plenty of time for socializing.

For the complete schedule of activities, please see pages 12-13.



Dining Room at the Conference Center



Speaker Wes Knapp and
President Kirsten Johnson

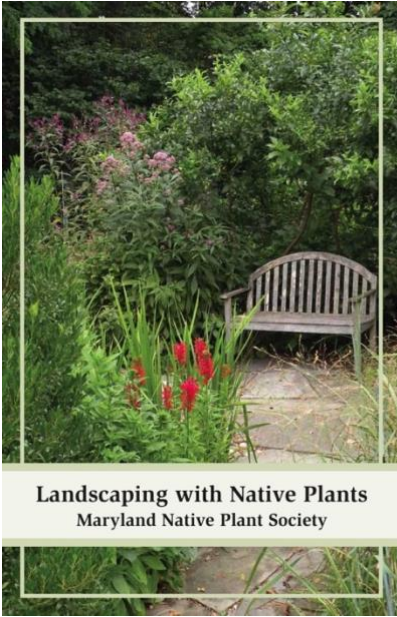


Carole Bergmann,
Board member and
field trip leader



Karyn Molines,
Vice President and
registration coordinator

Booklet: *Landscaping with Native Plants*



This booklet, first 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 or downloaded free of charge from the website. We also sell bulk quantities to Master Gardener groups, nature centers and other non-profits. We have distributed about 15,000 copies.

Marilandica

Kirsten Johnson, editor. Marjie Paul, Graphic designer.

Two issues published. Circulation ~ 1000 households.

Marilandica is mailed to all MNPS members and is available on our website, mdflora.org.



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. Timely and interesting information about Maryland's flora and conservation are posted on our Facebook Page. The MNPS Facebook group, with over 2000 members, is a forum for sharing field experiences, questions (and answers!) about plant identification, gardening with native plants and more.

Our MeetUp site allows us to reach a wide range of nature enthusiasts with information about upcoming events.

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.

Letters and petitions we signed in 2017 included:

- Letter prepared by Conservation Montgomery to the Montgomery Council urging support for a water and sewer plan and policy to maintain and upgrade the septic systems that now serve certain areas of the county.
- Letter signed by numerous organizations to the Environmental Protection Agency opposing a proposal to repeal the 2015 Clean Water Rule.
- Petition to the Maryland General Assembly urging a permanent statewide ban on hydraulic fracturing.
- Letter prepared by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation to the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries in favor establishing of new marine sanctuaries Mallovs Bay-Potomac River and Wisconsin-Lake Michigan.
- Letter prepared by Smarter Growth Alliance for Frederick County to the Monocacy Scenic River Citizens' Advisory Board pertaining to the Monocacy Scenic River Management Plan.
- Letter prepared by Stormwater Partners to the Secretary of Maryland Department of the Environment pertaining to a proposed consent decree addressing Montgomery County's alleged violations of its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit.

Financial Summary for 2017

Total Assets December 31	\$70,940
Total Income	\$99,189
Donations and member dues	\$22,051
Conference fees*	\$76,061
Sales and miscellaneous	\$1,077
Total Expense	\$95,721
Conference*, programs, field trips	\$67,714
Publications, electronic and paper	\$10,797
Research grants	\$7,004
Other Grants**	\$4,000
Insurance, overhead, and misc.	\$6,206

** MNPS managed registration for the tristate conference, and therefore took in fees from all of the approximately 250 attendees, and paid USFW for conference expenses. Proportionate amounts of the excess of revenue over expense were paid to co-sponsors Virginia Native Plant Society and West Virginia Native Plant Society. Those payments were made in 2018 and are not included as expenses here.*

*** Grants were made to Lake Roland Nature Council for restoration of the park's rare serpentine ecosystem, and to Maryland Biodiversity Project for expenses related to enhancing their database of Maryland biota.*

Officers

Kirsten Johnson, President
Karyn Molines, Vice-President
Matt Cohen, Treasurer
[Open] Secretary

Directors

Ken Bawer	Stephanie Mason
Carole Bergmann	Brett McMillan
Allen Browne	Chris Puttock
Marney Bruce	Sujata Roy
Anne DeNovo	Rod Simmons
Cris Fleming	Tenley Wurglitz
Jane Hill	
Marc Imlay	Lou Aronica, Emeritus
Beth Johnson	Joe Metzger, Emeritus
Liz Jones	

Members

As of the end of 2017, Maryland Native Plant Society had over 1200 individual members (including over 200 lifetime members) and about 75 organizational members.

2017 Field Trips and Other Outdoor Activities

Jan	Little Bennett Regional Park Leaders: Ken Bawer and Geri Drymalski	Montgomery Co
	Seneca Creek Greenway Trail Leaders: Ken Bawer and Geri Drymalski	Montgomery Co
Feb	Bidcoe Gray Heritage Farm Leader: Karyn Molines	Calvert Co
	Cheverly Nature Park Leader: Matt Salo	Prince George's Co
	Woodworth Park Leader: Matt Salo	Prince George's Co
	Woody Tree ID at Little Bennett Park Leaders: Sujata Roy and Liz Jones	Montgomery Co
	Fort Totten Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Allen Browne	Washington, DC
	Woodworth Park Leader: Matt Salo	Prince Georges Co
Mar	Seneca Creek Greenway Trail Leaders: Ken Bawer and Geri Drymalski	Montgomery Co
	Monocacy Aqueduct Marney Bruce and Anne DeNovo	Montgomery Co
	Little Bennett Regional Park Leader: Sujata Roy and Anne DeNovo	Montgomery Co
Apr	Lower Magruder Branch Trail Ken Bawer	Montgomery Co
	Blockhouse Point Marney Bruce and Anne DeNovo	Montgomery Co
	Holmes Run Gorge Rod Simmons	Northern Virginia
	Little Bennett Regional Park (Weed Warrior Work Day) Tenley Wurglitz and Anne DeNovo	Montgomery Co
	Little Bennett Regional Park Leader: Sujata Roy and Allen Browne	Montgomery Co
	Euclid Woods Leader: Matt Salo	Prince Georges Co
	Governor Bridge Natural Area Leaders: Karyn Molines and Lisa Bierer-Garrett	Prince Georges Co
	Great Falls River Trail Leaders: Marney Bruce and Anne DeNovo	Montgomery Co
	Watkins Regional Park Leader: Matt Salo	Montgomery Co
	Smithsonian Env Research Center Workshop Dennis Whigham and Karyn Molines	Anne Arundel Co
	Catoctin Mountain Park Leader: Becky Loncosky	Frederick Co

2017 Field Trip List continued (April)

	Seneca Creek Greenway Trail Leaders: Anne DeNovo and Marney Bruce	Montgomery Co
	Savage River State Forest – Bear Pen Wildlands (Invasive removal)	Garrett Co
	Gunpowder State Park – Hereford Area Leader: Dwight Johnson	Baltimore Co
	Northwest Branch Leaders: Marney Bruce and Mike Ellis	Montgomery Co
	Carderock area of C&O Canal Nat'l Park Leader: Ralph Buglass	Montgomery Co
	Wildflower ID for Beginners at Flag Ponds Nature Park Leader: Karyn Molines	Calvert Co
	Catoctin Mountain Park – Orchid Search Leader: Joe Metzger	Frederick Co
	New Germany State Park Invasive Removal Leaders: Christine Campe-Price and Liz McDowell	Garrett Co
May	Fort Chaplin Leaders: Liz Matthews, Claudine Lebeau and Allen Browne	Washington, DC
	C&O Canal Nat'l Historic Park – Pawpaw Tunnel Leader: Joe Metzger	Allegany Co
	Catoctin Mountain Park Leaders: Gary Delise and Anne DeNovo	Frederick Co
	Invasive Removal at Emily Bayless Graham Park Leader: Sam Jones	Harford County
	Don Miller Forest Leader: Heidi Pringle	Howard Co
	Hellen Creek Hemlock Preserve Leaders: Karyn Molines and Bob Boxwell	Calvert Co
	Gunpowder State Park – Hereford Area Leader: Dwight Johnson	Baltimore Co
	Rachel Carson House Nat'l Historic Landmark Leaders: Michael Ellis, Diana Post and Clifford Hall	Montgomery Co
	Little Bennett Regional Park Leaders: Anne DeNovo, Sujata Roy and Allen Browne	Montgomery Co
	Locust Grove Nature Center Leader: Ken Bawer and Jackie Raiford	Montgomery Co
	Greenbrier State Park Leaders: Gary Delise and Sandra Bloom	Washington Co
	Mountain Maryland Native Plant Festival Co-sponsored with Friends of New Germany St Park	Garrett Co
	Ferncliff Peninsula Natural Area of Ohiopyle State Park Leader: Joe Metzger	Pennsylvania
Jun	Oxon Run Bog Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Jim Rosenstock	Washington, DC
	New Germany State Park Invasive Removal Leaders: Christine Campe-Price and Liz McDowell	Garrett Co
	Frederick Municipal Watershed Leaders: Gary Delise and Anne DeNovo	Frederick Co

2017 Field Trip List continued (June)

	Ferns of Gunpowder State Park-Perry Hall area Leader: Dwight Johnson	Baltimore Co
	Plant Identification Workshops Leader: Liz McDowell	Garrett Co
	Little Bennett Regional Park Leaders: Marney Bruce and Ralph Buglass	Montgomery Co
	Little Bennett Regional Park Weed Warrior Work Day & Field Trip Anne DeNovo and Ken Bawer	Montgomery Co
Aug	New Germany State Park Invasive Removal Leaders: Christine Campe-Price and Liz McDowell	Garrett Co
	Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary Leaders: Bethany Dellagnello and Anne DeNovo	Frederick Co
Sep	Roosevelt Island Leaders:Liz Matthews, Allen Browne, Claudine Lebeau	Washington, DC
	Seneca Creek Greenway Trail Leaders: Anne DeNovo	Montgomery Co
	Catoctin Mountains (Private Property) Leaders: Marney Bruce and Bethany Dellagnello	Frederick Co
	Rock Creek Regional Park Leaders: Ken Bawer and Paul Grindrod	Montgomery Co
Oct	Carderock area of C&O Canal Nat'l Park Leader: Ralph Buglass	Montgomery Co
	Fort Slocum Leaders: Allen Browne and Claudine Lebeau	Washington, DC
	Elk Ridge Native Plant Preserve (Private Property) Leaders: Liz McDowell and Ron Boyer	Garrett Co
	Gold Mine Tract of C&O Canal Nat'l Historic Park Leaders: Marney Bruce and Jil Swearingen	Montgomery Co
	Little Bennett Regional Park Leaders: Anne DeNovo and Marney Bruce	Montgomery Co
Nov	Little Bennett Regional Park Weed Warrior Work Day & Field Trip Leaders: Anne DeNovo and Ken Bawer	Montgomery Co
	Shepherd Parkway Leaders: Claudine Lebeau and Allen Browne	Washington, DC
Dec	Fort Dupont Park Leaders: Allen Browne and Claudine Lebeau	Washington, DC
	Little Bennett Regional Park - Froggy Hollow area Leaders: Anne DeNovo and Liz Jones	Montgomery Co
	Chapman State Park Winter Solstice Walk and Hooley Leader: Rod Simmons. Co-sponsored by Virginia Native Plant Society and Botanical Society of Washington	Charles Co

2017 Evening Programs

	Montgomery County	Allegany County
Jan	A Tale of Two Vines: Human impacts on the non-native Kudzu and the native thicket bean Ashley N. Egan, Ph.D., Research Botanist & Assistant Curator, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution	
Feb	Vulnerability of Tidal Wetlands to Sea Level Rise Patrick Megonigal, Ph.D., Senior Scientist and Deputy Director, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center	The Potential Dangers of Black Cohosh Dietary Supplement Use and How to Address Safety Concerns with Botanical Education Laura Price, Undergraduate Ethnobotany Student, Biology Department, Frostburg State University
Mar	Bringing Back the Grasslands, One Lawn at a Time Jorge Bogantes Montero, Stewardship Program Specialist, Anacostia Watershed Society	What's in a Ring? From Wildflowers to Woodrats, Using Tree-Ring Analysis to Help Solve Complex Ecological Problems Laura G. Smith, Adjunct Faculty Member, Biology Department, Frostburg State University
Apr	Native orchids - Ecologically interesting and in need of conservation Dennis Whigham, Founding Director, North American Orchid Conservation Center, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center	
May	Fabaceae of Maryland Rod Simmons, Natural Resources Manager & Plant Ecologist, City of Alexandria	
Jun	Transforming the Natural Heritage Plant List Christopher Fry, MD State Botanist	
Jul	How Geology Affects Plants Joe Marx, Geologist, N VA Community College	
Aug	Peas of Maryland Christopher Puttock, PhD	
Sep	The Humane Gardener Nancy Lawson, author	
Oct	Partnering for Plants Lewis Gorman, President of the Botanical Society of Washington	Western Maryland through the eyes of an old-growth tree: the role of old-growth forests as ecological records Karen Heeter, Graduate Student, Biology, Frostburg State University
Nov	Members Annual Meeting and Photo-Share	

**Tristate Conference Co-Sponsored by
Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia Native Plant Societies
US Fish & Wildlife National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV
September 29 – October 1, 2017**

Friday September 29, Afternoon and Evening Activities

Invasive Plant Removal Workshop

Flora of Virginia App Demonstration by Bland Crowder

Dinner and Evening Program

- Bland Crowder, Flora of Virginia App
- Wesley Knapp, Western Regional Ecologist, NC Natural Heritage (formerly with MD Wildlife & Heritage Service, Dep't of Natural Resources)
- Lewis Gorman, USFW Nat'l Seed Strategy Implementation Team

Saturday Field Trips and Workshops

Saturday Full Day

Ferry Hill Plantation, C&O Canal Nat'l Historical Park with Rod Simmons and Beth Johnson.

Greenbrier State Park with Sandra Bloom and Gary Delise

Ice Mountain, a Nature Conservancy Preserve with Kristin Zimet

Loudoun Heights, Harper's Ferry Nat'l Historical Park with Charles Smith

Saturday Morning

Butterfly Alley of Blue Ridge Center field trip with Emily Southgate

Gathland State Park field trip with Stephanie Mason

Harper's Ferry, C&O Canal Nat'l Historical Park field trip with Richard Stromberg

NCTC Plant Communities field trip with Jim Vanderhorst

Taylor's Landing field trip with Rochelle Bartolomei

Yankauer Preserve of the Potomac Valley Audubon Society field trip with Joe Metzger

Designing with Native Plant Communities Workshop with Vince Vizachero

iNaturalist Workshop with Laura Sebastianelli

Maintaining a Field Sketchbook Workshop with Laura Call Gastinger

Tree ID: Lab Session and Walk with Rodney Dever

Saturday Afternoon

Meet the Trees at NCTC field trip with Carrie Blair

Shannondale Wildlife Management Area Field Trip with Sally Anderson

Snavelly's Ford, Antietam National Battlefield Field Trip with Carole Bergmann

Snyder's Landing, C&O Canal Nat'l Historical Park Field Trip with Kirsten and Dwight Johnson

Yankauer Preserve Field Trip with Joe Metzger

Beginning Botany Workshop with Karyn Molines

Designing with Native Plant Communities Workshop with Vince Vizachero

Grass ID: Laboratory Session with Andrea Weeks

iNaturalist Workshop with Laura Sebastianelli

Maintaining a Field Sketchbook Workshop with Laura Call Gastinger

The Pawpaw: Our Special Fruit Workshop with Neal Peterson



Bulblet Fern, *Cystopteris bulbifera* (S3),
at Snyder's Landing



Short's Aster, *Symphyotricum shortii*,
at Snavely's Ford, Antietam Battlefield

Sunday Field Trips and Workshops

Botanic Names Workshop with Margaret Chatham

Roundtable: Collaboration to Boost Conservation, with Alan Ford

Ball's Bluff Battlefield Regional Park Field Trip with Laura Beaty

Catoctin Mountain Park with Joe Metzger

Cool Spring Preserve of Potomac Valley Audubon Society Field Trip with Jim Vanderhorst

Cranesville Swamp, Nature Conservancy preserve, Field Trip with Kevin Dodge

Ferns of Snyder's Landing Field Trip with Carl Taylor

Ferry Hill, C&O National Historical Park, with Rod Simmons and Beth Johnson

Historical Antietam Field Trip with Kevin Pawlak

Ice Mountain, a Nature Conservancy Preserve, with Kristin Zimet

Shenandoah University's Cool Spring Field Trip with Mary Jane Epps

Snavely's Ford at Antietam National Battlefield Field Trip with Carole Bergmann

Taylor's Landing, C&O National Historical Park, Field Trip with Rochelle Bartolomei