

**Monthly Member Meet**  
April 20, 2021 (7:00-8:20pm)  
NOTES

1. **Welcome & Introductions** – Chris Puttock and Jil Swearingen (co-leaders)

Note: These meetings may be recorded. Notes will be taken and provided via the MNPS website (mdflora.org, Events, Handouts, Monthly Member Meets).

Introductions of board.

**Present:** Chris Puttock (President), Jil Swearingen (Secretary), Lauren Hubbard (Treasurer), Allen Brown

**Absent:** Sujata Roy (Vice President, President-elect), Karyn Molines (Membership), Vanessa Beauchamp (Grants), Carole Bergmann

2. **Liz McDowell** (Western – Bay Journal article “Let Invasives Do Their Job...”). Liz plans to write a response. She would like someone else to write a response on behalf of MNPS. We need a volunteer to write it. Judy Fulton provided a link to the article.

[https://www.bayjournal.com/opinion/forum/let-invasive-plants-do-their-job-so-the-natives-can-take-over/article\\_7387fc70-93c6-11eb-a929-03fb0e9b107b.html](https://www.bayjournal.com/opinion/forum/let-invasive-plants-do-their-job-so-the-natives-can-take-over/article_7387fc70-93c6-11eb-a929-03fb0e9b107b.html)

3. **Marilandica** – Chris and Vanessa

- Spring issue – Deadline April 19, 16 pages. Expect mail out by Memorial Day.
- Fall issue – Deadline for submissions July 31; late August/early Sep. printing.
- Will need an editor for 2022.

4. **Field trips.** MNPS hosted trips are on hold for now due to covid restrictions.

Once everyone is vaccinated, holding field trips will be possible again. However, we need to remain vigilant and keep up-to-date with the science and recommendations regarding covid-19 variants.

Trips with a limited numbers of attendees (e.g., 10-12) and an upfront statement about a preference for attendees to be fully vaccinated, are ways to make field trips safe. Masks can continue to be worn by anyone participating.

- A. **Action:** The board needs to make a decision on liability insurance waivers and covid concerns for field trips and other in-person meetings. The board will put this on the May 11 board agenda.
- B. If you are interested in hosting/leading a field trip, fill out the field trip form on the MNPS website <https://mdflora.org/trips>, and send to [fieldtrips@mdflora.org](mailto:fieldtrips@mdflora.org).
- C. If you are interested in being the Field Trip Coordinator, please email Anne Denovo at [fieldtrips@mdflora.org](mailto:fieldtrips@mdflora.org)

5. **2021 Annual conference** – Chris and Jil

- a. Sep 25-26 (Sat & Sun)
- b. Theme topic: Maryland’s rare plants and plant communities threatened by the proposed Superconducting Magnetic Levitation (SCMaglev) project.\*
- c. Presentations will be virtual. We may be offer an in-person location to view talks. We are planning to have an in-person location for a social gathering and evening presentation.
- d. DRAFT AGENDA

9/25 Sat 10AM: Rod Simmons - Rare species and communities of Beltsville Agricultural Res Ctr

9/25 Sat 11AM: Speaker TBD – Rare species and communities of Patuxent Wildlife Refuge

9/25 Sat 1-5PM Field trips – Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC), Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (PWRC), Greenbelt Forest, Greenbelt local park  
9/25 Sat 6-9PM Social; Speaker on Maglev project. Location TBD (Beltsville-Greenbelt area)  
9/26 Sun 9-10AM Welcome, awards, etc.  
9/26 Sun 10AM Doug Tallamy - Ecological importance of oaks (New book: The Nature of Oaks)  
9/26 Sun 1-5PM Field trips - Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC), Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (PWRC), Greenbelt Forest, Greenbelt local park

\*SCMaglev: If approved, the proposed train maintenance facility will destroy over 200 acres of high quality forests and wetlands in the BW Parkway corridor and Greenbelt, most of which is federal property (USDA Beltsville Agricultural Center and USGS Patuxent Research Reserve) and has been used for scientific research for many decades. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is available for public comment. Comments are due [May 24, 2021](#). Submit comments as follows: Use subject line "I support the No Build Alternative" and use one of the following:

- a) Federal Railroad Administration online comment form:  
<https://www.bwmaglev.info/index.php/project-documents/deis>
- b) U.S. mail to:  
SCMAGLEV Project c/o Lauren Molesworth  
Maryland Transit Administration  
6 Saint Paul St, Baltimore, MD 21202
- c) E-mail: [info@bwmaglev.info](mailto:info@bwmaglev.info)

6. **Board recruitment.** MNPS is the leading organization in support of protection and conservation of Maryland's native plants and ecosystems. All board members are volunteers. Your organization is operating on the bare minimum Board of Directors. If you share a passion for this mission, consider how you might contribute by being on the board. We'll provide more information about skills needed and what's expected at future monthly member meets. Board meetings will be conducted via Zoom meeting for the foreseeable future.

**Question:** Are members are allowed to attend board meetings?

**Answer:** Yes, all MNPS members are welcome to attend board meetings. However, members are not currently informed of when these meetings will take place.

**Action:** (Karyn) Add board meetings to the website, announce each one well in advance, make it clear that members are welcome to attend.

**Action:** Board needs to draft what skills and assistance we are looking for.

7. **Monthly Programs** – The monthly programs are handled by Marney Bruce who secures speakers, and Lynn Parsons and Anne Denovo who handle running the Zoom meetings. They are all volunteers, and none are currently on the MNPS Board of Directors.

Gina Becker ([ginabecker22@gmail.com](mailto:ginabecker22@gmail.com); 301-509-1196) volunteered to serve as a deputy Zoom webinar assistant to help Lynn Parsons and Anne Denovo, especially in the event one of them is not available. **Action:** (Jil) Provide Gina with Anne Denovo's email. Done 4/20

8. **Special features by Chris Puttock.**

- a. **Periodical cicadas.** Brood X (10) of the periodical cicadas will be emerging mid-May after spending 17 years sucking on tree roots. There will be lots and lots of cicadas emerging from

the ground as pre-adults, climbing up trees to settle and become adults. Males will immediately start calling to attract females. It will be very noisy and you will see weird red-eyed relatively large winged insects – everywhere. Males and females look alike. Fertilized females will lay eggs in small circumference branches using their ovipositor to cut small slits. Many eggs are deposited in each slit. This cutting can be a problem for small trees and shrubs. If you are concerned about your young or recently planted shrubs and small trees, you can cover them with netting. For more information on Brood X and how to place netting, check out the University of Maryland Cicada Crew website at <https://cicadacrewumd.weebly.com/crew.html>

- b. **Pussytoes (*Antennaria*)** – There are 6 species in Maryland. Plants are dioecious meaning there is a female plant and a male plant. The female flowers occur in tight clusters covered with white hairs and look most like the toes of a pussycat; the male flowers also occur in clusters and, when open, have stamens protruding. Chris grows 5 species at Chesapeake Natives and is looking for *A. speciosa*?

There were 22 attendees.