

Monthly Member Meet
March 23, 2021 (7:00-8:20p)
NOTES

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

Chris and Jil explained the impetus for these new meetings - to reconnect with membership, to keep members informed on society activities, plans and needs, and to hear from the members! It's been a year since in-person meetings were canceled due to covid-19. These meetings may be recorded. Notes will be taken and provided via the MNPS website (under Events, Handouts).

Board Introductions. Chris Puttock (President), Jil Swearingen (Secretary), Sujata Roy (Vice President and President-elect), Karyn Molines (Membership), Vanessa Beauchamp (Grants), Allen Brown, Carole Bergmann; Lauren Hubbard (Treasurer) was absent.

2. **Marilandica** – Chris and Vanessa

- Spring issue – in progress; dedicated to Cris Fleming; April 15 deadline for submissions; late May printing. Some authors are confirmed; seeking contributions. Articles generally 200 words with images, preferably personal, not copyrighted images. Email to Jil at: info@mdflora.org
*Suggestion was made to add a section (“Snippets”?) for tips like Marc Imlay’s on how to control invasive plants; could include other tips
- Fall issue – Deadline for submissions July 31; late August/early Sep. printing.

3. **Grants** – Vanessa, Chair. Grants program started 2018. To date, \$40k distributed, about \$7k per yr, 3-6 grants per yr; wide range of recipients from professors to undergrads. Projects must be about MD native plants but work does not need to occur in state. Deadline for proposals is March 31.

4. **Annual conference** – Chris and Jil

- a. Sep 25-26, 2021 (Sat/Sun)
- b. Virtual presentations. Working on speakers and theme. Doug Tallamy is available to speak 9/26 on the importance of oaks to ecosystems based on his new book: The Nature of Oaks.
- c. Members are invited to submit suggestions for speakers and theme.

5. **Field trips.** MNPS hosted trips are on hold for now due to covid restrictions. Also, there is no field trip coordinator. Anne Denovo requests anyone interested in volunteering to coordinate field trips email her at fieldtrips@mdflora.org.

6. **Advocacy.** Discussion about the proposed Super-conducting Magnetic Levitation (MagLev) train from Baltimore to DC. If approved, the Train Maintenance Facility alone 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).

A. Karyn Molines hosted a zoom meeting in February on the maglev that provided guidance on how to take action against it. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is out for review and the deadline has been extended to May 24.

<https://www.stopthistrain.org/resources> has a thorough set of resources and information.

We encourage you to submit written comments with the Subject Line "I support the No Build Alternative" by May 24, 2021, using one of the following:

Using the Federal Railroad Administration online comment form,
<https://www.bwmaglev.info/index.php/project-documents/deis>

By mail to:
SCMAGLEV Project c/o Lauren Molesworth
Maryland Transit Administration
6 Saint Paul St, Baltimore, MD 21202

By e-mail at: info@bwmaglev.info

- B. Marcia Watson, President, Patuxent Bird Club, offered resources that would help educate anyone interested in being involved and will send those to Jil and Karyn for distribution.
7. **Board recruitment.** Your organization has a small board. MNPS is the leading organization in support of protection and conservation of Maryland's native plants and ecosystems. All board members are volunteers. If you share the passion towards 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 meets.