



The **Maryland Native Plant Society** uses education, research, and community service to increase awareness and appreciation of native plants and their habitats leading to their conservation and restoration.

The Society sponsors monthly meetings, workshops, field trips, and an annual fall conference.

Membership is open to all who are interested in Maryland's native plants and their habitats. Preserving Maryland's natural heritage, increasing knowledge about native plants, and helping to further the Society's mission are our goals.

This conference explores the relationship of different geological terrains found in Montgomery County and the natural communities and plants associated with them. The schist and gneiss of the Potomac Gorge, the diabase found at Hoyles Mill and Edwards Ferry, and the serpentinite region near Rockville each support a different type of flora. Talks and field trips will emphasize these connections

Despite intense suburban development, Montgomery County has a rich diversity of natural areas protected by national, state, and county parks. The Potomac River and the C&O Canal National Historical Park rim the entire western edge of the county with easy access at many points including Great Falls and Little Falls. The ten mile long Potomac Gorge is known to contain some of the rarest plant communities in the eastern U.S. State natural areas adjoin the C&O Canal NHP in many areas. County parks such as Blockhouse Point, Rachel Carson, Hoyles Mill, and Little Bennett also preserve large areas of forests and stream valleys. Sugarloaf Mountain Park, on the northwestern border of the county, surrounds a 1282-foot-high quartzite monadnock that is the highest point on Maryland's Piedmont.

Maryland Native Plant Society 2006 Annual Conference



Botanical Diversity of Montgomery County

The Geology-Botany Connection

Saturday, October 14

Sunday, October 15

**The Universities at Shady Grove
Rockville, Maryland**

and field trips throughout the Region

Registration Fee: (includes lunch)
\$50 members; \$65 nonmembers
Saturday Social: \$30 / person (includes dinner)

Speakers

Gary P. Fleming has more than 30 years of experience in botanical and ecological inventory of the mid-Atlantic region. Since 1992, he has been a vegetation ecologist for the Virginia Natural Heritage Program, responsible for developing an inventory of natural communities in the state. In 2003, he began an intensive ecological study of the Virginia side of the Potomac Gorge. His study complements and expands on similar work recently conducted on the Maryland side of the gorge. Mr. Fleming's work has been published in *Castanea*, *Banisteria*, *the Virginia Journal of Science*, and other scientific journals.

Tony Fleming is a native Washingtonian and licensed professional geologist with 30 years of geological experience in the greater D.C. area. While at the Indiana Geological Survey he authored numerous reports on ground water, wetland hydrology, and other environmental topics. He wrote the Washington D.C. West Geologic Quadrangle and has completed geologic investigations of several wetlands and other natural areas in the greater DC area. He is currently working on a geologic guidebook to DC.

MNPS Vice President **John Parrish** is a lifelong resident of Montgomery County and has devoted the past 30 years to studying the flora of the mid-Atlantic region. His intimate understanding of the geography, geology, flora and fauna and his love for this region have naturally led him to help preserve the region's fast disappearing natural areas and widely share his knowledge and experience with a diverse audience.

Field Trip Leaders

MNPS field trips leaders are recognized for their expertise of Maryland's unique and common plants, as well as their knowledge of local parks and plant communities.

Directions to the Universities at Shady Grove from Interstate 270 between Rockville and Gaithersburg in Montgomery County.

From I-270 take Exit 8, Shady Grove Road west. Go 1.5 miles, cross over Route 28, Darnestown Road. Turn right onto Gudelsky Way Turn left onto Gudelsky Drive. Follow the road around to the back of the campus. Conference is in Building 2 (9630 Gudelsky). It is located directly behind Building 1 (9640 Gudelsky)

Hotel Accommodations

We have a block of rooms (\$99 plus tax) with: **QUALITY SUITES** and **SLEEP INN**
2 and 3 Research Court, Rockville, MD 20850
(301) 840-0200 extension 505

www.qualityinn.com/hotel/md616

www.sleepinn.com/hotel/md619

Anyone wanting to stay at Quality Suites or Sleep Inn should ask for the Maryland Native Plant Society block. Check-in time is after 3:00 p.m., and check-out time is 12 noon. There is a shuttle bus to Universities at Shady Grove Center.

Scholarships are available for students or people with limited income.

Fall Conference Contacts:

Registration:

Beth Johnson 301-949-6338

bajohnsonjohnson@earthlink.net

Saturday Social and Silent Auction:

Linda Keenan 301-434-9671

linda_s_keenana@yahoo.com

Sunday Field Trips or Other Questions:

Karyn Molines 410-286-2928

kmolines@chesapeake.net

The Maryland Native Plant Society is a 501(c) 3 organization.
All donations to MNPS are tax deductible.

Saturday, October 14

8:30 a.m.Registration Opens
9:00 a.m.Introduction
..... Carole Bergmann, MNPS President
9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

From Gondwanaland to Georgetown: Geology of the Potomac Fall Zone, from Great Falls to D.C.

Tony Fleming provides an overview of regional geologic history, focusing on the origin, distribution, landforms, geochemistry, and soils of major rock units. The talk will examine how these factors, along with modern surface processes and hydrology, interact to produce a variety of different geologic settings in and near the gorge.

Vegetation Ecology of the Potomac Gorge

Gary P. Fleming presents an overview of plant community diversity and the environmental factors that influence variation in vegetation over this topographically complex landscape.

Botanical Bounty: How Geology, Climate, and Setting Support Montgomery County’s Rich Botanical Diversity

Montgomery County is home to a unique array of natural communities due to a moderate climate, diverse geology and soils, and geographic setting along the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers. **John Parrish** will share his knowledge of the geology and flora of some of these special areas, offering a glimpse into the diversity of habitats that make Montgomery special.

12:00Closing Remarks
12:30 p.m.Box Lunch (provided)
1:00-5:00.....Field Trips

Saturday Evening Social 6-9 p.m.

Washington Grove’s McCathran Hall

Directions are on our website and will be provided at the Conference.

Our ever-popular Saturday Evening Social is a fun time to meet new friends and catch up with old ones. The Silent Auctions generate several hundred dollars, so we’ll continue this fun even. Start searching for good auction donation items—they are tax deductible at fair market value. Proceeds benefit the Society’s programs and activities.

The Saturday Social is an additional \$30 per person, which includes dinner.

Saturday Field Trips Include:

Additional field trips are planned. Directions will be provided at the Conference. Field trips are 1-5 p.m. unless noted otherwise.

Potomac Gorge: Great Falls

Leaders: Cris Fleming and Tony Fleming

This walk will illustrate several aspects of the morning talks on the Potomac Gorge. Great Falls, the head of the Potomac Gorge, contains diverse geology, bedrock terrace plant communities, and several rare species. We will walk a portion of the Billy Goat Trail and some off-trail areas so wear sturdy shoes.

Non-native Invasive Plants of the Piedmont

Leader: Paul Carlson 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Many of us are fairly knowledgeable about native plants and their habitats, but we may not know much about the non-native invasive plants—vines, shrubs, forbs, and grasses—that are impacting Piedmont ecosystems. At this workshop we will spend some time inside looking at plant samples and key i.d. points, then take a walk around the Shady Grove campus and see if we can find some of the problem plants in the wild. Max. 15 people

Serpentine Barrens Conservation Park

Leaders: John Parrish & RG Steinman

This forested “barrens” is underlain with a mosaic of shallow acidic and circumneutral soils. We will see old age oak/hickory forest as well as mature oak/pine forest. Over twenty species of rare plants are found, some only in forest openings called glades. Other habitats include little bluestem and indian grass meadows filled with many wildflowers, small streams, and a unique upland depression wetland supports several species more common to Maryland’s Coastal Plain

Edward’s Ferry Diabase

Leader: Rod Simmons

This mature oak-hickory forest along the C&O Canal National Historical Park was recently discovered by MNPS members. It is the only diabase community on the Maryland side of the C&O Canal NHP, and also contains upland depression swamps.

Blockhouse Point

Leader: Carole Bergmann

Blockhouse Point Conservation Park is a 650 acre preserve along the Potomac River. We will explore the high quality, contiguous Piedmont forest and a hike out to a bluff above the Potomac. In all we will cover 2 to 4 miles, with some uphill and downhill.

Sunday Field Trips

Sunday field trips are open to the public. Check the website for directions.

Potomac Gorge: Chain Bridge Flats

Leader: Cris Fleming 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Chain Bridge Flats, at the lower end of the Potomac Gorge, contains an unusual plant community called a riverside prairie. Frequently flooded and scoured, the open rocky shoreline supports prairie vegetation, stunted trees, and many rare species. Wear sturdy shoes as there are no trails and we will be scrambling on the rocks.

Hoyles Mill Conservation Park 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Leaders: John Parrish & RG Steinman

This forested park sits atop the largest outcrop of diabase bedrock in Maryland. This ecosystem supports the second highest concentration of rare plant species in Montgomery, second only to the Potomac River Gorge. We will observe some of these including Shumards red oak, prickly-ash, and bottle gentian. A powerline opening abuts the parkland which supports beautiful indian grass and little bluestem meadows with late blooming composites among the grasses.

Subway to Subduction 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Leader: Tony Fleming

A 4-mile walk in southern Rock Creek Park contrasting mafic/ultramafic rocks, soils, and plants with more acidic bedrock and terrace-gravel landscapes. The walk showcases the whole microcosm of DC geology along a major regional fault zone, and includes several geologic sites of historical importance as well as rich forests with a rare stand of native sugar maples. We’ll picnic at the zoo—bring one or buy one at the Panda Café. Plan to walk about 5 miles.

Sugarloaf Mountain & Montgomery County’s

Agricultural Reserve 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley

This trip includes a short steep slow hike to the summit of Sugarloaf, a monadnock and the only real mountain in Maryland’s Piedmont. The tupelos will be showing early autumn color; we’ll see table mountain pine at the summit. We will explore springs and creeks along the mountain’s western side looking for fall wildflowers. We will learn about Sugarloaf’s history, geology and Montgomery County’s Agricultural Reserve, a national model for farmland preservation.

Chilton Woods 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Leader: Rod Simmons

Located near White’s Ferry on the C&O Canal National Historical Park, this is one of the best examples of Piedmont forest. We’ll hike through ravines and rolling forests and view the Potomac River from siltstone cliffs.

2006 MNPS Annual Conference

Make copies for additional registrations.

Become a member of MNPS and pay the member’s rates.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State ____ Zip Code _____ County _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

e-mail _____

- Do not send monthly email announcements
- Do not list me in membership directory.

Membership Dues: New Renewal

Membership is for 12 months.

- \$15 Student/Limited Income
- \$25 Individual
- \$35 Double: 2nd member _____
- \$50 Organization _____
- \$250 Lifetime

Please include me on MNPS providers list as:

- native plant propagator or grower
 - native plant supplier
 - native plant landscape / garden professional
- Company Name _____

Registration Fee	
Saturday Social	

- I am requesting vegetarian meals

Consider a tax-deductible donation:

Conference Scholarship Fund	
Lou Aronica Conservation Fund	
Jean Worthley Lifetime Achievement Fund	
Additional Donation	
Membership	
Total Enclosed	

Please send checks to
Maryland Native Plant Society
Mail to MNPS Fall Conference,
P. O. Box 4877
Silver Spring, MD 20914