

Native News

Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

March/April 2009

Volume 9 Number 2

Inside This Issue:

President's Letter
Page 2

~

MNPS Contacts
Page 2

~

President's Annual Report 2008
Page 3

~

Members' Moments
Page 4

~

MNPS Announcements
Page 4

~

Chapter Events and Updates
Page 5

~

Spring Field Trips
Page 6

~

Wildflower in Focus
Page 8

~

General Announcements
Page 9

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

“Mosses for Beginners”

Tuesday, March 31, 7:30 pm
White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Using slides, dramatization, models, and microscope work, Linda will introduce participants to moss anatomy, life cycle, ecology, human use, and gardening. She and her husband, Charles Davis, have inventoried mosses and liverworts for the National Park Service at Great Falls Park, Virginia, and at Piscataway Park and Fort Washington Park in Maryland. Linda is the convener for a moss study group that meets monthly at the Benjamin Banneker Center in southwest Baltimore County. When she's not looking at mosses, Linda tutors people with learning differences.

“Spring Flowering Native Plants of Maryland”

Tuesday, April 28, 7:30 pm
White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

MNPS offers this lecture each year in spring, as a celebration of the season but also to give new members an introduction to spring-flowering native plants and places to see them in the wild. Join botanist Rod Simmons for a presentation on many of the common and rare, spring-flowering native plants of Maryland. Spring ephemerals – plants of early spring which bloom and largely disappear before the forest canopy substantially leafs out – will be the main focus, although other spring wildflowers will be included as well. Plant identification, habitats and natural communities, and places in Maryland to see them will also be discussed.

Directions: Exit the Washington Beltway at New Hampshire Ave (exit 28). Go north about 2 miles. The library is the first building on the right, once you have passed under Route 29, just after the Sears store.



Foamflowers blooming in April, 2001 at Chapman Forest in Charles County. Photo by Meghan Tice.

President's Annual Report for the Year 2008

During 2008, the Society continued to be active in conservation advocacy, botany, education, invasive removals, publications, and many other areas. Our advocacy program was particularly busy. Liz McDowell, Chair of the Western Mountains Chapter, alerted us to some potential problems for state lands in that region. In January, we wrote a letter to the Governor and DNR protesting the proposal to close several state parks and we wrote another letter objecting to the construction of private industrial wind facilities on mountaintops in state forests. We were pleased to receive a response from Governor O'Malley saying that the state parks would not be closed and also a letter stating that, due to public input, the wind turbines would not be built on public land.

Mary Pat Rowan, Chair of the Washington, D.C. Chapter, testified against several proposals, including development at the Old Soldiers Home, wireless cell towers in Rock Creek Park, construction of recreational facilities in Fort Dupont Park, and transfer of federal land along Oxon Run Parkway. In Montgomery County, several MNPS members joined a group trying to persuade state legislators to withhold funding for the ICC. We wrote a letter to County Council members and the County Executive supporting Council Member Marc Elrich's amendment to the Forest Conservation bill. In Charles County, we testified against the Cross-County Connector and signed onto a letter urging a full environmental impact statement of this proposed highway.

For the first time in many years, we had a weekend field trip program. Since our 2007 fall conference in the western mountains had been so popular, we decided to return there in late spring to explore the many bogs and forests in prime season. Over 30 people came and there were eight field trips over the two days. A highlight of the trip was our return to the new TNC preserve, North Cherry Creek Bog, where despite a violent thunderstorm, we discovered many state-rare species.

Our journal, *Marilandica*, was published this spring, with a long article about natural areas of the Upper Anacostia Watershed. Detailed surveys during 2005 by Rod Simmons and other members of MNPS identified several state-rare natural communities along the upper tributaries of the river. Rod also led a small group in a botanical survey of the historic Glen Burnie Bog site. Cris organized a second survey at the Izaak Walton League property in Montgomery County, where we identified more state-rare plants and notified the League and the County of several threats to these species.

Much of the effort of the Habitat Stewardship Committee was devoted to identifying areas where Wavy-leaved Basket Grass has become established and training invasive removal teams in methods used to attack this highly invasive grass. The Society supported funding for a DNR program to monitor basket grass and Marc Imlay has been working with Kerrie Kyde of DNR to train volunteers. Regular invasive removal programs at many parks continued as well.

The Nursery Advisory Committee prepared a questionnaire for native plant nurseries that can help MNPS members ascertain if local or regional material is used. As the questionnaires are returned, this information will be added to the listing for each nursery on the web page.

The Governance Committee worked diligently to update our by-laws and our mission statement. The revisions were necessary to make the by-laws and mission statement consistent with our current practice. The mission statement was approved by the board and the by-law amendments were approved by the board and the membership.

Our regular monthly programs, both in Montgomery County and in several chapters, continued to attract a large number of people. Among the various subjects were "Our Native Pollinators" and "The Case of the Promiscuous Quillworts." The Society sponsored thirty-two field trips during the year, including the 77th trip in the popular series on Civil War Forts in the Washington, D.C. Area, and also several new field trips to sites in Pennsylvania. In September, our annual conference was held in Anne Arundel County. Speakers and field trips focused on the theme of "Ecological Communities of the Western Shores of the Chesapeake Bay." Our bi-monthly publication, *Native News*, and our wonderful web page, www.mdflora.com, kept us informed of all these activities and other items of interest. A new publication this year was the first annual edition of "Invasive Alien Plant Removal Programs Happening in Maryland." All in all, it was another very successful year for the Maryland Native Plant Society.

Cris Fleming, 2008 President
Maryland Native Plant Society

Native News Deadlines:

March 25	May/June Late Spring Issue
May 25	July/August Summer Issue
July 25	September/October Early Autumn Issue
Sept 25	November/December Late Autumn/Holidays Issue
Nov 25	January/February Winter Issue
Jan 25	March/April Early Spring Issue

Next Mailing Party Date (White Oak Library):
Tuesday, April 28 at 7:00 pm

LOOKING FOR A FIELD TRIP? Check the MNPS website (mdflora.org) for field trips and chapter events that didn't make the *Native News* publication deadline.

Members' Moments Getting in Tune with Nature

By Cris Fleming

This fall I taught a course at my church that I called "Getting in Tune with Nature." Joining me to co-teach a section each were fellow MNPS board members Marney Bruce and Melanie Choukas-Bradley. I wanted to share my love and knowledge of nature with others who may not have become attuned to the natural world. But as with many teaching experiences, I learned as much as the participants!

On the first night, I read selections from Rachel Carson's book *The Sense of Wonder* to emphasize that nature is all around us if we are aware of it and use our senses to experience it. I brought in colorful leaves and had people make crayon rubbings of their shapes, which led to a discussion of the vascular structure of leaves and the formation of autumn colors. I also brought in twigs of Tuliptree and had the folks dissect the buds. As with many of you who have taken a Winter Tree Identification class with me, these people were amazed and delighted to find the tiny, perfectly formed leaves folded up inside the buds.

In the second session, we sang and studied several nature-themed songs in the Unitarian hymnal such as "For the Beauty of the Earth" and "For Flowers That Bloom About Our Feet." But imagine my surprise when I found the song "Morning Has Broken" in the hymnal. As an aging hippie, I had always thought that Cat Stevens wrote that song. I don't know about my students but since that class, I have made a ritual of going out in the back yard first thing in the morning, watching the sun come up over the trees, and belting out "Morning has broken like the first morning....."

When Marney came to help with the class on the sun and moon cycles, she taught us how to recognize when the moon is waxing and when it is waning. That is something I had been trying to learn for several years. Marney brought in several moon charts and diagrams and then told us her own trick "When you can see the moon in the daytime, it is waning and when it's only seen at night, it is waxing."

At the last class, Melanie led a discussion on special places and special times. It is not surprising that everyone's special place was a natural place, from their own backyard to a nearby park to a faraway riverside full of childhood memories. What was so wonderful was how everyone was able to describe their place so vividly that the others could see and smell and feel it also.

I'm going to spend this year getting myself even more in tune with nature. So don't be surprised if I am inspired to start singing right in the middle of a field trip!

MNPS Announcements

Welcome New Members!

The following have recently joined the Society: Steve Allgeier, Toni Bailey, Jodi Beder, Rachel Bozorth, Wayne & Elaine Brandes, Lynne Bulhack, Donald Callihan, Marlene Cianci, Norman Cohen, Judy Fulton, Steve Gahm, Alice-Marie Gravely, Carol Graves, Audrey Guzik, William Hach, Jenkins & Katherine Hinckley, Luke Jessup, Daniel Kelly, Bradley Kennedy & Hoke Cagle, Pat Kingman, Wayne & Brenda Knowles, Kimberly Knox, Linette Lander, Danielle Lange, Susan Livovich & Corey Mankin, Roger Lowe, Margaret Macleod, Roberta McConochie, Jean Mellott, Devon Lee Miller, Gary & Deborah Molchan, Rolf Muertter, Wayne Noll & Elise Cary, Yvonne Orkin, Karen & Fred Parks, MaryJo Price, Sara Ramsey, Eliza Reed, George Resler, Gina Riazi, Mary Jane Riggs, Joseph Roskowski, Betty Rossie, Alexia Savold, Joseph Schechter & Patricia Makely, Fred Seitz, Laurette & Tom Sisk, Susan Skomal, Linda Smith, Clifford Stein, Joan & Peter Stogis, Tina Swanson, Stephen Syphax, William Thomas, Gary & Pamela Van Velsir, Sandy Ward, Joanna Watson Frazier, and Ann & Andrew Wheeler. We thank everyone for their continuing support.

Native News Would Love to Hear From You!

Have you had a memorable time on a MNPS field trip recently? Discovered a new book about native wildflowers? Enjoyed a woodland walk? We invite MNPS members to submit short articles and photographs to the *Native News* for publication. Essays about field trip experiences and book reviews are welcome! Please send your submissions to Melanie Choukas-Bradley at choukas@erols.com or 7100 Oakridge Ave, Chevy Chase, MD 20815 and put "Native News" in the subject heading of your email. Be sure to give us your name, phone number, and mailing address. Articles may need to be edited for space. We hope to hear from you!

Not receiving our monthly emails?

Lately, member emails have been bounced back from the monthly email, especially Yahoo, Comcast, and Verizon accounts. Check your spam folders and make sure that mmps@chesapeake.net is in your address book or list of approved emails. You can also send an email to mmps@chesapeake.net to verify that we have your correct email address.

Do you know when your membership expires?

To tell when your membership expires, (and what type of membership you have) take a look at your mailing label. For example, if your label reads 3/1/2009 your membership expires at the end of March. If it's time to renew, please use the form on the back of this newsletter or download one from the website. Mail your dues to MNPS Membership, PO Box 4877, Silver Spring, MD 20914.

Native News

Native Plant Professionals

One of the Society's many services is providing a list, available on the website, of our current members who have told us that they are native plant professionals. This list is different than the list of nurseries found on the website, since it includes professional gardeners and landscapers as well as native plant propagators and suppliers. If you wish to receive a copy of this list, or if you wish to be included on the list, please contact Karyn Molines, kmolines@chesapeake.net or 410-286-2928.

Chapter Events and Updates

Greater Baltimore Area Chapter

The Greater Baltimore Area Chapter will meet at 7:00 pm on March 18 at Irvine Nature Center, 11201 Garrison Forest Rd, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Our speaker will be Kerrie Kyde, Habitat Ecologist/Invasive Plant Specialist for Maryland DNR. She will be talking about Wavy-leaf Basket Grass - the latest "thug" to invade Maryland - and DNR's attempts to eradicate it here before it spreads to other states. She will give us identification keys and ways to help her map this new invasive - found in Patapsco Valley State Park and several other places in our area - and update the progress made to date.

Prince George's/Anne Arundel Chapter

Contact information is: Matt T. Salo, 5607 Greenleaf Rd, Cheverly, MD 20785; telephone 301-341-1261; email mtsalo1@excite.com or mtsalo1@gmail.com.

Washington, D.C. Chapter

MNPS Opposes Encroachment into Fort Circle Parks

The D.C. Chapter, led by Mary Pat Rowan, has been active in opposing two potential threats to portions of the Fort Circle Parks. The first is a proposal to transfer several acres of Fort Dupont, in Southeast D.C., to the D.C. government. The purpose of the transfer would be expansion of an existing ice rink and facilitating the construction of a youth baseball academy by private groups on the transferred land. Fort Dupont is the site of many MNPS Civil War Fort field trips that have extensively explored this unique terrace gravel ecosystem. MNPS, along with other organizations, submitted comments in November on the National Park Service's Environmental Assessment. We are being represented *pro bono* by Georgetown Law School's Institute for Public Representation (IPR). In the following month, planning for the transfer appeared to be moving forward, with only one obstacle remaining. That obstacle was approval by the National Capital Planning Commission, which put the matter on its January 8 agenda. At that meeting, Commissioners heard testimony against the transfer from Jamie Pleune of IPR, who spoke on behalf of MNPS; Rod Simmons, who spoke on behalf of the Virginia Native Plant Society; Mary Pat Rowan; and Philip Blair. To our great delight, the

Commission voted to postpone consideration of the matter until its March meeting. The proposal certainly is not dead, but this gives us a chance to continue our advocacy and also gives the new federal administration a chance to review it.

The second threat results from the planned development of the land now occupied by St Elizabeth's Hospital into an office complex for Homeland Security. The present plan calls for the construction of an access road into the site through existing park land known as Shepherd Parkway. This is not a Civil War Fort, but is one of the 'Connectors' in the Fort Circle system. Again represented by IPR, MNPS submitted comments in January to the Federal Highway Administration opposing plans for the access road.

Thanks to Mary Pat and others, including our legal team at IPR, for stepping up to defend these unique and irreplaceable natural resources, surprisingly located right in the densely populated District. Please note that you can explore these areas the first Sunday of most months, on the Civil War Fort walks, led by Mary Pat and Lou Aronica.

Western Mountains Chapter

The Western Mountains Chapter was formed to expand the efforts of MNPS on the Allegheny Plateau and Ridge and Valley physiographic provinces of the central-Appalachians. Residents of western Maryland, nearby Pennsylvania and West Virginia, and anyone else interested in learning more about and conserving the native plants of this region are invited to join. For more information contact Liz McDowell, Chapter Coordinator, at boyerandmcdowell@earthlink.net or 301-895-3686.

SRWA Native Plant Demonstration and Sale

Saturday, April 18 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
New Germany State Park, Garrett County
Native plant enthusiasts will answer your questions about native plants, conservation landscaping, and backyard wildlife habitat practices. A variety of native plants (grasses, sedges, wildflowers, shrubs, and trees) will be available for purchase. All proceeds will benefit the Savage River Watershed Association. For more information, contact the Savage River Watershed Association at SRWAcoordinator@gmail.com or call Liz McDowell, SRWA native plant sale coordinator, at 301-895-3686. Directions: From I-68 take exit 22 and follow signs for New Germany State Park. Turn left into the park onto McAndrews Hill Road. Signs will direct you to the native plant display and sale.

SRWA Red Spruce Plantings

April 13, 15 & 17 from 9:00 am – noon
Sunday, April 19 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm
Savage River State Forest, Garrett County
Volunteers are needed to help the Savage River Watershed Association (SRWA) plant red spruce plugs along streams in the Savage River State Forest. The goal of these plantings is

Native News

to maintain conifer cover along native brook trout streams where hemlocks may be killed by the hemlock woolly adelgid, an exotic invasive insect. For more details or to volunteer, email SRWA at SRWAcoordinator@gmail.com or call Ron Boyer, SRWA red spruce planting coordinator, at 301-895-3686.

FSU Arboretum Tours & SRWA Native Plant Sale

Tuesday, April 21 from 4:30 – 6:30 pm

Frostburg State University, Allegany County

Learn about native plants and conservation landscaping.

Discover a revitalized arboretum on a free guided tour at 4:30, 5:00, 5:30 or 6:00 pm (tours begin at the gazebo in the stadium parking lot). Purchase a native plant (grass, sedge, wildflower, shrub, or tree) for your backyard. All proceeds will benefit the Savage River Watershed Association. For more information, please contact Sunshine Brosi, Biology Department, at slbrosi@frostburg.edu or Liz McDowell, SRWA native plant sale coordinator, at 301-895-3686.

Spring Field Trips

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (80th in the Series) – Fort Dupont Connector

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

Date: Sunday, March 1 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

We will return to a familiar spot on the FORT DUPONT CONNECTOR but investigate the area east of Branch Avenue which we have never visited before. This spot is located south of Fort Dupont. It will be an exercise in plant identification as well as geology guesswork.

Directions: Take Pennsylvania Ave SE to Branch Ave SE and turn south (right turn from the city) on Branch. The first street on your right is Park Dr. Turn right on Park and park on the street there about where 32nd Pl comes into Park Dr.

Bring: Water and lunch. **Note:** Easy to moderate walk. Light drizzle is fine but cancelled if pouring rain.

Contact: Mary Pat Rowan blair-rowan@starpower.net or 202-526-8821.

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (81st in the Series) – Shepherd Parkway

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

Date: Sunday, April 5 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

We will return to part of the Civil War Fort Connector in the vicinity of Fort Carroll referred to as SHEPHERD PARKWAY. Here we will see the ground carpeted with Toothwort and many unusual trees and ground plants. This area is just south of St. Elizabeth's Historic Site.

Directions: Access from Washington or Maryland: From the north take I-295 south past Suitland Parkway to exit #2-Bolling Air Force Base/Malcolm X (formerly Portland Street). Drive up hill going east and park on Malcolm X near Newcomb Street. From the south, take I-295 from the

Beltway, proceed past South Capitol Street to Malcolm X, exit on right and proceed as above.

Bring: Water and lunch. **Note:** Easy to moderate walk.

Light drizzle is fine but cancelled if pouring rain.

Contact: Mary Pat Rowan blair-rowan@starpower.net or 202-526-8821.

Euclid Woods Restoration Tour in Cheverly

Leader: Matt T. Salo

Date: Sunday, April 12 **Time:** 10:00 am – 12:00 Noon

The newly formed PG/AA Chapter of the MNPS has organized an interactive outing to view a woodland restoration project in Cheverly, PG County. The project started with an area completely overrun with invasive species, where the mature tree diversity remained good, but younger trees and saplings were being suffocated and the area was nearly bereft of native wildflowers and other plants. We will survey the kinds of invasive species that threaten the area, discuss the difficulties in, and suggest best procedures for, their removal. We will note the potential for the revitalization in the remaining biodiversity of the area, as well the need for restoring natives which have disappeared. We will compare areas returning to more original vegetation after removal of invasives with those not yet liberated. The return of several species of plants, and later also birds was noted after the resurgence of understory shrubs. People interested in similar restoration projects are welcome to exchange ideas and share their experiences.

Directions: Approach Cheverly from either south or north on B-W Parkway and take the exit for Cheverly onto Rte. 202 (Landover Rd), head east a few hundred feet and turn right onto Cheverly Ave heading south. Continue for six blocks to Forest Rd, opposite a small park on your left. Turn right and continue three blocks until the road splits; stay to the right and continue straight ahead on Greenleaf Rd until you reach a dead end. Park anywhere on street; meet the group at the end of the road.

Bring: Sturdy jeans and footgear. **Note:** Moderate difficulty, mainly following existing deer paths, but with some crossovers through low vegetation and occasional scrambling over fallen logs; there are no wet areas or hills. May be cancelled for heavy rain and rescheduled for Sunday, April 19th at same hours.

Contact: Matt T. Salo mtsalo1@gmail.com or 301-341-1261.

Walk for the Woods

Date: Saturday, April 18 (Rain date 4/19) **Time:** 7:00 am on

Location: Bacon Ridge Branch Natural Area, Crownsville
The fourth annual hike to promote the protection of the South River Watershed; the day includes early morning bird walks (on the half hour from 7:00 – 8:30), and a general walk (9:00 am). This year's "Walk for the Woods" is a wonderful opportunity for local residents to explore a piece of wilderness right in the heart of Anne Arundel County! Not yet open to the public, Bacon Ridge Branch Natural Area is a 546 acre protected property in Crownsville projected to

Native News

become part of the Anne Arundel County park system. Upland streams, lily-filled ponds, nesting birds, and spring wildflowers are just a few of sights to delight the senses of nature enthusiasts at this event. Hikes range from 1 to 4 miles on marked trails. Each walker will receive a Points of Interest Guide and may hike alone or join a guided bird or naturalist-led walk.

Directions: Take Generals Highway to Crownsville Rd. Turn Right on Marbury Rd (within ¼ mile of Generals Hwy). Follow signs to parking and trail head.

More Information: Call 443-597-0063 or visit the Scenic Rivers Land Trust site at <http://www.srlt.org>.

Sponsors: Please call 443-597-0063 or write walk@srlt.org for sponsorship opportunities.

Spring Woodland Hike, South River Greenway

Leader: Karyn Molines

Date: Saturday, April 25 **Time:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

The South River Greenway is an ecological gem within the heart of Anne Arundel County. A new 888-acre county park will protect the significant interior forests and the headwaters of the South River. MNPS has been invited to assist with the biological inventory of the site and this will be one of a series of hikes to identify the plants and habitats of the forest.

Directions: To be announced.

Contact: Karyn kmolines@chesapeake.net (preferred) or 410-286-2928.

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C.

Region (82nd in the Series) – Fort Chaplin

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

Date: Sunday, May 3 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

We will return to Ft. Chaplin – always a very special trip in May. We see wild flowers which only appear in May and each year at Fort Chaplin we seem to see more than ever.

Directions: Meet on East Capital St at 41st St NE. Traveling east on Benning Rd from Minnesota Ave NE go all the way to where Benning curves to the right and intersects with East Capital St. Take a right on East Capital and head west a few blocks until you get to 41st St NE on your right. Take a right and park on 41st or park on East Capital.

Bring: Water and lunch. **Note:** Easy to moderate walk. Light drizzle or snow is fine but cancelled if pouring rain.

Contact: Mary Pat Rowan blair-rowan@starpower.net or 202-526-8821.

Gunpowder State Park May Wildflower Hike – Hereford Area

Leader: Dwight Johnson

Date: Saturday, May 16 **Time:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Come see some late spring wildflowers on the Gunpowder in Hereford, Md. We should see Nodding Trillium, Miterwort, Greek Valerian, and Whorled Pogonia along with other spring wildflowers.

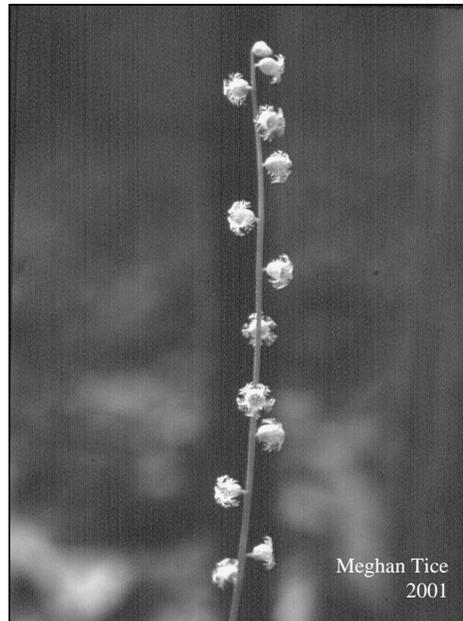


Photo of Miterwort at Chapman Forest

Directions: From the Baltimore Beltway go north on I-83 for 12 miles and take exit 27 onto Mount Carmel Rd. Proceed west for 0.7 miles and make a right at Masemore Rd and proceed for another 1.5 miles to parking area. The speed limit is posted at 10 miles at the bottom of Masemore Rd. Believe it. There is a very sharp narrow turn at the mill.

Bring: Lunch and water. **Note:** You can buy lunch at Graul's Supermarket located in the shopping center on Mt. Carmel Road just east of the exit from Interstate 83.

Contact: Dwight Johnson 410-366-7239 or dwightmjohnson@comcast.net.

Field Trip Leader Training at Jug Bay

Date: Saturday, May 16 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Leading a field trip can be intimidating: Do you know enough? What if we get lost? A good field trip leader does not need to be an expert; all that is needed is excitement, enthusiasm, and curiosity. This indoor/outdoor workshop will go over the basics of leading field trips, tips and tricks to encourage group interactions, and suggestions for avoiding the "Ask and Tell" field trip. This will be co-sponsored with the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary and will focus on adult-oriented field trips.

Bring: Lunch, notebook, pen/pencil. Dress comfortably for both indoor and outdoor conditions. Optional: field guides, hand lens, binoculars, camera.

Contact: Karyn kmolines@chesapeake.net (preferred) or 410-286-2928.

May 30-31. *Save these dates* for a field excursion to the State College-Lewisburg, PA area. Watch for details in the next issue and on the website.

~ Wildflower in Focus ~

Cut-Leaved Toothwort (Cut-Leaved Pepperroot)

Dentaria laciniata Muhl. ex Willd.
(Syn. *Cardamine concatenata*)

Mustard Family (Brassicaceae)

Written by
Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Illustration by
Tina Thieme Brown



Cut-leaved toothwort is a wildflower that grows in abundance in many parts of Maryland, blooming in concert with spring beauty, trout-lily, Virginia bluebells, bloodroot, and other spring ephemerals. This wildflower is in the mustard family, which is characterized by four-parted flowers (an earlier scientific name—cruciferae—referred to the cross-shaped corolla) and distinctive fruit, which is either a long, thin pod-like “silique” or an often shorter, wider and flattened “silicle.” In addition to many wildflowers, the family includes broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage and the plant from which the condiment mustard is extracted. **Flowers:** Small, four-petaled, ½ - 1” across; white, pink or lavender, in small upright terminal cluster. **Leaves:** Opposite or whorled, simple or compound; usually there is a whorl of three leaves beneath the flower cluster. Leaves are deeply, palmately cut into several long, thin lobes or leaflets, with toothed or untoothed margins. Overall leaf 2 - 5” across, petioled. **Fruit:** Thin, beaked silique, 1 - 2” long (including beak), present with or after the flowers. **Height and Growth Habit:** 6 - 15”; upright. **Habitat and Range:** Moist rich woods; Maine, Quebec and Minnesota south to Florida, Louisiana and Oklahoma. **Herbal Lore:** According to longtime MNPS board member and former president Karyn Molines: “Interestingly—‘toothwort’ comes from the ‘Doctrine of Signatures,’ the belief that the plant provides signs (from God) of its medicinal value. The root had toothlike extensions so it was thought to cure toothaches. In his *Handbook of Northeastern Indian Medicinal Plants*, Dr. Jim Duke says toothwort species were used as such... ‘Malecite: sedative, hoarseness. Cherokee: colds, sore throat. Algonquian: heart ailments, children’s fever. Delaware: scrofula, stomach and venereal ailments. Mohawk: tuberculosis.’” **Similar Species:** The leaves distinguish it from the less common slender toothwort (*D. heterophylla*), which, in addition to stem leaves, has a large three-leafleted basal leaf at blooming time. A third species, two-leaved toothwort (*D. diphylla*), can be found in the mountains. **Blooming Time:** March - May. **Locations:** Rock Creek Park and other stream valley parks of the Washington area; C&O Canal; Wheaton Regional Park; Little Bennett Regional Park; Patuxent River Park; Patapsco Valley State Park; Piney Run Park; Watkins Regional Park; Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary; Sugarloaf and Catoctin Mountains; western mountains of Maryland. See *Finding Wildflowers in the Washington-Baltimore Area* (Fleming, Lobstein, and Tufty) for additional locations.

“Wildflower in Focus” is adapted from *An Illustrated Guide to Eastern Woodland Wildflowers and Trees: 350 Plants Observed at Sugarloaf Mountain, Maryland* (Choukas-Bradley and Brown, University of Virginia Press, 2008).

General Announcements

Bridging the Gap: Connecting Ecological Research and Restoration Practice

Announcing the Mid-Atlantic Chapters of the Society for Ecological Restoration and Ecological Society of America's joint conference! Save the dates of March 13-14 and join us at the College of New Jersey. Registration will be opening soon. Please visit:

<http://www.esa.org/midatlantic/conferences/save-date.pdf>

Lahr Native Plant Symposium and Plant Sale

“Native Plants: In Design”

Saturday, March 28, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Administration Building

The 23rd annual Lahr Symposium features a group of experts from several fields who will present an array of topics exploring the use of native plants in designed landscapes.

For complete program information including the schedule, speakers, and topics visit

<http://www.usna.usda.gov/Education/2009lahrweb.pdf>.

Lunch and early admission to the Native Plant Sale included.

Fee: \$85 (\$68 FONA). Registration required.

Native Plant Sale

Saturday, March 28, 9:30 am – 2:00 pm

Arboretum Grounds near the Administration Building

The annual Friends of the National Arboretum Native Plant Sale features a collection of local native plant nurseries offering an extensive selection of plants. Many experienced growers will be present to offer expert advice. Free.

Ongoing Moss Study Group

Details: We're a mix of beginners and advanced beginners, and we take our time looking closely at a moss or two each meeting.

Leaders: Charlie and Linda Davis

Sponsor: Natural History Society of Maryland

Dates: Last Saturday of the month: February 28, March 28, April 25 (tentative), May 30, June 27 **Time:** 10:00 am – noon

Directions: Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum, 300 Oella Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21128

For a map: <http://tinyurl.com/6h6dvh>

Bring: Any moss books, hand lenses, and microscopes that you can. If you have a local specimen you'd like the class to look at, bring that, too.

Contact: Linda lm.davis@verizon.net or 410-252-4154.

Dear Friends of Doyle Farm Nursery,

Doyle Farm Nursery www.doylefarm.com is pleased to announce our upcoming Open Houses and Garden Talk dates for the 2009 season. This year we will be hosting 3 Open Houses, attending two off-site native plant sales and, as always, shipping our strong and healthy native plants through Mail Order. Please see the Plant List on our website for further information and plant availability.

DFN is located in Southern York County, on the west side of the Susquehanna River, near Delta, PA. Doyle Farm Nursery specializes in Mid-Atlantic, herbaceous, native plants and is a Mail Order business. We use no chemical sprays and grow all our plants outside, not in greenhouses. Last year, DFN celebrated our 10th year in business. Jacquelin Doyle, owner and main laborer of the nursery, would like to invite everyone to our yearly Open Houses. This is an opportunity to see the type of plants the nursery grows and ships as well as to see the ten acres of farmland that is slowly becoming a habitat for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. Our knowledgeable staff will be on hand to answer questions and offer helpful tips.

Open House Dates

April 24 & 25 Spring Ephemeral Sale. Trilliums, woodland phloxes, downy rattlesnake plantain, wild ginger, spring beauties, dutchman's breeches, squirrel corn, twinleaf, fire pink, foam flowers and more.

Saturday Garden Talk, 10:00 am, Ann Bodling
"Landscaping with Mid-Atlantic Native Plants, Enhancing Biodiversity in your Backyard."

For more info, please see doylefarm.com or contact us at jld@doylefarm.com. We also provide Gift Certificates which make wonderful birthday, Easter, or Mother's Day gifts. Please email us to request a 2009 catalog. All garden talks and workshop are free. Chairs and canopies are provided.

2009 Native Plants in the Landscape Conference

Mark your calendars... Conference dates: June 4 – 6
On the campus of Millersville University in scenic Lancaster County, this conference provides essential information and networking for gardeners, teachers, and students, as well as landscape, nursery, botanic garden, and environmental professionals. NEW for 2009 - We will offer ON-LINE registration beginning March 15. Please help us conserve resources and be as sustainable as possible by registering online. The 2009 brochure will be available March 15. Paper copies of the 2009 brochure will be mailed on March 1, 2009.

Highlighted Speakers include: Landscape Architect W. Gary Smith; University of Delaware professors Doug Tallamy and Dr. John Fretz; Rick Lewandowski of The Mt. Cuba Center ; Roger Tia Koide, of Penn State University

Topics include: Native plant explorers, tiarellas, native roses, native vines, native lilies, native shrub ID, native small flowering trees ID, design with natives, home composting, invasive plant ID, make your own bog garden, and sustainable hardscaping. Optional Early Riser field trips will also be offered for the first time.

Native Plant Sale: An outstanding variety of native plants from well-known vendors, plus books and merchandise, are on sale for attendees during the conference and during selected hours to the general public.



Maryland Native Plant Society

P.O. Box 4877
Silver Spring, MD 20914

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Please make checks payable to the Maryland Native Plant Society and mail to:
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The Maryland Native Plant Society is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible. V9N2M/A09

Membership Dues:

Individual: \$25.00/year
 Double: \$35.00/year
 Student/limited income: \$15.00/year
 Lifetime: \$250.00
 Organization: \$50.00/year

Additional Donation _____

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