

Maryland Native Plant Society

10th Annual Fall Conference

September 29 - 30, 2001 Easton, Maryland

Shaping Nature:

Impacts of Human and Natural Disturbance on Our Native Flora

at the Historical Society of Talbot County Auditorium

25 S. Washington St. * Easton, MD 21601

Members \$45 * Non-Members \$55

Co-Sponsored by

Adkins Arboretum Delaware Native Plant Society

Maryland Master Gardeners of Queen Anne's County

This year's conference highlights the role of disturbance in shaping diverse plant communities. We will explore the ecological concept of disturbance that occurs in healthy ecosystems as well as ones that are seriously degraded due to extensive human impact/disturbance and the suppression of disturbance (e.g., fire). The program will intrigue natural history enthusiasts as well as gardeners interested in restoration landscaping. Lectures, exhibits, and plant sales will be held in the morning. Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning field trips will explore special habitats of the Eastern Shore.

Speakers

Dr. Cecil Frost. As a long-time state botanist for North Carolina, Cecil Frost has gained unparalleled understanding of the natural communities of the mid-Atlantic region, particularly an awareness of the role of periodic fire or other "disturbance" in maintaining the vigor of many plant species. His work in documenting fire frequency illuminates the dynamics of natural communities, with consequent implications for management of natural areas. A delightful speaker, he may change the way you see the world around us.

Dr. Douglas E. Gill. Dr. Gill is Professor, Department of Biology, University of Maryland. His research has focused on puzzling questions about the dynamics of ecological and evolutionary processes in small populations. Over 25 years he has conducted empirical studies in the field with natural populations. A common outcome has been the discovery of unexpected dynamical patterns that simultaneously destroyed the merits of the original research question and produced a new conundrum of general importance. Learn what his research has revealed about reproductive failure in Pink Lady's-Slipper orchids and patch dynamics of eastern mixed deciduous forests.

Dr. Marc Imlay. Dr. Imlay has a Ph.D. in Ecology and is currently chair of the Society's Invasive Plant Committee. He has been the guiding force behind numerous restoration projects in natural areas throughout Maryland and the District of Columbia.. Volunteers led by Dr. Imlay focus on the removal of invasive exotic species in disturbed areas, to the benefit of native flora. Dr. Imlay will examine whether disturbance that is managed by humans can have the beneficial impact on our native flora that natural disturbance often has.

Maryland Master Gardeners of Queen Anne's County. Master Gardeners are volunteer educators with the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension. Participants in this panel presentation will describe how they manage disturbed areas (their yards!) by including native plants in their landscapes.

Conference Program

Friday, September 28, 2001

Dinner on your own, or join us at a local eatery. Restaurant and lodging information will be mailed with your registration confirmation. Dinner is not included in registration fee.

Saturday, September 29, 2001

8:00 to 8:45a.m.

Conference registration, field trip sign-up, exhibits and plant sale open to registrants

8:45 to 9:00 a.m.

Welcome and introductory remarks by Karyn Molines, MNPS President

9:00 to 10:15 a.m.

Speaker: Dr. Cecil Frost, "Fire and the Native Flora of Maryland"

10:15 to 10:45 a.m.

Break for exhibits and plant sale

10:45 to 11:30 a.m.

Speaker: Dr. Douglas Gill, "Impact of Disturbance on the Dynamics of Reproduction in *Cypripedium acaule*"

Plant sale opens to public

11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Marc Imlay, "The Complexity of Disturbance: Harmful or Beneficial; How Can We Know?"

12:15 to 12:30 p.m.

Concluding remarks by Karyn Molines

12:30 to 1:15 p.m.

Lunch, exhibits, plant sale

1:15 to 2:30 p.m.

Annual meeting, Maryland Native Plant Society

2:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Final time for exhibits; pick up plants; leave for field trips. Field trip details will be provided at the conference.

3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Master Gardener seminar: "How We Use Native Plants in Our Gardens"

3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Field trips. *See other side for field trips being offered.*

7:00 p.m.

Gather for dinner and exchange field trip highlights at a local restaurant. Details will be mailed with confirmation. Dinner is not included in registration fee.

Sunday, September 30, 2001

Field trips. *Start times and directions for Sunday field trips will be provided at the conference.*

Field Trips

The following field trips and seminar will be offered depending on interest. Please indicate your preference on your registration form. Final details will be available at the conference.

Saturday afternoon field trips and concurrent seminar

A. Visit Adkins Arboretum, a 400-acre native plant preserve and educational center in Caroline County, Maryland. A guided walking tour led by Debbie Herr, Conservation Curator, will highlight the 1 acre wetland restoration project, the ongoing 15 acre warm season grass meadow restoration, the native plant cutting garden in bloom for the fall and a walk through the woodland in its early fall colors.

B. Canoe the Tuckahoe River in Caroline County led by Laura Murray of Horn Point. There may be fee for canoe rental. Limited to 15 participants.

C. Ditch and roadside ecology with Lou Aronica, MNPS. Discover the natives that can be found in these common habitats of the Eastern Shore. You may be surprised at the number of native plants that can occur in these disturbed areas despite invasion of exotics.

D. Idylwild Wildlife Management Area, Caroline County, with Christopher Frye, Maryland State Botanist. Chris will lead participants to one of his favorite botanizing haunts; a series of ancient sand dunes along the east side of Marshyhope Creek. This 3,000-acre preserve is managed by the state Department of Natural Resources.

E. Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Dorchester County. This 26,000-acre preserve is being managed as habitat for migratory birds. See how rising sea levels and an exotic mammal, the nutria, are shaping the rich tidal marsh and other habitats at this federal refuge. Small entrance fee.

F. Environmental Concern in St. Michaels. This nonprofit organization propagates native wetland species for large-scale restorations. Visit the nursery with Leslie Hunter, Chair of MNPS Eastern Shore Chapter, and learn about propagation, species selection, and planting strategies.

G. Restoration planting in Talbot County. Celebrate National Public Lands Day by participating in a wetland planting on state-owned land. Led by Maryland Department of Natural Resource ranger.

H. Master Gardener seminar. Many native plants are now available to the gardening public from reputable nurseries. Learn how some Eastern Shore gardeners are incorporating them into their home landscapes.

Sunday morning field trips

I A reprise of our most popular Eastern Shore field trip this year, visit the farm owned by Nick and Margaret Carter in Caroline County. See how succession has proceeded on dry upland and rich bottomland along the Choptank River.

J Sheehan Audubon Sanctuary, Talbot. A trip for birders with Jan Reese of the Talbot County Bird Club. Jan will point out herps, plants and insects as well as birds at this former farm where grassland restoration is underway.

K. Horsehead Wetlands Center, Queen Anne's County. Visit this 500-acre preserve with Karyn Molines, MNPS. Explore tidal brackish marsh, beach, mudflat, loblolly pine forest, meadow restoration, thicket, and mature hardwood forest. Small entrance fee.

Native Plants will be available for sale by:

Book Sale * Poster Displays and Exhibits

- Adkins Arboretum
- Lower Marlboro Nursery
- Water's Edge Nursery

Plant sale hours:

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for conference registrants.

Open to public 10:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Plant sitting available until 3:00 p.m.

Registration Deadline Registrations should be received by Friday, September 21, 2001.

The conference will be held in the second floor auditorium of the Talbot County Historical Society, 25 S. Washington St., Easton, MD 21601

Note: there will be a \$2 parking fee at metered spaces. Carpooling is encouraged.

A confirmation of your registration will be mailed with detailed directions to conference site, as well as restaurant and lodging information.

Contact: Carol Jelich, (410) 757-8158 or jrj_csj@mindspring.com. Further information also will be posted on www.mdflora.org

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REGISTRATION FORM

Member \$45 Non-Member \$55

Seating is limited, please register early

Name(s) _____

Badge Name(s): _____

Organization: _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

County _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Please check:

- Vegetarian lunch is desired
- Friday night dinner reservation (pay at dinner)
- Saturday night dinner reservation (pay at dinner)
- Saturday field trip preference (fill in letter code)
- Sunday field trip preference (fill in letter code)

Conference fee includes all lectures, choice of field trips, continental breakfast and lunch

___ members registered at \$45 ___
___ non-members registered at \$55 ___
Membership at _____ ___
Total Enclosed _____

If you are not a member, you may include membership dues to register at the member's rate.

Individual: \$25/year Double: \$35/year
Student: \$15/year Lifetime: \$250

Please make checks payable to **Maryland Native Plant Society**. Mail form with check to:

Carol Jelich, Chair
MNPS Conference
682 Black Forest Road
Annapolis, MD 21401