

MNPS 2005 Annual Fall Conference

Weekend Field Trips

Field trips will be held Saturday afternoon and Sunday. They have been grouped on this page around the conference themes, and by levels of plant and/or ecological knowledge. Saturday afternoon field trips will end in time for the social. Lengthier field trips and those to more distant sites are scheduled for Sunday. Start and end times of Sunday field trips vary.

SIGN UP FOR FIELD TRIPS SATURDAY MORNING AT THE CONFERENCE.

- [Field Trips to Natural Areas](#)
- [Native Plant Garden Tours](#)
- [Field Trips to Managed Natural Areas, Mitigation Sites, and Other Planting Sites](#)

Field Trips to Natural Areas

Primarily for Beginners

Introductory field trips. Leader will make a point of explaining basic concepts of native plant communities and plant/animal relationships, and will use mainly common names.

- [Irvine Nature Center](#) (Saturday) – BEGINNER ONLY. Introduction to plant communities and plant/wildlife relationships.
- [Patapsco Valley State Park](#) (Saturday) – Primarily for BEGINNERS, may be of interest to others who want to get to know this park – unusually rugged terrain. Emphasis on plant/wildlife relationships.

Beginner - Intermediate

Field trips to exceptionally fine natural areas. Leader will make a point of explaining basic concepts of native plant communities and habitat, and will use mainly common names.

- [Robert E. Lee Memorial Park](#) (Saturday) – Globally rare ecosystem: mainly serpentine forest, may see some grasses and rare plants.
- [Gunpowder Falls State Park](#) (Sunday) - Piedmont forest. Emphasis on plant communities.
- [Marshy Point Nature Center](#) (Sunday) – Canoe trip through estuarine marshes and open water, short walk through Coastal forest.
- [North Point State Park](#) (Sunday) – Marsh plants, butterfly and waterfowl habitat field trip.

- [Severn Run Natural Environmental Area](#) (Sunday) – Coastal Plain forest hike along the Scenic Severn River to a tidal (draw) marsh and shrub swamp. Excellent wildlife habitat and great views of the upper Severn.

Intermediate

These trips are appropriate for a wide range of people who have been on native plant field trips before.

- [Baltimore City Parks: Stony Run and Druid Hill Park](#) (Saturday) – Piedmont streamside and upland forests. Also listed under Managed Landscapes – emphasis will be on management.
- [Oregon Ridge Park](#) (Saturday) – Factors that affect the structure and species composition of plant communities; exploration of Mixed Oak Forest, Yellow Poplar Forest, right-of-way with mixed native and exotic plants.
- [Mt. Pleasant](#) (Saturday) – Emphasis will be on gardens and restoration sites, but participants can also walk to see spring, stream, and forest plant communities.
- [Howard County Parks](#) (Saturday) – Emphasis will be on restoration, but participants will see extensive wetland habitat.
- [Piney Orchard Nature Preserve](#) (Sunday) – Follow boardwalk through preserved natural wetland in suburban housing subdivision. Diverse plant community.

Intermediate - Advanced

Highest quality natural areas; plant communities that used to be extensive in our area. Expect to discuss taxonomy, field botany, field ecology.

- [Soldiers Delight Natural Environmental Area](#) (Saturday) – Globally rare ecosystem: serpentine barrens, grassland, forest, and wetland. Uncommon and rare plants; state-rare fringed gentian may be in bloom.
- [Caves Valley - Field Ecology](#) (Sunday) – Discussion of the natural resources inventory and plant and animal database system created to keep track of flora and fauna and their dominance within various habitats. Over 400 species of plants and animals have been catalogued. Student research opportunities. Rare plants, some on a locally-rare wetland soil weathered from the Cockeysville marble formation.
- [Patuxent River State Park](#) (Sunday) – Exceptionally high quality Piedmont forest with diverse plant community, several rare plants.

Native Plant Garden Tours

- [City Native Plant Garden Tour \(Baltimore City\)](#) (Saturday) - Use of native plants (species and cultivars) in traditional garden design. Home gardens and Mt. Washington Arboretum.
- [Cylburn Arboretum](#) (Saturday) - Labeled native plants (species and cultivars) in arboretum setting. Field trip also includes invasive plant management.
- [Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, Anne Arundel County](#) (Saturday) - Two large, exceptionally beautiful bog gardens that wick stormwater away from buildings and sensitive

areas. Field trip also includes walk through Coastal Plain forest and estuarine plant communities.

- [Mt. Pleasant \(Howard County Conservancy\)](#) (Saturday) - Native plant landscaping around education building, including 4 rain gardens that promote infiltration of stormwater.
- [City Native Plant Garden Tour \(Baltimore City\)](#) (Sunday) - Use of native plants (species and cultivars) in traditional garden design. Home gardens and Mt. Washington Arboretum.
- [Suburban Native Plant Garden Tour \(West Baltimore and Carroll County\)](#) (Sunday) - Use of native plants (species and cultivars) in traditional home gardens and wildlife habitat gardens. Compare to wildlife habitat on undeveloped land.

Field Trips to Managed Natural Areas, Mitigation Sites, and Other Planting Sites

- [Baltimore City Parks: Stony Run and Druid Hill Park](#) (Saturday) – Stony Run: Professional planning, volunteer work featured (forest restoration plantings); and Druid Hill Park – professional planning, volunteer work featured (invasive plant management).
- [Cylburn Arboretum](#) (Saturday) – Discuss volunteer invasives removal project, also general gardening. [Also listed under Native Plant Garden Tours.]
- [Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, Anne Arundel County](#) (Saturday) – Extensive professional stormwater management installation. [Also listed under Garden Tours.]
- [Caves Valley - Land Management](#) (Saturday) – Professional wetland mitigation, invasive plant management, forest restoration plantings, meadow restoration.
- [Howard County Parks](#) (Saturday) – Professional wetland mitigation, discuss volunteer riparian buffer planting.
- [Mt. Pleasant \(Howard County\)](#) (Saturday) – Volunteer work featured (riparian buffer planting, forest restoration plantings, meadow restoration), general gardening. [Also listed under Native Plant Garden Tours.]
- [Piney Orchard Nature Preserve, Anne Arundel County](#) (Sunday) – Professional design of wetland boardwalk.
- [Towson University and Spring Branch \(Baltimore County\)](#) (Sunday) – Professional stream restoration featuring bioengineering and removal of invasive plants prior to planting with natives.