

MNPS 2008 Annual Fall Conference

Weekend Field Trips

[Map of Anne Arundel County with Sites Marked](#) (PDF, ~592 KB)

Conference participants head into the field to explore a variety of forest, meadow and wetland ecosystems along the Western Shores of the Chesapeake Bay.

Field trips will be held Saturday afternoon and Sunday. Registration for Saturday field trips is limited to conference participants; participants will sign up for field trips Saturday morning at the conference and will receive directions to the trip sites. Sunday field trips are open to the public unless noted otherwise.

[Saturday Trips](#) . [Sunday Trips](#)

Saturday Trips

Saturday field trips will start at 1:00pm after the conference.

- [Bacon Ridge Branch Natural Area](#)
- [Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary](#)
- [Sawmill Creek Historic Bog Site](#)
- [Smithsonian Environmental Research Center](#)
- [St. Johns Living Shoreline](#)
- [Wooton's Landing Wetland Park](#)

Bacon Ridge Branch Natural Area

Time: 1:00pm

Leaders: Jennifer Troy, and Dwight Johnson, Field Botanist

Bacon Ridge Branch Natural Area is a 546-acre woodland right the heart of Anne Arundel County and the South River Greenway. Not yet open to the public this conservation area is rich in wildlife and local history.

Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary

Time: 1:00pm

Leader: Chris Swarth, Director, Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary

Sawmill Creek Historic Bog Site

Time: 1:00pm

Leader: Rod Simmons, Plant Ecologist

Rod will lead participants through the historic “Glen Bernie Bog” site. Saw Mill Creek Park is in the "sand belt region" of the Western shore and contains beautiful seepage swamps — Clethra and fern swamps — that are visible from the trail edge. Other special species living in this pine/oak/heath community include sheep laurel, wild raisin, bear oak, fly poison, inkberry, Canada lily, high-bush blueberry. This is a great time of year to see fall plants and grasses! The entire walk will be on a trail.

Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

Time: 1:00pm

Leaders: Paul Fofonoff, SERC Research Biologist; Joe Metzger, Field Botanist; Karyn Molines

St. John's Living Shoreline

Time: 1:00pm

Leader: Rob Schnabel, Chesapeake Bay Foundation Restoration Ecologist

In 2006 Chesapeake Bay Foundation partnered with St. John’s College to help them replace 800 feet of timber bulkhead with a natural shoreline. CFB Restoration Biologist, Rob Schnabel, will lead participants in a walk through this restored .5 acres of tidal wetlands along College Creek, a tributary of the Severn River. Rob will show attendees how the Living Shoreline project turned an area without riparian buffer, tidal wetlands, oysters, or SAVs into a biologically diverse area with important new fish, wildlife, and native plant community habitat.

Wooton's Landing Wetlands Park

Time: 1:00pm

Leader: Adam Smith

Wooton’s Landing is one of the areas largest wetland mitigation sites. Slowly this abandoned sand and gravel mine is being replaced, thanks to the mitigation efforts, beavers, and natural succession. Located along the Patuxent, the site has tidal wetlands, non-tidal pond, and upland meadow and early growth forests. Wooton’s Landing is well-known for the diversity of birds as well.

Sunday Trips

Sunday field trips will start at 10:00am.

- [Downs Memorial Park](#)
- [Hawks and Butterflies at Ft. Smallwood Park](#)
- [Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary](#)
- [Piney Orchard Nature Preserve](#)

Downs Memorial Park

Time: 10:00am

Leaders: Rod Simmons & Meghan Tice

Participants on this hike will enjoy beautiful views of the Bay and travel through an oak/heath/pitch pine community dotted with bogs and wetlands. Species present include Chestnut Oak, American chestnut, mountain mints, bush clovers, *Carya pallida*. This is a very interesting park in many ways — it is located on “Mountain Road” at the end of the Western Shore Sand Belt, and combines both montane and coastal plain flora on one property. The entire walk will be on an easy trail.

Please note: There is a small entrance fee of \$4.00 per car.

Directions:

From Annapolis area, take Interstate 97 NORTH to Route 100 EAST.
Turn RIGHT on Mountain Road (Rt. 177).
Follow signs to Downs Memorial Park.

Hawks and Butterflies at Ft. Smallwood Park

Time: 10:00am

Leaders: Hal Wierenga and Lynn Davidson

Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary

Time: 10:00am

Leader: Karyn Molines

Directions from SERC:

Turn LEFT onto Muddy Creek Road.
Turn RIGHT at the light for Rt. 255 (Owensville-Galesville Road).
Turn LEFT onto Route 2 (Solomon’s Island Road).

At the traffic circle take the **THIRD RIGHT** to stay on Route 2.
In about 4 miles, turn **RIGHT** at the traffic light for Route 258.
In about 4 miles, **GO OVER** Route 4 (do not turn).
At stop sign, continue **STRAIGHT** onto Wrighton Road.
In about 1.5 miles turn **LEFT** onto the gravel driveway of the Sanctuary.
Note, do not turn into the lot on the right hand side.
Meet at the **VISITOR'S CENTER**.

Piney Orchard Nature Preserve

Time: 10:00am

Leader: Joe Metzger

A restored wetland with a number of insectivorous plants as well as lots of butterflies and dragonflies. Also some dry meadow areas. Easy walk, most areas are level, some areas are wet.

Directions from SERC:

Turn **RIGHT** on Muddy Creek Road.

Turn **LEFT** onto Rt 214, (Central Avenue).

Turn **RIGHT** onto Rt. 424 (Davidsonville Road).

Continue **STRAIGHT** onto Conway Road, which will turn into Patuxent Road then into Piney Orchard Parkway.