



MARYLAND NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
CO-SPONSORED BY SALISBURY UNIVERSITY  
2015 CONFERENCE

Salisbury University, Salisbury, MD  
Devilbiss Hall, Room 123

## Shifting Sands: Coastal Plain Flora from Wetlands to Upland

The lower Eastern Shore is rich in biodiversity. From towering forests to creeks, rivers and bays; from the smallest lichens to the biggest bald cypress trees you likely have ever seen, the wildly diverse ecosystems of the lands surrounding Salisbury in Wicomico County beckon us to explore and learn about this intriguing area. During our 2015 conference we will enjoy wonderful speakers and leaders who will unlock these treasures. Please join us!

### Saturday September 19

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8:30 Registration

9:15 Welcome and Introduction

9:25 *Land-Use Legacies and Beyond: The Shifting Sands and Flora of the Eastern Shore.*  
Christopher Frye

Chris will discuss patterns in species richness on the Paleodunes of the lower Eastern Shore. As vegetation stabilized the dunes thousands of years ago, distinct plant communities tolerant of dry, nutrient-poor soils dominated. European settlers altered the landscape, directly altering species composition and creating novel habitats. Utilizing data from current research, Chris will elucidate the factors that give rise to species richness, challenging long held notions of what constitutes protection and conservation of species.

Christopher Frye is Maryland's state botanist and curator of the TAWES herbarium. Chris has engaged in fieldwork from the Pocomoke River swamps to the high-elevations of Garrett County.

10:30 Break; Silent Auction Opens

10:45 *Native Lichens of Delmarva and the Mid-Atlantic Coast: Stunning Diversity with an Uncertain Future.* Dr. James Lendermer

Dr. Lendermer will present the results of four years of work by a team of researchers to document the native lichens of the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Plain, including Delmarva. There are more than 300 species of lichens on Delmarva, and close to 1000 along the Mid-Atlantic Coast. All of these are native, and many are threatened. The presentation will introduce the lichen lifestyle, explore the importance of lichens to our local ecosystems and our everyday lives, and highlight the visible impacts of centuries of change to a little known treasure of our local flora.

Dr. Lendermer is a researcher at the New York Botanical Garden where he studies the biodiversity and conservation of North America's native lichen biota. Dr. Lendermer expanded his work to other areas throughout North America and abroad to document the native biodiversity of a charismatic group of fungi and better understand how our actions may impact these overlooked native species.



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11:20 Joan Maloof – Update on the Old Growth Forest Network

Dr. Joan Maloof is a scientist, a writer, and the Founder and Director of the Old-Growth Forest Network, a nonprofit organization creating a network of forests across the US that will remain forever unlogged and open to the public. Her essays and books, *Teaching the Trees: Lessons from the Forest* (University of Georgia Press, 2005) and *Among the Ancients: Adventures in the Eastern Old-Growth Forests* (Ruka Press, 2011), have won awards both nationally and internationally. She is a Professor Emeritus at Salisbury University in Maryland, USA.

11:30 Andrew Landsman—Grant Recipient, Univ. of Delaware, Update on Project

12:10 Announcements, Followed by Lunch, Silent Auction Open

1:00 - 5:00 Field trips

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### Evening Social

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5:00 Beer and Wine with Appetizers

6:00 Buffet Dinner

7:00 Silent Auction Closes

7:15 *Enlightening Experiences with Exotics and Invasive Species in Grassland Restoration on the MD Eastern Shore.* Dr. Douglas E. Gill,

Dr. Gill's research addresses major unsolved questions in ecology and evolution. His field studies have often had unexpected results that raise new, tantalizing questions.

Doug is Professor Emeritus, Department of Biology, University of Maryland. He has been researching the ecology of grassland restoration at the Chester River Field Research Station in Chestertown for 18 years, also delving into the breeding ecology and behavior of grassland birds that have recolonized the area.

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### Sunday September 20

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**Field Trips.** Field trips meet at the location. See separate schedule for directions.