

The wildly diverse ecosystems of Maryland's lower eastern shore beckon us to explore and learn.

Maryland Native Plant Society Annual Conference 2015

Co-sponsored by Salisbury University, Salisbury, MD

shifting sands

COASTAL PLAIN FLORA from WETLANDS to UPLANDS



SATURDAY
September 19

8:30 AM – Registration

9:15 AM – Welcome

The Silent Auction will be open during breaks, lunch, & dinner

MORNING

Land-use Legacies and Beyond:

The Shifting Sands and Flora of the Eastern Shore

Christopher Frye, *Maryland State Botanist*

Native Lichens of Delmarva and the Mid-Atlantic Coast:

Stunning Diversity With an Uncertain Future

Dr. James Lendemer, *New York Botanical Garden*

Update on the Old Growth Forest Network

Dr. Joan Maloof, *Author and Professor Emeritus, Salisbury University*

Deer, Invasive Plants and Spider Ecology

Andrew Landsman, *MNPS Grant Recipient, U. Delaware*

AFTERNOON

12:10 PM – Lunch Buffet

1:00 PM to 5:00 PM – Field Trips

EVENING

5:00 PM – Beer and Wine with Appetizers

6:00 PM – Dinner Buffet

**Enlightening Experiences with Exotic & Invasive Species
in Grassland Restoration on the Eastern Shore**

Dr. Douglas E. Gill, *Professor Emeritus, University of Maryland*

SUNDAY
September 20

Field Trips

Meet at the site in the morning. Times and directions will be provided.

Hiking boots, sunscreen, hat, and bug repellent are highly recommended for all trips.

FIELD TRIPS: Saturday, September 19

Dorchester Pond

Leaders: Bill McAvoy and Wayne Longbottom

Dorchester Pond is one of the unique freshwater seasonal depression wetlands called "Delmarva Bays." Knee-high rubber boots recommended.

Furnace Town & Nassawango Preserve

Leaders: Wes Knapp and Cris Fleming

The Furnace Town area of Pocomoke Forest is in a deposit of late Pleistocene aged sands with a forest community found only in Delmarva. Other highlights include a bald cypress swamp, a botanically diverse right-of-way and a shortleaf pine forest. These properties are managed by Pocomoke State Forest and The Nature Conservancy. Sturdy hiking boots a must.

Glen Heights Forest & Bear Swamp

Leader: Joan Maloof

This small gem of a forest is owned by a developer who plans to destroy it for housing units. The forest retains the tree species diversity and structure exhibited by our original native forests. Easy terrain, but no developed trails.

Nassawango Creek

Leaders: James Lendemer and Dave Ray

This Nature Conservancy Preserve is a remnant Atlantic white-cedar area, with some open habitat. We will see a bald cypress/black gum forest, a restored pitcher plant bog, an inland dune, and a raised rim basin mature swamp forest.

Pemberton Park

Leader: Carole Bergmann

We will explore numerous Eastern Shore ecosystems including fresh water tidal marsh, Wicomico river wetlands, pine forests, upland deciduous forests, wildflower meadows.

Plum Creek Nature Conservancy Preserve

Leader: Deborah Landau

This preserve is on a nontidal Atlantic white cedar swamp and includes a mosaic of wetland and upland habitats. Downstream, a section of the creek is tidal, with freshwater marsh and intertidal swamp communities. The creek meanders through a broad forested floodplain-wetland. To the north, there is a large restored xeric dune.

Pocomoke River Kayak Trip

Leaders: Karyn Moline and Lisa Bierer Garrett

We'll explore freshwater wetland, swamp and upland habitats in a park known for its loblolly pines and bald cypress swamp. No kayak experience required. Kayaks, paddles and life vests provided. Participants must be able to sit in the kayak and paddle for the entire 2-hour trip.

Ward Museum & Marsh Walk

Leader: Marney Bruce

The Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art in Salisbury has the world's most comprehensive collection of wildfowl carvings. The short Marsh Walk off the museum parking lot provides views of a freshwater lake with wetland plants.

Wicomico State Forest

Leaders: Rod Simmons and Alonso Abugattas

We'll make our way north to explore along sandy side roads off Sixty Foot Rd. We'll see many plants of outer coastal plain sandhill communities, swamps and hummocks, including Common Sweet-leaf, Sweetbay Magnolia, Bayberry and an abundance of graminoids and wildflowers.

FIELD TRIPS: Sunday, September 20

Adkins Arboretum

Leader: Joe Metzger

This native plant preserve and educational center in Caroline Co includes diverse plant communities, including the woodland in early fall colors. See how the Arboretum is "Greening" their grounds, parking areas and buildings. Easy walk.

Assateague Island

Leaders: Jane Hill and Kirsten Johnson

We will try to visit all of this barrier island's major habitats: salt marsh, forest, and dune. In the marsh we'll note grasses growing at different tidal levels. Flowering dune plants may include seaside goldenrod, seabeach evening primrose, and purple gerardia. Assateague has been stable long enough that forest is established on old, open duneland with a variety of woodies.

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge

Leader: TBA

Blackwater's three major habitats—forest, marsh and shallow water—are home to great plant and animal diversity. The refuge contains one-third of Maryland's tidal wetlands. We'll walk on a road from the Visitor's Center, connect to a trail into the forest and back the same route.

Fishing Bay, the "Everglades of Maryland"

Leader: Wayne Longbottom

Fishing Bay is an extensive salt marsh covering much of southern Dorchester Co. Special adaptations allow the plants in this harsh environment to thrive. We will see five of the most common plants in the salt marsh: Spartina (3 species), Black Needle Rush and Salt Grass, plus salt marsh asters and other salt marsh specialists.

Hickory Point Cypress Swamp Natural Area

Leaders: Rod Simmons and Beth Johnson

This is the largest southern swamp system in MD, supporting at least 14 RTE species. The site is an exceptionally diverse ecosystem, from bald cypress trees to Atlantic white cedar swamps to upland forests. We should see the state endangered Red Bay, the larval host plant for the Palamedes Swallowtail, also state endangered.

Wye Island

Leader: Karyn Moline

The island is home to one of the largest existing old growth forest remnants on the Eastern Shore. Other habitats to explore include swamps and warm season grass meadow.

Register by mail or on-line at www.mdflora.org

shifting sands

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Members: \$65 before 8/1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Members: \$75 after 8/1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Social & Dinner: \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Students: \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-members: \$75 before 8/1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-members: \$85 after 8/1 | | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Social & Dinner, Student: \$20 |

Name: _____ Sat. Field Trip: _____ Choice 2: _____

Address: _____ Sun. Field Trip: _____ Choice 2: _____

We will try to accommodate your field trip request but cannot guarantee availability. You will receive registration confirmation that indicates which trip you are registered for.

Checks payable to MNPS. Mail form and payment to: Maryland Native Plant Society, PO Box 4877, Silver Spring, Maryland 20914

Information on accommodations in the area can be found on our website.