



# Native News

Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

Volume 1 Number 1

March/April 2001

## President's Letter

Welcome to the revitalized "Native News" the bimonthly newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society. In a bit of a reorganization of our publications, we have decided that *Marilyndica* will become our journal, focusing on more scholarly articles, descriptions of Maryland's plants and ecosystems. Native News, on the other hand, will serve as a forum for providing members with time sensitive materials—announcements of meetings and other events, updates by the various committees, our usual pleas for volunteers—as well as occasional book reviews, plant and site profiles and conservation news. Native News will be mailed with the MNPS field trip brochures—look inside this issue for a list of early spring trips. The Society is entering a new phase in its development, accepting the challenge of a large and growing membership that is spread throughout Maryland and surrounding states. Communication with members about the abundance of Society activities available is a high priority goal over the next year. Our web site [www.mdflora.org](http://www.mdflora.org) has become a vital link for many members to stay alert of upcoming meetings and field trips, including events that are not scheduled early enough to be included in mass mailings. So I encourage you to bookmark our web site and check it frequently. In addition, current and new members can sign up to receive e-mail notifications of field trips and meetings.

Another important initiative is to involve more members in the day-to-day activities of the Society. As a completely volunteer run organization, many people make the Society a

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## MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S BOLD NEW LAND PRESERVATION EFFORT

by John Parrish and RG Steinman

With the growth of cities has come the proliferation of sprawl, a force that threatens the livability of our communities and degrades the quality of life. Quality of life has become a rallying cry for residents and businesses everywhere. This has fueled a nationwide push for land preservation. Citizens are realizing that land preservation not only produces economic benefits and invigorates communities, it also protects the ecosystems on which all species – including our own – depend.

In December 2000, Montgomery County launched Legacy Open Space – an innovative and visionary program to protect Montgomery County's most significant open space as a means of protecting the County's environment, quality of life, and economic vitality (MNCPPC 2000).

The plan identifies six categories of open space and defines criteria for selection of the sites. One of the most important categories is the "Protection of Environmentally Sensitive Natural Resources." The criteria for identifying significant areas in this category include:

- Unique or exemplary natural communities, including habitats for rare, threatened, and endangered or watchlist species and/or those based on unique geological formations.
- Large areas of good quality, contiguous forest or large areas with a diversity of habitats that support a diversity of plants and wildlife.
- Land well suited to buffer sensitive resources or for use as a wildlife/human use corridor between significant natural areas.

Legacy Open Space has identified for acquisition 13 sites, totaling nearly 5,000 acres, under the Sensitive Natural Resource category. Five of these sites overlay diabase and serpentine bedrock, unique geologic formations that support rare ecosystems and harbor many rare, threatened and endangered (R,T,&Es) and watchlist species. Combined, the two serpentine and three diabase properties designated for acquisition total 1,965 acres and contain 47 R,T,&Es and watchlist species, of which 15 are listed as endangered or threatened in the state of Maryland.

Serpentine forests are a rare habitat locally and globally. Worldwide, pockets of serpentine rock and soil comprise less than 1 percent of the earth's land mass (Wennerstrom 1995). There are very few serpentine formations in the eastern United States, the largest and best example being "Soldier's Delight" in Baltimore County. Historically, Montgomery County's serpentine area was roughly 5 square miles (640 acres = one square mile). Today, only about 400 significant acres remains – and those are divided into two fragments. These last remaining functioning Serpentine habitats represent 12% of what was historically known.

The unusual association of plant species in the serpentine forest – unlike any other plant community associations in the state of Maryland – derives from the relatively shallow soils, a consequence of the resistant nature of serpentine

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Native News is published six times a year by the Maryland Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 4370, Silver Spring, Maryland 20914.

The Maryland Native Plant Society (MNPS) is a nonprofit organization that uses education, research and community service to increase the awareness and appreciation of native plants and their habitats, leading to their observation and preservation. Membership is open to all who are interested in Maryland's native plants and their habitats, preserving Maryland's natural heritage, increasing their knowledge about native plants and helping to further the Society's mission.

MNPS sponsors monthly meetings, workshops, field trips and field conferences.

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**President's Message** Continued from pg. 1

vital, living organization. So I will put out the call for those of you who support our mission, to volunteer on one of the committees. (See the list of committees that follow this article.) The last objective I'll mention (for this issue of Native News, that is), is the development of more programs for our members, and potential members, in the Baltimore area. We want to hold monthly meetings around Baltimore, and have the Carrie Murray Nature Center as a meeting space. But we need someone to work on the Program Committee to develop a series of speakers for the next year. And if another facility is available, we would love for a volunteer to arrange the meeting location. Please contact me directly, or check the web site for additional volunteer opportunities, if you can help move the Society into the new millennium.

*--Karyn Molines*

**Volunteers Needed for the Maryland Native Plant Society**

The Society is a completely volunteer organization. We need many volunteers to assist with every facet of the Society. This list is just a sampling of how we could use our member's skills and talents. If you are able to help with even a small part, well, the more the merrier!

Program Committee

- Field Site Hosts
- Speakers for monthly meetings
- Provide refreshments for a monthly meeting
- Donate a door prize for the monthly meetings

Publications Committee

**Marilandica:** Submission of articles that document the both unique and common aspects of Maryland's native habitats. Summaries or results of botanical research.

Newsletter Committee

**Native News:** Meetings, conferences, and other timely tidbits of interest to our readers.

Membership Committee

- Assist with mailings of Native News, Marilandica and other announcements (There are many facets to this job. We can use many different volunteers.)
- Send renewal notices
- Distribute membership recruitment brochures

Publicity

- Distribute flyers
- Send announcements (by mail, FAX or email) to newspapers and publications.
- Write articles for local papers
- Photograph our events
- Speak at Garden Clubs (or invite a speaker to your club)

Chapters

- Northeast Chapter
- Eastern Shore Chapter
- We want to form a Baltimore Chapter and a Western Maryland Chapter.

Legacy Open Space Continued from pg. 1

rock, and the chemical nature of serpentinite rock. Serpentine-derived soils are hostile to many plant species for several reasons. The shallow, thin soils stunt the growth of tree species that occur there and have little capacity for water storage. In times of drought only species adapted to xeric conditions can survive. Also, these soils are high in magnesium and low in calcium and are infertile for most species found in the adjacent piedmont soil types. In addition, concentrations of metals such as chromium, nickel and cobalt can be toxic to plants. What results is a combination of chemical and physical limiting factors that, when combined with climatic factors, lead to unique associations of flora and fauna.

The two serpentine areas designated for acquisition under Legacy Open Space are the 258 acre area known as the Travilah Serpentine Barrens, located in Potomac off Piney Meetinghouse Road, and the 145 acre South Serpentine Area, located south of the Serpentine Barrens. Combined, these areas support 26 R,T,&Es and watchlist species (table 1).

Table 1. Rare, threatened and endangered species found at the serpentine sites proposed for acquisition under Legacy Open Space.

Latin Name	Common Name	State Rank/Status <sup>1</sup>
<i>Gentiana villosa</i>	Striped Gentian	S1/E
<i>Krigia dandelion</i>	Potato Dandelion	S1/E
<i>Melica mutica</i>	Narrow Melic Grass	S1/T
<i>Stenanthium gramineum</i>	Featherbells	S1/T
<i>Dirca palustris</i>	Leatherwood	S2/T
<i>Scutellaria leonardii</i>	Leonard's Skullicap	S2/T
<i>Calystegia spithamea</i>	Low Bindweed	S2
<i>Castanea dentata</i>	American Chestnut	S2/3
<i>Scirpus verecundus</i>	Bashful Bulrush	S2/3
<i>Aristolochia serpentaria</i>	Virginia Snakeroot	S3
<i>Asclepias purpurascens</i>	Purple Milkweed	S3
<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>	Whorled Milkweed	S3
<i>Aster infirmus</i>	Cornel-leaved Aster	S3
<i>Cardamine parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Bittercress	S3
<i>Carex complanata</i>	Flattened Sedge	S3
<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>	Whorled Coreopsis	S3
<i>Eleocharis engelmannii</i>	Engelmann's Spikerush	S3
<i>Eupatorium altissimum</i>	Tall Thoroughwort	S3
<i>Galium concinnum</i>	Shining Bedstraw	S3
<i>Isoetes engelmannii</i>	Appalachian Quillwort	S3
<i>Lespedeza violacea</i>	Violet Bushclover	S3
<i>Myosotis verna</i>	Spring Forget-me-not	S3
<i>Passiflora lutea</i>	Yellow Passion flower	S3
<i>Phyllanthus caroliniensis</i>	Carolina Leaf-flower	S3
<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>	Shingle Oak	S3
<i>Senecio pauperculus</i>	Balsam Ragwort	S3

<sup>1</sup>State ranks are as follows: S1: Highly state rare, S2: State rare, S3: Watch list, SH: Historically known from Maryland, but not verified for an extended period (usually 20+ years) with an expectation that it may be rediscovered, SX: Believed to be extirpated in Maryland with virtually no chance of rediscovery. The state status of a species is determined by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, in accordance with the Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act. Definitions for the following categories have been taken from the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 08.03.08: E: endangered, INOC: in need of conservation, T: threatened, X: endangered/extirpated. Note: species in these four categories have legal status.

Table 2. Rare, threatened and endangered species found at the diabase areas proposed for acquisition under Legacy Open Space.

Latin Name	Common Name	State Rank/Status <sup>1</sup>
<i>Phlox glaberrima</i>	Smooth Phlox	SH/X
<i>Arabis missouriensis</i>	Missouri Rock-cress	S1/E
<i>Gentiana villosa</i>	Striped Gentian	S1/E
<i>Krigia dandelion</i>	Potato Dandelion	S1/E
<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	Long-awned Hairgrass	S1/E
<i>Scutellaria nervosa</i>	Veined Skullicap	S1/E
<i>Zanthoxylum americanum</i>	Northern Prickly-ash	S1/E
<i>Melica mutica</i>	Narrow Melic Grass	S1/T
<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i>	Fringed-Tip Closed Gentian	S2/T
<i>Polygala senega</i>	Seneca Snakeroot	S2/T
<i>Quercus shumardii</i>	Shumard's Oak	S2/T
<i>Carex meadii</i>	Mead's Sedge	S1/H
<i>Carex typhina</i>	Cattail Sedge	S1/H
<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	Butternut	S2/3
<i>Scirpus verecundus</i>	Bashful Bulrush	S2/3
<i>Arisaema dracontium</i>	Green Dragon	S3
<i>Aristolochia serpentaria</i>	Virginia Snakeroot	S3
<i>Asclepias purpurascens</i>	Purple Milkweed	S3
<i>Aster infirmus</i>	Cornel-leaf Aster	S3
<i>Carex complanata</i>	Flattened Sedge	S3
<i>Carex grayi</i>	Asa Gray's Sedge	S3
<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>	Whorled Coreopsis	S3
<i>Desmodium glutinosum</i>	Pointed-leaved Tick-trefoil	S3
<i>Fracimus nigra</i>	Black Ash	S3
<i>Galium concinnum</i>	Shining Bedstraw	S3
<i>Helentium flexuosum</i>	Purple Sneezeweed	S3
<i>Myosotis verna</i>	Spring Forget-Me-Not	S3
<i>Phyllanthus caroliniensis</i>	Carolina Leaf-flower	S3
<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>	Shingle Oak	S3
<i>Ranunculus micranthus</i>	Rock Crowfoot	S3
<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>	Orange Coneflower	S3
<i>Scutellaria ovata</i>	Heart-leaved Skullicap	S3
<i>Senecio pauperculus</i>	Balsam Ragwort	S3
<i>Silphium trifoliatum</i>	Three-leaved Rosinweed	S3
<i>Papilio cressphontes</i>	Giant Swallowtail	S2/INOC

<sup>1</sup>See table 1 for descriptions of state rank and status.

Diabase rock is also globally uncommon and rare in the state of Maryland. The largest outcrop of diabase bedrock in the state of Maryland occurs in Montgomery County, south of Boyds. This diabase bedrock covers approximately 3 1/2 square miles. Legacy Open Space has proposed acquisition of 3 separate parcels in this diabase area, the 742 acre Hoyles Mill Diabase area south of White Ground Road, the 320 acre Hoyles Mill Diabase Forest Area, and the 500 acre Hoyles Mill Diabase area north of White Ground Road. Collectively these parcels, known as Hoyles Mill Diabase, support 35 R,T,&Es (table 2). It should be noted, however, that much of this area has not been inventoried and that more R,T,&Es are likely to be found with further study.

Like the serpentine, diabase bedrock supports a unique plant community. Also like the serpentine, diabase is a dense, erosion-resistant rock that results in thin, shallow soil habitats which provide a niche for many uncommon and rare species. Unlike the serpentine, the diabase contains relatively high amounts of calcium, yielding near neutral and alkaline soils that are conducive to unique vegetation. The Hoyles Mill diabase area is among the most floristically diverse areas remaining in Maryland and contains the highest concentration

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### Get Society News Via E-Mail

We need some feedback from all our members. The Society now has the ability to send an electronic version of announcements via the internet. But in order to do this we need some feedback from you. First, we need to know your current e-mail address. Things in the electronic age are mercurial and our membership role contains many e-mail addresses that are no longer valid so we are verifying every address. Second, we would like to know if you want things sent to you via e-mail.

Sending Society announcements through the internet has some obvious advantages. It is instantaneous so you will get announcements as soon as they are set. We will no longer be the hostage of the Postal Service's vague Third Class mailing schedule. By sending them electronically we will not only save a few trees but we will also save postage costs.

We are already sending monthly meeting reminders via e-mail to those who have requested them. By the end of the year we will also be able to send Native News and the Events and Field Trip Brochure. This is not an either or choice. If you want you can continue to get paper copies of all these announcements by post and also get them via e-mail. We will use your address only for announcements so you don't have to worry about MNPS adding to the growing flood of e-mail. Your address will only be used for Society business and will be given to no other organizations.

In order for us to update our records with your current e-mail address and to discover what your preferences are please sign on to the MNPS web site and send us the information. There is a special, easy to use, web page just for this purpose at <http://www.mdflora.org/emailaddform.html>.

We have already sent a message to every member in an effort to verify the e-mail addresses we have on file. If you got this message and responded, thank you. If you did not get this message we want to hear from you via the web site. We only need the information once. If you responded to the e-mail do not send the information again from the web site. But one way or the other please send us your data.

### News from the Eastern Shore Chapter

The Eastern Shore Chapter has begun planning for the Society Annual Conference, to be held on September 29, 2001, in Easton, Maryland. This year's conference will be co-sponsored by the Adkins Arboretum, the Maryland Master Gardeners of Queen Anne's County, and the Delaware Native Plant Society. Speakers and field trips will focus on the theme, "Ecology of Disturbed Areas." The Chapter is also scheduling some interesting speakers and field trips in the coming months. We hope members from throughout the state will be able to join us. For more information or to receive chapter updates, contact Danielle Fitzko, Centreville, MD (410) 758-0166, [df94@umail.umd.edu](mailto:df94@umail.umd.edu)

### Log On to the MNPS Web Site

If you haven't been to the MNPS web site recently you should take a look. It's the best place to find out about late breaking developments in the Society. If a new hike is suddenly organized, the web site will have the information. If you can't remember the directions to the weekend's hike and you can't find your field trip brochure, the web site will have the information. If you don't remember the topic for this month's meeting or you need a copy of the membership form, the web site will have the information.

But it also provides lots of other general information about native plants. This is just one node on the World Wide Web so there are lots of native plant links. There is, for instance, a page that will link you to the web site of every other Native Plant Society in the United States and Canada [[http://www.mdflora.org/other\\_societies\\_links.html](http://www.mdflora.org/other_societies_links.html)]. There is a link to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service "plants" database which contains detailed information on many thousands of native plants. There is a link to a new site named NatureServe where you will be able to find species distribution maps by county from every state. There is also a link to Linnaeus, the remarkable on-line botanical bibliography at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and a link to the Internet Directory for Botany which lists thousands of web locations throughout the world. If you look on the right hand side of the MNPS current events page you will find links to the current outings schedule of many other local organizations, including the National Arboretum, Adkins Arboretum, the Worthley Botany Class, and the Virginia Native Plant Society.

If you are not yet receiving your monthly meeting announcements by internet you should connect to the web site and go to the member e-mail registration page [<http://www.mdflora.org/emailaddform.html>]. The web site also provides extensive lists of plants you should plant, as well as lists of those you shouldn't.

A very large and comprehensive native plant bibliography has recently been added to the site. This bibliography is a good resource for anyone interested in native plants. It is divided by topic and the entries are generally annotated to help you in finding the books that exactly answer your own specific needs. Most sections contain a few books that are recommended because they are either generally respected or very widely used. This list, as well as the annotations, are the result of suggestions made by MNPS members [<http://www.mdflora.org/booklist.html>].

But it's impossible to actually describe a web site. A location is largely defined by its context and since the context of a web site is cyber space, it changes with your mood. Investigate the MNPS web site and you will always find yourself drawn through it to some other unexpected and interesting spot.

**Announcements****MNPS Monthly Meetings**

**Forgotten Pollinators and the Importance of Backyard Conservation**  
 Tuesday, February 27, 2001 7:30 pm  
 Aspen Hill Library Rockville, Maryland

Horticulturist Leslie Gilbert will give a presentation on pollinators and how to attract them to your garden. Ms. Gilbert is not a purist when it comes to native plants, but she's committed to proper land stewardship and "living gently upon the earth." Come hear her and find out how to make your garden come alive with bees and butterflies. Joe Metzger will be on hand from 7:00 to 7:30 to offer help in identifying that cutting, potted or photographed plant that may have you puzzled. Refreshments and door prizes.

Directions to the Aspen Hill Library: From I-495 take Exit 33 (Connecticut Ave.) north for about 5.5 miles. Turn left onto Aspen Hill Rd. The library is about 0.5 miles on the right, at 4407 Aspen Hill Rd. Phone number is 301-871-2094.

**Spring Wildflowers**

Tuesday, March 29, 2001 7:30 pm  
 Aspen Hill Library Rockville, Maryland

Rod Simmons will give a presentation on the spring flora of Maryland's five physiographic regions. Come and find out where and when you can see many of Maryland's spring wildflowers in bloom. Joe Metzger will be on hand from 7:00 to 7:30 to offer help with plant identification. Refreshments and door prizes.

Directions to the Aspen Hill Library: See February meeting notice above.

**Wild Uses of Plants**

Tuesday, April 24 7:30 p.m.  
 Fairland Library Burtonsville, Maryland

Throughout human history plants have provided us with food, shelter, fiber for clothing and vessels, medicines, cosmetics, dyes and colors, decorations and furniture. This slide presentation by Karyn Molines will illustrate these many uses by native peoples and modern societies. Comparisons of different cultures' use will be highlighted by examples of native American plants. Myth and fact in symbolism, folklore and medicine bring the plant-people relationship into modern perspective. Joe Metzger will be on hand from 7:00 to 7:30 for the plant identification feature. Refreshments and door prizes.

Directions to the Fairland Library: From I-495, take Exit 30 (Colesville Rd) north for about 6 miles. Turn left onto Briggs Chaney Rd. and right at the first light onto Old Columbia Pike. The library is about 1.5 miles ahead on the left at 14910 Old Columbia Pike. Phone number is 301-421-5400

**Lahr Symposium and Native Plant Sale**

March 31 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
 Plant Sale: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
 National Arboretum Administration Bldg.

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Lahr Symposium on native plants features lectures on alternatives to turf, taking design cues from nature and Native American land use. Main session speakers are: Stevie Daniels, gardening columnist and author of the Wild Lawn Handbook; Rick Lewandowski, Director, Mt. Cuba Center; and Jane Mt. Pleasant, of Tuscarora descent and director of the American Indian Program at Cornell University. Concurrent sessions will address native plant pollinators, rain gardens and woodland restoration at the National Cathedral. MNPS will present a display. Participants may shop early at the native plant sale. Profits from the program and the plant sale fund an intern for Fern Valley, the Arboretum's native plant collection.

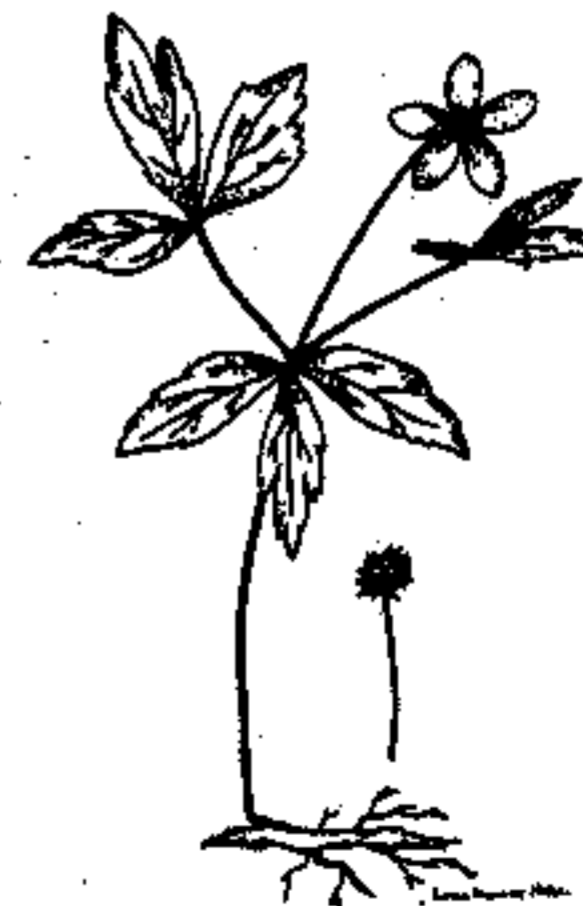
Fee: \$65 (\$52 FONA). Please do not register until you have received a brochure. To request a brochure, call 202-245-4521.

**Conservation Stewardship Project at Patapsco Valley State Park**

The third Saturday of each month, April through October @ 10:00 a.m.

Field days combine an ecology field trip, scientific and photographic documentation of native flora and fauna and of damage of all kinds, removal or control of invasive non-native weeds, and, this year, application of deer-repellant spray and tablets. We have limited authorization to apply glyphosate herbicide (Round-Up) to woody plants, and will be demonstrating a very safe, effective technique, using a sponge-topped applicator to apply concentrate to a cut or girdled stem/trunk.

Contact: Bonnie Quinn - [bonnieq@gateway.net](mailto:bonnieq@gateway.net)



### Invasive Exotic Plant Removal Projects

Alien invasives are the second biggest threat to biodiversity after habitat loss. A relatively small proportion of alien plants introduced are invasive. Some of these include common garden plants such as English Ivy & Japanese Honeysuckle. Removing invasive plants is a new and rapidly growing field only recently recognized as to its importance in preserving native flora and fauna. We are actually developing and experimenting with many of the techniques we use. Join us! It's a great way to get outdoors, you learn about different plants and know you're doing something good for the environment at the same time! Typically 5-10% invaded now, these parks will become 30-50% invaded unless we help in a timely manner. We are also looking for more botanists to help us identify native plants for girl scouts, gardeners, and other beginners.—*Marc Imlay, MNPS board member and Invasive Exotic Plant Committee Chair.*

#### Chapman Forest Ecosystem Alien Invasive Plant Removal Project & Native Plant Walk

The first Sunday of each month @ 10:00 a.m.

Help control and learn about alien invasive versus native plant species. We will identify 3 foot diameter Sassafras trees and other beautiful giant trees. We will explore the Sassafras Trail and Potomac Overlook. Remove the Chinese Yam and rescue the native yam on Sunday March 4. Garlic mustard is next (Sunday April 8) because of the endangered plant species, including spring wildflowers, under attack up the ravines. Participating organizations include the Maryland Native Plant Society and Sierra Club.

Location: Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Ruth B. Swann Park/Potomac Branch Library, 20 miles S of Beltway on Rt. 210, Indian Head Hwy. Give yourself 30 to 40 minutes from the Beltway. Bring: gloves, lunch, & water (beach picnic). Long sleeves and pants recommended. Contact: Marc Imlay, (301) 283-0808.

#### Invasive Exotic Removal in Rock Creek Park

Sunday, March 18 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

This outing will be the inauguration of a group that will conduct other exotic removal in or very near Washington, D.C. It will be led by Sue Salmons, Vegetation Management Specialist at Rock Creek Park and leader of their exotic removal project. Many of you heard her speak at the Irvine native plant conference last year. Ms. Salmons has been developing protocols for control of exotics at Rock Creek for several years.

Meet at the Carter Barron parking lot off of 16<sup>th</sup> St, just south of Military Rd (Picnic Grove 24). Bring work gloves if you have them, long pants and sleeves, drinking water. Tools will be provided. Contact Lou Lieb for RSVP or questions, or just come out. [llieb@erols.com](mailto:llieb@erols.com) or 202-723-5909.

#### Invasive Exotic Plant Removal Project at Brookside Gardens 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, Monthly 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Our goal is to protect the un-cultivated natural areas at Brookside Gardens, a 50-acre public garden that is a part of Wheaton Regional Park. At this time we are concentrating our weed removal efforts on the most infested areas, which overlook the aquatic garden and are overrun with Kudzu, Oriental Bittersweet and Wine-berry. Native plants are beginning to make a comeback since we have begun exotic/invasive weed control. We are looking for volunteers to help with this project. Last Spring, a trillium was found in these woods, so we are hopeful that our work will be successful.

Directions to Brookside Gardens: Located in Wheaton, Md. From I-495, the Washington Beltway, take Route 97, Georgia Avenue north, 3 miles. At Randolph Road, turn right. At Glenallan Avenue, turn right. Turn right into Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Ave., at the four-way stop.

#### WEED WARRIORS WANTED

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's (M-NCPPC) Forest Ecologist is assembling a team of volunteers (WEED WARRIORS) to monitor and remove non-native invasive plant species in Montgomery County Parks, and we need your help! As a WEED WARRIOR volunteer, you will receive a short training session from the Forest Ecologist in the identification of, removal and control techniques for non-native invasive plants. WEED WARRIORS can then work at their own pace and choose a schedule that best suits them. Many current WEED WARRIORS live near a M-NCPPC Stream Valley Park or Regional Park and do their volunteer work while walking their dogs or taking an occasional hike through their neighborhood park. Whether you choose to work individually or in a group, your efforts will contribute to the control of non-native vegetation in the 28,000 acres of Montgomery County parkland.

Please contact Carole Bergmann, Forest Ecologist for M-NCPPC, and MNPS Board Member at (301) 949-2818 for more information or to sign up.

#### Invasive Exotic Removal in Greenbelt National Park

Third Sunday of Every Month

Come join us in defending Greenbelt Park from encroachment by alien invasive plant growth. People of all ages, backgrounds and interests are invited to spend a fun day outdoors while learning about the differences between native and non-native plants and helping to preserve the health and native wildlife of this local natural area. We'd welcome assistance from botanists willing to share knowledge of the park's flora. Call Lauren Urgenson at 301-699-1947 or email [urggie@wam.umd.edu](mailto:urggie@wam.umd.edu) for more info.

**Announcements**

**Adkins Arboretum Winter Series Programs**

**A Primer on Native Grasses**

Wednesday, February 21, 7 - 8:30 p.m.  
 Horticulturist and MNPS board member Nancy Adamson will introduce you to native grasses and their ecological and ornamental value. \$10 (\$8 Adkins members).

**Installing and Maintaining a Sustainable Landscape**

Wednesday, February 28, 7 - 8:30 p.m.  
 Horticulturist Danielle Fitzko will present the basics of planting and caring for your landscape using conservation techniques. \$10 (\$8 Adkins members).

**Capturing Early Spring's Blooms**

Wednesday, March 7, 7 - 8:30 p.m.  
 Master Gardener Margaret Carter will introduce you to spring blooming trees, shrubs and perennials and discuss their use in gardens. \$10 (\$8 Adkins members).

The Adkins Arboretum is located in Ridgely, on Maryland's Eastern Shore. For more information or directions call 410-634-2847 or visit their website at [www.adkinsarboretum.org](http://www.adkinsarboretum.org).

**D.C. Community Greening Mini-Grants Available**

Garden Resources of Washington announces the availability of grants of up to \$1,000 to community and youth groups, schools, churches, civic associations and other organizations for new gardens, tree plantings, educational projects and other greening projects located in Washington, D.C. Applications are due by March 5, 2001. For more information or an application, call 202-234-0591 or send email to [GROW19@aol.com](mailto:GROW19@aol.com)



**Olmstead Woods Events**

The Olmsted Woods at the Washington National Cathedral is a beautiful 5-acre urban woodland. Purposely left intact in Frederick Law Olmsted's original and subsequent landscape plans, the woodland provides an outdoor classroom setting for the area schools, various contemplative spots, and a wonderful new path system that follows Olmsted's original approach to the Cathedral. In 1998 a restoration project was begun to remedy 80 years of unchecked use of the woodlands and it's invasion by exotic plants. Presently, efforts are aimed at removing exotic plant species, working to restore the forest understory, as well as the depleted and compacted soils. The existing conditions are beautiful and include numerous mature oak and beech trees.

**VOLUNTEER DAYS:** Tuesday, Thursday and the 2nd Saturday of the month from April through October. Meet at 10:00 on under the statue of George Washington.

For information call Ray Mims at 202-537-6282 or Joe Luebke at 202-537-5788.

**WALKS:**

Bird Walk with experienced birder Sheila Cochran.  
 Thursday 3/22, 9:30 a.m.  
 Meet at the George Washington Statue.

**Natives vs Exotics: The Ecological Challenges in an Urban Woodland Restoration.**

Thursday 3/22, 10:30am  
 What are exotic invasives and why do we want to eliminate them. Come and understand our restoration philosophy and why we are using only midatlantic native plants.

**Spring Delights in the Woods.**

Wednesday 4/11, 18, and 25.  
 Join wildflower and horticultural experts in tracking the spring ephemerals, the wildflowers, and budding trees.

For information on these events, call 202-537-2319, 202-298-8109, or 301-949-7825

**NEWFS 2001 Seed and Book Catalogue**

The New England Wild Flower Society's 2001 catalogue is now available. It features seeds and fern spores of eastern U.S. natives collected at the Society's Garden in the Woods or contract grown. The seeds are intended for garden use only. The catalogue also contains a number of books on native plant gardening. To obtain a copy, send \$2.75 to Seeds, New England Wild Flower Society, Garden in the Woods, 180 Hemenway Rd, Framingham, MA 01701-2699 or view an online version at [www.newfs.org](http://www.newfs.org). Note: all seed orders must be received by March 15, 2001.

**Legacy Open Space Continued from page 3**

of rare species in Montgomery County outside of the Potomac River Gorge.

With the rapid growth of metropolitan areas, the demand to develop many natural areas will only accelerate. Increased human population and diminishing supply of unspoiled land creates a pressing need to acquire these lands now for protection. Montgomery County's Legacy Open Space program is a visionary plan that can serve as a model that other jurisdictions can utilize to preserve natural areas and protect critical ecosystems that will enrich the lives of all in the community. For further information about Montgomery County's Legacy Open Space program, contact The Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission at 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910 or call M-NCPPC Community Relations at (301) 495-4600.

**References**

- Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. 2000. *Legacy Open Space, Open Space Conservation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*.  
 Wennerstrom, J. 1995. *Soldier's Delight Journal: Exploring a Globally Rare Ecosystem*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press.

*John Parrish and RG Steinman are botanists who have extensively studied Maryland's flora and natural communities, especially those in Montgomery County.*

Ed. Note: Look for a detailed list of the flora of the Hoyles Mill Diabase area in an upcoming issue of *Mariandica*.

**Upcoming Events****Delaware Nature Society Native Plant Sale**

Saturday, May 5, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
 Sunday, May 6, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
 Ashland Nature Center, Hockessin, Delaware

A number of choices are limited in quantity; pre-ordering is suggested. For a pre-order catalog or more information, call 302-239-2334 or send email to [webpage@dnsashland.org](mailto:webpage@dnsashland.org). Info is also available at [www.delawarenaturesociety.org](http://www.delawarenaturesociety.org).

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Native Plants in the Landscape Conference**

June 7 – 9 Millersville University, Millersville, PA

Speakers to include Coleston Burrell, Lorraine Johnson, Darrel Morrison, Rick Lewandowski and Dick Bir. For more information or to receive a brochure call 717-871-2022 or visit their website at <http://muweb.millersv.edu/~npit/>.

**Joint Field Meeting of the Botanical Society of America (Northeast Section), the Torrey Botanical Society and the Philadelphia Botanical Club**

June 24-28 Wesley College, Dover, Delaware

Deadline for registration is May 20. For more information contact Tim Draude at 717-393-7233 or Dr. Larry Klotz at [LHKLOT@ark.ship.edu](mailto:LHKLOT@ark.ship.edu).

***Maryland Native Plant Society***

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 Silver Spring, MD 20914