



# Native News

Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

Volume 1 Number 4

September/October 2001

## President's Letter

Greetings,

With the shorter days of late summer, the brilliant yellows of the fall composites begin to brighten the greens and browns of our open landscapes--Helianthus, Helenium, Coreopsis, and Rudbeckia (alias ADYC: another darn yellow composite). Not only do they signal the changing seasons; they bring the Society towards two important events.

First, are the elections. You will be receiving the ballots in a separate mailing. The Board recommends the slate. Terms of Directors are two years, so these members will be joining the Board members finishing their term. Write-in candidates are allowed--you can write in yourself or another MNPS member (make sure you provide address and phone numbers). Please take the time to return your ballot. They should be received at our post office box by Friday, September 28. Or bring them to the Fall Conference on September 29, the second important activity that happens every fall.

Our tenth annual fall conference represents a significant milestone for a completely volunteer run organization (hint--check out page 2 for volunteer needs). As well its theme "Shaping Nature: The Impact of Man-Made and Natural Disturbance on Our Native Flora" builds upon an important ecological concept, highly influential in the history of Maryland's native habitats. Dr. Cecil Frost will discuss the role fire has in natural ecosystems, while Dr. Doug Gill will describe the effect of disturbance on pink lady slipper populations. Dr. Marc Inlay, chair of our Invasives Committee, will explain the role of disturbance in the proliferation of invasive species.

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### In This Issue:

**Fall Field Trips, Gardener's Guidelines, Plant Sales, Invasive Plant Removal Projects and more.**

## Upcoming MNPS Monthly Meetings

### Restoring Native Plant Communities

Tuesday, August 28, 2001 7:30 pm

Howard County Parks and Recreation Headquarters, Columbia, Maryland

Restoring native plant communities often conjures up more questions than answers: How should the composition of species be selected? What size plant material should be specified? How much should natural succession play a role? What is the source of the material? What density of plant material should be specified? Are soil amendments required? Keith Bowers, Restoration Ecologist and Landscape Architect with Biohabitats, Inc. will provide examples and explain his firm's approach to native plant community design and planting including selection of species and development of composition schedules, planting schedules, and soil amendments. Joe Metzger will be on hand from 7-7:30 to help with identifying cuttings, potted or photographed plants. Refreshments and door prizes.

Directions to the meeting place: From I-95 take Exit 41 onto Route 175 (Little Patuxent Pkwy.) west towards Columbia. At the 2nd light turn left onto Snowden River Pkwy. (You will need to stay in right lane because this light actually takes you under a bridge to get onto Snowden River Pkwy) At the 3rd light turn left onto Oakland Mills Road. The Headquarters building is on the right approximately 1/2 mile. It's located just before the railroad tracks at 7120 Oakland Mills Road. Phone 410-313-4700.

### Magnolia Bogs: Their Importance and Vulnerability

Tuesday, September 25, 2001 7:30 p.m.

Aspen Hill Library, Rockville, Maryland

Within the Mattawoman Creek watershed, near historic Araby Manor in Charles County, Maryland, there is a Magnolia Bog notable for its large size and relatively undisturbed qualities. Magnolia Bogs, so termed since at least the early 20th century, are rare seepage bogs that form a thick layer of sphagnum overlying a sand and gravel substrate and that have recognizable floral associations with similarities to other bog ecosystems. They are confined to the inner coastal plain of the mid-Atlantic states, where they occur near the fall line on older formations that underlie springhead seepages in terrace gravel forests. These complexes are sustained by the infrequent coincidence of stable groundwater seepage and acidic, nutrient poor conditions. Very few examples presently remain. In this presentation, Rod Simmons, ecologist and MNPS botany committee chair and Mark Stong, taxonomist at the Smithsonian Institution, will cover the history, status, regional distribution, botany, and management issues of Magnolia Bogs with specific emphasis on the unusually large and intact Araby Bog.

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.

### Upcoming MNPS Events:

September 29, 2001: The MNPS 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Conference, "Shaping Nature: The Impact of Man-Made and Natural Disturbance on Our Native Flora."

Watch your mail for the conference brochure.

October 30, 2001: MNPS Monthly Meeting, Aspen Hill Library, 7:30 pm.

Topic and speaker TBA (Check out [www.mdflora.org](http://www.mdflora.org) for info).

Native News is produced six times a year by the Maryland Native Plant Society P.O. Box 4877, 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 conservation and restoration. 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 a fall conference.

**Officers:**

Karyn Molines, President  
Rod Simmons, Vice President  
Sam Jones, Secretary  
Joe Metzger, Jr., Treasurer

**Board of Directors:**

Nancy Adamson, Lou Aronica, Carole Bergmann, Jim Carleton, Blaine Eckberg, Cris Fleming, Jake Hughes, Marc Imlay, Carol Jelich, Dwight Johnson, Jim MacDonald, John Parrish, Mary Pat Rowan, Louisa Thompson, Meghan Tice

**MNPS Committee Chairs:**

Conservation.....Lou Aronica  
202-722-1081  
Field Trips and Programs.....open  
Flora of Maryland.....Joe Metzger, Jr.  
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Invasive Exotic Plants.....Marc Imlay  
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Publications.....Rod Simmons  
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**President's Message** Continued from pg. 1

Disturbance is often thought of in conjunction with destruction, clear cuts, and development. Yet natural disturbances are as important a factor in the life history of our flora and fauna as the anthropogenic causes. Ecologically, there is no static state. Changes are always taking place in a variety of temporal and spatial contexts. At the smallest level, the soil in which plant roots thrive, their symbiotic relationship with soil organisms and decomposers, and the underlying geology and hydrology change the characteristics of the soil community. As plants mature, the change in light filtering to new seedlings in the understory creates a different microclimate. The death of a tree, or windfall from tornadoes or hurricanes, creates a new opening for sun loving herbaceous plants or new seedlings to sprout. Floods inundate large regions, scouring the landscape, yet enriching soils with a new load of sediment and delivering a new assemblage of seeds.

The time interval between events, and the time duration in which the changes take place influence the ultimate fate of many ecosystems. A slow, steady flooding of coastal areas (as happened at the end of the last ice age) is quite different than seasonal hurricanes, although both result in the removal of shoreline soil and vegetation.

Plants and animals have responded to these disturbances with adaptations that take advantage of these changes, such as seeds that require extreme heat to trigger germination. Other species persevere during adverse conditions, going dormant during drought or producing thick fire-resistant bark.

Often times the real danger with disturbance is when it happens in rapid succession with little recovery time. Or worst, when different disturbances happen coincidentally, leaving no opportunities for natural healing processes to occur. At this point in time, many changes are occurring repeatedly that our native ecosystems are losing their resilience to change. This subject is too much for this short column, but I hope that this encourages you to come learn more about the roles that anthropogenic and other disturbances have in influencing the development, maintenance, and modification to our environment.

And as with all our conferences, field trips on both Saturday and Sunday offer the opportunity to explore the Eastern Shore. I hope you'll plan to be there.

Sincerely,

Karyn Molines

**Volunteers Needed by MNPS**

**Auditor:** We would like to review our financial records to ensure the proper recording and documentation of Society money. We have approximately \$20,000 gross income. If you have any experience in non-profit book-keeping, please contact Karyn Molines, kmolines@chesapeake.net.

**Field Trip Host:** Anyone willing to welcome fanatical botanists to a favorite natural area, no botanical knowledge is needed. We are always looking for new places for field trips. If you have a site that you enjoy, want to learn more about the species found there, and want to spend a few hours with fellow plant enthusiasts, consider scheduling a field trip (next deadline is September 25 for Nov-Dec trips). You'll need to decide the date and time, provide directions to and description of the site, and be familiar with the trails so the group doesn't get lost!. Please contact Karyn Molines at kmolines@chesapeake.net with your ideas.

**Field Trip Leaders:** Those with some botanical knowledge, are needed to lead groups, teach about native plants, share identification skills, and promote the mission of MNPS. Field trip leaders generally select the locations of their trips, but we can pair you with Field Trip Hosts. Must be reliable, prompt, and able to meet scheduling deadlines (next deadline is September 25 for Nov-Dec field trips). Please contact Karyn Molines at kmolines@chesapeake.net.

Remember: Our web site is the best source of information for current volunteer needs.

**Invasive Exotic Plant Events**

**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.

In the last couple of years at Ruth B. Swann Park in Charles County, Maryland, where the Sierra Club and the Maryland Native Plant Society have been sponsoring invasive plant removal events, we have seen Japanese stiltgrass move in with a vengeance, covering over half of the lower areas of the park with a green carpet from early spring to late fall. On the first two weekends in October of last year, thirteen volunteers ranging in age from 23 to 67 worked a total of 104 person/hours in a successful effort to stem the invasion. Together with the work done the previous year, we estimate that 90% of the park's stiltgrass has been killed before it had a chance to set seed.

We are in the critical third year for Japanese Stilt Grass. About 10% has come back from the seedbank along with rare native wildflowers. In areas where the stiltgrass had formed a monoculture, we used a 2% solution of RoundUp applied with a back pack sprayer, staying 10 feet away from streams. Used this way, RoundUp does not migrate, and it biodegrades quickly. Where the stiltgrass plants were mixed with native plants (about 5% of the population), volunteers hand-pulled the stiltgrass. Thus, volunteers were critical to the success of this invasive plant removal project.

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, 18 miles S of Beltway on Rt. 210, Indian Head Hwy. Give yourself 30 minutes from the Beltway. Bring: gloves, lunch, & water (beach picnic). Long sleeves and pants recommended. Contact: Marc Imlay, (301) 283-0808.

**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 info.

**Invasive Exotic Plant Removal at Brookside Gardens**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each Month- September 9 and October 14  
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

*Meet at the Visitors Center Information Desk- If you arrive late pick up a map to work site just a short walk away!*  
Brookside Gardens is a 50-acre public garden that is a part of Wheaton Regional Park, Montgomery County, Md. This parkland is protected from deer browsing giving a unique opportunity to observe which native plants will be returning to the uncultivated areas here. Working to keep exotic invasives "at bay" is an important aspect of this plan. We continue our focus on the edge of the creek that flows along the north perimeter of our gardens where much bittersweet, multiflora rose and honeysuckle has already been removed.

Tools are provided but if you have pruners and leather gloves please bring them. We recommend long sleeves, long pants and water resistant shoes.

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. At the four-way stop sign, turn right into Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Ave.  
Contact: Cheryl Beagle (301) 962-1413 or cbeagle@mncppc.state.md.us

**The Greenbelt Park Invasive Removal**

Sunday September 16 (third Sundays)—RAIN OR SHINE!!  
11:00 am Laurel Picnic area.

Spend the day outdoors, taking a nature walk through Greenbelt Park (NOT LAKE ARTEMESIA!), learning about local plants, and hand-pulling non-native weeds, such as japanese honeysuckle, beefsteak mint, mile-a-minute, that are pushing out the native plants and threatening the health of the park. 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 would greatly appreciate the assistance of any plant specialists would like to share their knowledge and enthusiasm about the parks native flora with the group. Bring lunch, drink, water and appropriate clothing for weather.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take Route 1 South from the 495 Beltway. Take Greenbelt Road East past Beltway Plaza. Cross Kenilworth Avenue. Greenbelt Park is on the right hand side before the turnoff for the Baltimore Washington Parkway. We will meet at the Laurel picnic area.

**CARPPOOL:** Meet at the University of Maryland College Park Student Union on the Parking Garage side at 10:30 am.

For any questions and information about upcoming events contact Lauren Urgenson at 301-943-4522 or urggie@hotmail.com

## Announcements

### OLMSTED WOODS RESTORATION PROGRAMS AT WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

**VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS:** 2nd Saturday monthly, May through November from 10 a.m. to noon and every Thursday from 9:00 am to noon. Participants will remove exotic invasives and plant native plants under the direction of horticulturist Elizabeth Brewster. Sturdy gloves and work clothes are required. Cancelled in the event of heavy rain.

#### WOODS WALKS:

Wed., Sept. 12, 10 a.m. -- Frederick Law Olmsted and the Olmsted Woods.

Sat., Sept. 29, 2001, 1 p.m.-- Cathedral Open House.

Wed., Oct. 10, 2001, 10 a.m. -- Trees in Autumn.

Wed., Oct. 24, 2001, 10 a.m. -- Autumn Colors.

Wed., Oct. 31, 2001, 7 p.m. -- All Hallows Eve Moonlit Tour.

Participants for all programs will meet at the George Washington Statue on Pilgrim Road, just off Wisconsin Avenue on the south side of the Cathedral. No reservations are required and the tours are free of charge. For more information, call the Olmsted Woods Info Line: 202-537-2319.

### MPEA Stewardship Project

The Patapsco Stewardship Project has now become the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA) Stewardship Project. Invasive vegetation has quickly become a serious threat to the area's ecosystem. Honeysuckle, oriental stiltgrass, bittersweet, multiflora rose and a host of other species are rampant in parts of the MPEA. MPEA natural resource managers and Stewardship Project leaders are hoping to devise and implement a plan of attack against these invaders. A field day at the MPEA is scheduled for Wednesday, September 5, 2001 at 9:30 a.m. Complete descriptions of the invaders and methods of control will be discussed and demonstrated during the workshop.

The MPEA is located between Columbia and Clarksville, Maryland.

From the North, East and West: Follow I70 to 29 South. Take 29 South to 32 West. Take 32 West to Great Star Drive exit. Take the right exit, then take the first (immediate) right onto Summer Sunrise. Take the first left onto Trotter Road. Go on Trotter Road for about 1.5 miles. Go straight through the traffic circle to parking lot on right (at bottom of hill).

From the South: Take 95 North to 32 West, then same as above.

For more information please contact: Jeff Schwierjohann (410) 313-4726, [jschwie@co.ho.md.us](mailto:jschwie@co.ho.md.us) or Aylene Gard, 410-992-9889, or Robin Hessey, [rh158@umail.umd.edu](mailto:rh158@umail.umd.edu)

### Landscaping for Wildlife Seminar

Sunday, Sept 16, 2001 9am to 3:30 pm  
Baltimore County Community College—Dundalk Campus

Daryl Dutrow will teach the basics for attracting wildlife in residential settings with an emphasis on establishing habitats using native plants. Fee: \$60. To register, call 410-869-0296.

### Adkins Arboretum Fall Native Plant Sale

Saturday, September 8, 2001, 9 AM to 1 PM

Join in the joy of fall colors -- purple asters, yellow sunflowers, orange butterfly milkweed, translucent grasses, vibrant red and golden shrubs and trees! This year features some special plants grown from locally collected seeds, including Maryland golden aster, shaggy blazing star, downy blue lobelia, swamp sunflower, rose mallow, bushy bluestem grass and many others.

Fall is the best time to plant and the plant sale is the best time to have your gardening questions answered by Arboretum staff and Queen Annes County Master Gardeners!

Fun crafts and educational activities for children, guided woodland walks, and a gift shop full of books and art add to the fun and learning.

Come early for the best selection!! 10% discount for Arboretum members!

For more info and to find out about the many fall programs at Adkins, call 410-634-2847 or visit [www.adkinsarboretum.org](http://www.adkinsarboretum.org).

### Northwest Branch Invasive Removal Project

Sunday, Sept 16 and Saturday Oct 20, 10 am – 2 pm

The NW Branch of the Potomac has a variety of native plant species. We'll take a walk and see them, pull some multi-flora rose, and remove english ivy that has escaped from a residential property and is threatening the natives in one area.

From the intersection 29 (Colesville Rd) and University Blvd in Silver Spring, go E. on University and turn left on Williamsburg Dr. Stay on Williamsburg at the first fork you come to (bear left), then at the second fork (Williamsburg N. vs. S.) bear left again. Williamsburg turns into Big Rock Rd. after awhile at the bottom of the hill. Meet at 10204 Big Rock Rd. Bring water and gloves. Veggie lunch provided. Call Jane Osburn (301) 754-1564.

### Employment Opportunity

Arlington County, VA to hire Invasive Plants Eradication Coordinator. This is a newly-created half time position. The job description will be finalized in August. The County's Human Resources Department is expected to advertise the position in mid-September, after which applications will be accepted for a two-week period. For further information contact Marianne Mooney at [moosfy@webtv.net](mailto:moosfy@webtv.net).

### 10th annual Native Plant Seminar & Plant Sale

Irvine Natural Science Center Stevenson, MD

Saturday August 25, 2001

Seminar: 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. Scheduled speakers include C. Colston Burrell, Laurie Anne Albrecht, Colin Stewart and Keith Bowers.

Sale: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Fourteen native plant vendors will be on hand. \$40 members/\$50 non-members, includes box lunch. For info call (410) 484-2413 or visit [www.explorenature.org](http://www.explorenature.org).