

Native News

The Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

March/April 2002

Volume 2 Number 2

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

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Ephemerals and Other Plants of Spring

Tuesday, March 26, 7:30 p.m.

Aspen Hill Library, Rockville, Maryland

Rod Simmons will share slides of early blooming plants including the fleeting flowers of those known as the spring ephemerals. Both commonly occurring species and those that are seen infrequently will be shown. Rod will discuss areas where these plants can be found, including the underlying geology, in Maryland, D.C., and northern Virginia. This presentation is a guide to and seasonal celebration of some of the most beautiful and diverse areas of our region.

Directions to the Aspen Hill Library: From I-495 (Capital Beltway) 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.

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Wetland Ecology

Tuesday, April 30, 7:30 p.m.

Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, Millersville, MD

Marshes, swamps, and vernal pools are three common wetlands, differentiated by their hydrology and plant communities. Wetlands are vital habitat for many threatened and endangered species, critical for juvenile striped bass and yellow perch spawning, and important in improving the quality of the Chesapeake Bay. This slide lecture by Karyn Molines will illustrate the typical wetland communities, the plants and animals that inhabit them and describe techniques used for defining wetlands.

Directions to Arlington Echo: From the west, take Rt. 32 east to Rt. 175 (Annapolis Rd) in Odenton. Turn right (south) on Rt. 175 and proceed 4-5 miles to Rt. 3, where Rt. 175 becomes Millersville Rd. After crossing Rt. 3, follow Millersville Rd. several miles to Rt. 178 (Generals Highway). Continue across Rt. 178, where Millersville Rd becomes Indian Landing Rd. Arlington Echo is about 2 miles ahead on the right at 975 Indian Landing Rd. From the north and south, take Rt. 3 to Millersville Rd., just south of the intersection of Rts. 3 and 32. Head east on Millersville Rd and proceed as above.

Monthly Meetings are open to non-members.

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NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING:

Thursday, March 21; 6:30 pm

Location: TBA

Our Board meetings focus on the policy and administration of the Society. All members are welcome to attend. An agenda will be made available. One of our Board goals is to provide more timely notification of Board meetings to members and to publish excerpts of the approved minutes in Native News. We hope that this will keep members informed about Society activities. Contact President Karyn Molines at kmolines@chesapeake.net, or Secretary Jane Osburn at 301 754-1564 for more details.



President's Letter

**Maryland Native
Plant Society**

P. O. Box 4877
Silver Spring, MD 20914

Native News is published
six times a year by the
Maryland Native Plant Society

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Rod Simmons, Vice President
Marc Imlay, Vice President
Jane Osburn, Secretary
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Board of Directors

Lou Aronica	Carole Bergmann
Jim Carleton	Blaine Eckberg
Cris Fleming	Jake Hughes
Carol Jelich	Dwight Johnson
Jim MacDonald	Joe Metzger, Jr
Jane Osburn	John Parrish
Bonnie Quinn	Mary Pat Rowan
Louisa Thompson	Meghan Tice

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.mdflora.org

Springtime is arriving soon, a time when we look to the earth to show us new and wondrous surprises each day. The Society is offering a full schedule of field trips throughout the state, so no excuse is allowed for not enjoying the spectacular natural areas that grace Maryland, the District, Virginia and West Virginia. Field trips consistently rate as one of the favorite Society activities. Monthly meetings are just as popular to members and non-members alike.

If you are a long-time member, you probably noticed changes over the past year. *Native News* is coming into its new format. We began e-mail notification of our monthly meetings, and our mailings were sent in a much more timely manner. We finally produced a new member directory. All these improvements came about from a Board of Directors planning retreat in January 2001. Sixteen of us spent the day determining what the Society does well and where improvements were needed. Field trips and *Marilandica* were the highlights of the Society. Our shortfalls included mailings often sent too late; poor tracking of our membership renewals; no "home office" and a need for more volunteers. (I have a two-page summary of our thoughts, let me know if you want a copy.) We then developed plans to continue the good, and to improve the rest.

I am happy to say that we have been successful in these goals. We have produced a timely, consistent *Native News*, improved the attendance of monthly meetings, developed a renewal notification process, and approved an ambitious budget. This has come about by many devoted members, who I acknowledged last issue.

Of course, we have more work ahead of us. We still don't hold enough monthly meetings outside of Montgomery County. Our field trips don't get advertised in local papers. We need more members on our Committees. On February 18, the Board will be holding a second retreat to focus on goals for the next year. We will also work on developing a vision to guide us over the longer term. I apologize that this news will get to many of you after the fact, but it's never too late to offer your ideas and assistance to making the Maryland Native Plant Society an effective voice for conservation throughout the region.

The good work of the Society is dependent on volunteers. You've heard this in every President's letter, because volunteerism is the meat of this organization. With no paid staff, the lifeblood of the Society is a vital, dynamic, involved membership. The oft-used phrase "Volunteers Make a Difference" is the absolute truth. Someone thinks that we need to reach out to home gardeners who want to incorporate native plants—the Gardener's Guideline Series is created. Another member questions if the non-members who participate in field trips or attend monthly meetings are approached about joining. "Not consistently" was the answer, until she took on the task of writing to people (who provided an address) asking them to join. We hope that will increase our membership.

Our volunteer needs go beyond botanical skills. We need people who like to write—articles for *Native News*, summaries of Committee activities, press releases. See the Volunteer Needs section of this issue, or take a trip to the web site. Do you have an idea that you can help make a reality? How about arranging a new location or audience for a monthly meeting. Let us know, because you are needed. Isn't it time to come forward?

A few more thank you's.

I neglected to mention in last issue that **Tina Schneider** skillfully executed the new format of *Native News*. Tina, for many years designed the field trip brochure and provided the botanical sketches that brightened the paper. For this issue, she was joined by **Ellen Mann** to continue the improvements in our publications.

Can you believe I forgot to mention **Gary Pendleton** as a volunteer? As husband-to-the-President, not only does he support my efforts and what the Society stands for, but has contributed many beautiful illustrations for our publications. In addition, he tolerates the many hours I spend on e-mail and the phone. Thanks to both Tina and Gary for all their work!

Hope to see you in the field!

Karyn Molines

Board Briefs

The Board of Directors met on January 7, 2002, at the Howard County Parks and Recreation Headquarters in Columbia, Maryland. Fifteen Board members attended.

A large focus at this meeting was the annual budget. **Joe Metzger** had resigned as Treasurer, and the Board unanimously approved the appointment of **Jean Cantwell** to the position of Interim Treasurer for MNPS. Since our Officer positions are not Board positions, the Board unanimously approved a motion to appoint Joe to the Board of Directors. The Board expressed appreciation for Joe's years of service and pleasure to have bookkeeper Jean volunteering with us now.

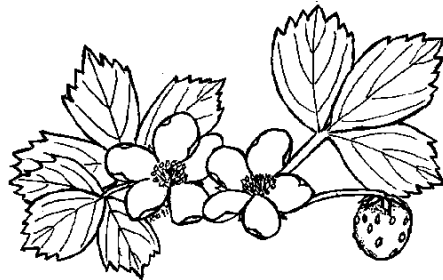
The Board reviewed the report of 2001 revenues and expenses prepared by Jean. She has created a system of tracking membership dues that will provide a double-check for our existing system. President **Karyn Molines** stated that in 2001 the Society did well financially, increasing memberships by 110 more than in 2000. The majority of new members join through our website. Seventy-three percent of current members renewed in 2001. Total 2001 income from memberships was \$11,135. Society cash assets were \$17,000 on January 7, 2002.

The Finance Committee had prepared a preliminary 2002 budget based on input from the other Committees. We discussed the Board's support of Chapters and our interest in assisting them. **Lou Aronica** noted that \$5,000 of our assets is lifetime membership dues that must be protected and the Board is unanimous on that. After some discussion, the working draft budget was approved.

Rod Simmons mentioned that we received compliments on the Gardener's Guidelines. We plan to issue another in this series in 2002.

Carol Jelich is working on Society logo designs by two artists for review by the Board.

Meghan Tice submitted the Program Committee's report, including a slate of terrific speakers for the next six Monthly Membership Meetings. The Program Committee is also working to offer several field botany workshops in 2002.



Get Connected !!!!

Did you know that there are lots of email groups out there that share information and experiences involving native plants? There are! Here are just a few of the groups that can help you get connected with other native plant mavens.

Spiritvoices is an earth spirituality group that believes in doing things, not just sitting around and talking about it all. The group assists other groups with a wide diversity of projects including invasives removal, stream monitoring, stream cleanups, tree planting, planting and transplanting of emergent plants, trail maintenance, etc. The goals are education, service, healing the earth. To learn more about Spiritvoices, send a message to Burton Johns at carmae@erols.com.

Aliens is the most international in scope, with many messages originating from people in Australia, the Pacific Islands, Europe, South Africa, as well as the U.S. The group shares invasive control methods, restoration theory, job postings and regulatory experiences. To subscribe or to post a message to the board send a message to aliens-l-owner@indaba.iucn.org.

The **Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds** (FICMNEW) is similar to Aliens but members tend to be connected to Federal agencies in the U.S. It includes both Federal and non-federal members. For more information about FICMNEW, contact Marc Imlay at ialm@erols.com.

The **Mid Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council** focuses on invasive plant issues affecting our region. Messages about local invasives problems are appropriate if they illustrate a broader issue. To subscribe send a message to ma-eppc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or to post a message to the board send a message to ma-eppc@yahoogroups.com.

Native Plants East focuses on plants that are native to our region. To subscribe or to post a message to the board, send a message to NativePlantseast-subscribe@egroups.com

The Worthley Botany Class emphasizes the identification of native plants. If you would like to learn more about the Worthley Botany group, visit <http://www.egroups.com/group/WorthleyBotany>. To subscribe or to send a message to the board, send a message to WorthleyBotany-subscribe@egroups.com.

And last, but certainly not least, there is our very own **Maryland Native Plant Society** board. To subscribe, send a message to MNPS-subscribe@onelist.com. To post a message, send it to MNPS@onelist.com

Volunteers Wanted

Fall Conference Committee: We plan to have our conference in the Piedmont region, perhaps at the Patuxent Wildlife Visitor Center. Tentative date is October 13. If you are interested in assisting with these sorts of details--phone calls, publicity, food selection, contacting speakers and field trip leaders, scouting field trip sites, organizing mailings--we need you. Please contact Meghan Tice at cecropia13@msn.com or Karyn Molines at kmolines@chesapeake.net or (410) 286-2928 in the evenings before 9 pm.

Publicity: This is a call for several volunteers who could focus on events occurring in various regions of the state. If you have access to a fax machine, email, or even the post office, you can help advertise our monthly meetings and field trips in local papers. We have fax numbers, emails and addresses to several papers, but more resources could be contacted. Please contact Karyn Molines at kmolines@chesapeake.net or (410) 286-2928 in the evenings before 9 pm if you are interested.

MNPS Opposes Sunday Hunting

From *Conservation Report* the newsletter of the Maryland Conservation Council:

"Another legislative season is upon us, and it seems that the dreaded Sunday hunting bill may be introduced. This bill would allow hunting on Sundays during deer firearms season. Hunting on Sundays takes away the only day of the week when unarmed nature lovers may enter forests to hike, watch wildlife, and commune with nature without fear of flying bullets. A ban on Sunday hunting preserves Sunday as a day of peace for people and wildlife."

The Maryland Native Plant Society adopted a policy opposing Sunday hunting in 2000. As a 501(c) 3 organization, the MNPS does not lobby legislature. We act as a source of information and work to educate the public about relevant issues.

Earth Day Retreat: Grief for Environmental Loss, Empowerment for Action

Leaders: Louisa Thompson and others
Sunday April 21, full day, times TBA

If you find yourself feeling sad, frustrated, or helpless when species or natural areas disappear, join us on this retreat. We'll help you release those energy-sapping emotions and draw strength from the interconnectedness of life itself. The IWLA Southern Maryland Chapter's new outdoor ed center at Zekiah Swamp in Waldorf, MD is a beautiful haven, and weather permitting, we'll spend much of the day outdoors, including a short service component. (The program will be held indoors in case of rain.) The day concludes with planning for individual or group action. It will be an intense, energizing emotional experience. If you're doubtful about participating in a retreat, be assured that your privacy will be respected and there will be no pressure to do anything that makes you uncomfortable.

Travel Directions: Will be sent to registrants.

Bring: Please dress for the weather and bring a bag lunch. Refrigerator available.

Contact: Registration required. Min 12, Max: 30. Call 410 997-4482 or e-mail Louisathompson@erols.com.

Events at the Washington National Cathedral Olmsted Woods

All walks and work days meet at the George Washington Statue on Pilgrim Road unless otherwise noted. No reservations are necessary and the events are free of charge. In case of inclement weather, the event will be canceled. For more information call the Olmsted Woods Information Line at 202-537-2319.

Work Day Saturday April 6, 2002 @ 10 am-12 noon. Please meet at the George Washington Statue on Pilgrim Road.

Frederick Law Olmsted and the Olmsted Woods Thursday, March 14, 2002 @ 10 am. This tour will begin at the South Plaza (Garfield Street entrance to the Woods)

Challenges in Urban Woodlands Restoration Thursday, March 21, 2002 @ 10 am

Spring Delights: the Greening of the Olmsted Woods April 4, April 18 @ 10 am

Native Plants and How to Use Them in Your Garden April 11 @ 10 am

The Road Not Taken: Woodlands in Literature April 25 @ 10 am

Adkins Arboretum Events

The Adkins Arboretum is located in Caroline County on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Pre-registration recommended for all programs. Call 410-634-2847 to register. For more information on these and other programs visit www.adkinsarboretum.org. Programs are \$8 (\$5 Adkins members)

Introduction to Botanical Art Saturday, 9 March, 1-3 p.m.

Invasive Plants - What's all the Fuss?! Tuesday, 19 March, 7-9 p.m.

Our "Forgotten Pollinators" and the Importance of Backyard Conservation Tues., 16 April, 7-9 p.m.

Plants and Plant Communities of the Delmarva Peninsula Thursday, 25 April, 7-9 p.m.

16th Annual Lahr Symposium

March 23, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

U.S. National Arboretum -

Administration Building Auditorium

Experts from the fields of ecology, botany, horticulture, and landscape architecture and design will join together to inspire and inform on this day of tours, lectures & discussion. Fee: \$70 (includes box lunch) (FONA \$56). To request a brochure, call (202) 245-5898 or visit www.usna.usda.gov.

Early Spring Field Trips 2002

Civil War Fort Sites in the DC Region

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan & Lou Aronica

Sunday: March 3 @10:00 am - 2:00 pm (11th in a series)

We will explore two smaller sections of the Fort Circle Connector in far Southwest section of the District of Columbia. Ft. Greble and Bald Eagle Hill are situated on a elevated portion above and between the Naval Research Laboratory and Oxon Run leading to Oxon Cove.

Travel Directions: Please call for precise meeting information.

Bring: Lunch & water. Easy to moderate walk.

Contact: Mary Pat Rowan (202) 526-8821

Winter Stream Valley Woodland & Evergreen Hike

Leaders: Rod Simmons & Meghan Tice

Saturday: March 9, 2002, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Explore the stream valley of the south tributary of Chapman Forest to find several evergreen species of ferns including crested fern, intermediate wood fern, Boott's wood fern, grape ferns, and Christmas fern; 4 species of Lycopodium; mistletoe; downy rattlesnake plantain, puttyroot, and crane fly orchids; and other plants that can be seen during winter. Walk along a spring-fed, pristine, gravel-bottom stream and extensive vernal pools beneath huge willow oaks, bitternut hickories, and beech trees. See possumhaw, winterberry, and American hollies, skunk cabbage, and maybe herring and marbled salamanders. The stream begins as outflow from a Magnolia Bog, becomes a large Wetland of Special State Concern and wet meadow where beavers have dammed it, and eventually flows downstream into Mattawoman Creek. Trip will be canceled for snow, sleet, or heavy rain; but not drizzle.

Travel Directions: From the Capital Beltway (I-495), take Indian Head Highway (Rt. 210) south for about 23 miles to the intersection of Rts. 210 and 227 (sign at intersection will say "Bryans Road"). There will be a McDonald's on the right at the intersection - we will meet there in the parking lot and commute to the site. Please note that you will pass at least one other McDonald's on the right as you head south on Rt. 210.

Bring: Waterproof boots or shoes, in case of mud. Water and bag lunch if desired.

Contact: Rod & Meghan's e-mail: cecropia13@msn.com or Rod's phone: 703-256-7671

Northwest Branch Gorge

Leader: Mary Vogel

Sunday: March 10 @ 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

A 5-6 mile hike through the Northwest Branch valley, which is surprisingly wild in spots. Discussion of water quality/biodiversity restoration as well as early spring arrivals

Travel Directions: Meet at Burnt Mills, 10700 Columbia Pike (aka Colesville Road or Rt. 29). We'll leave a car at the other end of the walk (Adelphi Manor Park off University Blvd and West Park Road).

Bring: Lunch, water, weather-appropriate clothing and comfortable footwear.

Contact: Mary Vogel's maryvogel@yahoo.com 301-772-9276(h) 301-883-5983 (w)

Indian Creek – Braided Stream Area

Leaders: Lou Aronica, Meghan Tice and Rod Simmons

Saturday: March 23 @ 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Visit a portion of the Hollywood Swamp, which contains a variety of plant communities and is host to many uncommon species. Basket Oak is present in one area, Swamp White Oak in another. A swamp portion includes the only known station of Bog Chickweed in Maryland. This site is a significant breeding area for salamanders and five turtle species have been observed. Maryland has recently purchased 75 acres to be saved but intense development is under consideration at neighboring sites, which may well leave this 75 acres so isolated as to be totally dysfunctional as an ecosystem. Our visits will expand the biological inventory of the site. We will repeat visits on April 27 and May 18 of this year. All of these fieldtrips are co-sponsored by CCRIC (Citizens to Conserve and Restore Indian Creek). CCRIC also has bird walks to the site on April 14, June 2, August 11 and October 13. Visit our Web Site for details: mdflora.org

Travel Directions: Take Greenbelt Road, east of Route 1, to Cherrywood Road. Take a left, go short distance to the Beltway Plaza parking lot on the right. Park in the corner near the Petsmart.

Bring: Watertight footwear or boots for stream crossings, water and snack.

Contact: Lou Aronica 202 722 1081 (evenings)

Continued...

Early Spring Field Trips 2002

Carderock & Marsden Areas, C&O Canal

Leader: Cris Fleming

Sunday: April 7 @ 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (Note: Beginning of Daylight Saving Time)

The Carderock and Marsden Areas have outstanding displays of early spring wildflowers, in habitats ranging from rich uplands to floodplains, from deep ravines to rocky outcrops. Among the species we hope to see are the state endangered Coville's phacelia, state threatened White trout lily and Leatherwood and other uncommon species such as Harbinger-of-spring, Green violet, Golden Alexanders, Twinleaf, and Ramps. We'll walk along the towpath and take several side trails, some through short stretches off the trail. Therefore this walk is limited to 16 people. Walk cancelled if pouring rain.

Travel Directions: From the Clara Barton Parkway, take the exit for Carderock, go under the tunnel, and turn right. Continue along the road to the last parking lot. Meet at the short trail to the towpath on the north side of the parking lot. Bathroom facility is available on the south side of the lot.

Bring: Field guides, binoculars, water, snack, wear good walking shoes.

Contact: Cris Fleming (301) 657-9289. Reservations are required. No reservations by email.

Civil War Fort Sites in the DC Region

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan & Lou Aronica

Sunday: April 14 @ 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (12th in a series)

We will explore a hilly and deeply incised portion of the Fort Dupont to Fort Stanton Connector, in the Southeast sector of the District of Columbia. This area lies in the Coastal Plain province but demonstrates interesting Piedmont/Coastal Plain intergrade communities.

Travel Directions: Meet at the 3200 block of "U" Street SE, adjacent to parkland, just off Branch Avenue SE, a few blocks southeast of Pennsylvania Ave.. Access via Pennsylvania Ave. or 295 or Minnesota Ave. or Branch Ave..

Bring: Lunch & water. Easy to moderate walk.

Contact: Mary Pat Rowan 202 526 8821

Gunpowder State Park – Hereford Area

Leader: Dwight Johnson

Saturday: April 20 @ 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This will be a six mile circuit hike along the north and south shores of the Gunpowder River between York Rd. and Big Falls Rd. The trail at times will be steep and narrow. We will stop for wildflowers, ferns and whatever strikes our fancy.

Travel Directions: From the Baltimore beltway go north on I83 for 12 miles and take Exit 27 east onto Mount Carmel Rd. Proceed east for .4 miles and take a left on to York Rd. (Rt. 45) and proceed north for about 1.5 miles. There are parking areas on both sides of York Rd. at the river.

Bring: Lunch & water. Hiking boots are recommended.

Contact: Dwight Johnson (410) 366-7239.

Indian Creek – Braided Stream Area

Sunday: April 27 @ 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

See March 23 announcement for details and directions.

Spring Ephemerals of the Chesapeake Bay

Leaders: Karyn Molines & Gary Pendleton

Sunday: April 28 @ 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Visit a woodland in Chesapeake Beach, Calvert County that was the site of beach hotels in the early 1900s and is now returning to hardwood forests. After a short walk past remnant garden plantings, we'll encounter fine displays of Dutchman's Breeches, Trout Lily and other spring ephemerals. After the hike we'll head to the shores of the Chesapeake Bay to search for the fossil shark's teeth for which the Calvert Cliffs are famous. Rain or shine.

Travel Directions: From Washington: Take Route 4 (Penn. Ave) SOUTH for approx 20 miles. Take Route 260 SOUTH (a left-hand exit) to its end (10 miles). At the end of Route 260, turn RIGHT at light onto Route 261. At next light turn LEFT and then turn RIGHT into the shopping center parking lot. Park in the main lot near Calvert Bank. From the north and south: Take Rt. 2 towards the Anne Arundel – Calvert County line, turning east/south onto Rt. 260 near the county line, and proceeding as above to the meeting place. We will carpool to the site from the meeting place. Please be on time; exact directions can be given in advance if you know you will be arriving late.

Bring: Snack, water, weather-appropriate clothing (may be windy). Be prepared to get wet hands and feet searching for shark's teeth.

Contact: Karyn Molines kmolines@chesapeake.net or 410-286-2928 evenings before 9 pm

Invasive Exotic Plant Removal Workdays

For all Workdays please wear appropriate clothing

We recommend long pants, long sleeves, and rain gear. Wear layers in case the weather changes.

Chapman Forest/Ruth Swann Park

First Sunday monthly @ 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Eradicate alien invasive plants from most of the old growth area of Chapman Forest. Discover a remarkably efficacious new technique for Japanese Honeysuckle as well as Tree of Heaven (if the ground stays wet) and Garlic Mustard. We remove invasive growth to uncover rare natives such as Virginia Day Flower, Moonseed, grape fern species, and Chinquapin Oak. There will also be time for plant identification and a beautiful beach lunch. Participating organizations include the Maryland Native Plant Society and Sierra Club.

Directions: Meet at the Ruth Swann Park/Potomac Branch library parking lot, located on Rt 210 (Indian Head Hwy), 18 miles south of the Capital Beltway.

Bring: Lunch (beach picnic), water, appropriate clothing

Contact: Marc Imlay 301-283-0808.

Co-sponsored with the Sierra Club.

Directions: Ruth Swann Park / Potomac Branch library parking lot, located on Rt 210 (Indian Head Hwy), 18 miles south of the Capital Beltway.

Audubon Naturalist Society – Woodend Sanctuary

Second Saturday monthly @ 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Vanquish the aliens! Plants, that is. Please join us at Woodend as we start a concerted effort to stem the spread of non-native plants on our property. This winter we are going to focus on English ivy, the butterfly garden, and certain edge habitats that have really gotten out of control. You can come for the entire time, or stop by whenever it is most convenient for you. Staff and/or trained volunteers will help supervise the effort and provide guidance.

Bring: Appropriate clothing, gloves and tools such as clippers, saws, and loppers if you have them.

Contact: RSVP to 301-652-9188 x 30.

Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, Howard County

Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA) Stewardship Project is sponsored by Howard County Recreation and Parks and the Howard County Master Gardeners.

Thursday April 18- We will be discovering and learning about spring ephemerals while we work to remove garlic mustard. Meet 9:30 a.m. at Trotter Rd. parking lot located 0.8 miles south of Rt. 108 in Clarksville.

Thursday: May 16- We will be studying birds at Clegg's Meadow and then working to remove autumn olive and ailanthus. We'll meet at 9:30 am at Southwind Circle in Columbia.

Contact: Aylene Gard, 410-992-9889, or Robin Hessey, rh158@uemail.umd.edu

Myrtle Point Park, St. Mary's County

Third Saturday monthly @ 8:30 a.m. till.

Directions: From Washington, take Rt. 4 south, crossing over the Patuxent River at Solomons Island. About 2 miles past the bridge, make a right onto Patuxent Blvd. Proceed about 2 miles to Myrtle Point Park at the end of the road. Meet in the Park lot.

Contact: For more info, or to receive updates about workdays email Christina Allen at allensarticles@earthlink.net.

Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD

Second Sunday monthly: March 10 and April 14 @ 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Join us as we concentrate on the hillside overlooking the Aquatic Garden. This is our most infested area where we'll be attacking mostly oriental bittersweet, kudzu and wineberry. We'll move to other "hot spots" as needed.

Directions: From I-495 (Capital Beltway), take Rt. 97 (Georgia Avenue) north for 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. Meet at the Visitors Center Information Desk.

Bring: Tools are provided but if you have pruners and leather gloves please bring them.

Contact: Cheryl Beagle (301) 962-1413 or cbeagle@mncppc.state.md.us

The Friends of Sligo Creek hopes to establish an ongoing work force to meet weekly on Sunday afternoons to battle exotics threatening the Sligo Creek valley. For more information, contact Sally Gagne at sgagne@erols.com. The group would especially like to hear from anyone with experience eradicating lesser celandine and from those with thoughts about tool sharing and maintenance.

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 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.