

Native News

Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

July/August 2003

Volume 3 Number 4

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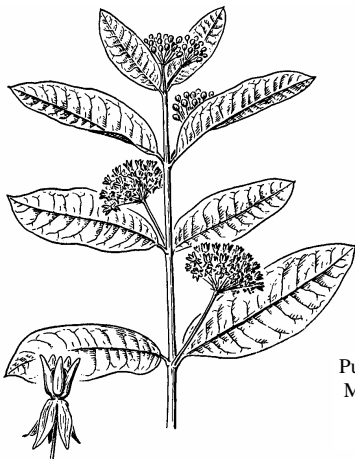
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Purple Milkweed (*Asclepias purpurascens*) is rare in both Maryland and Virginia and is especially concentrated on moist soils of the Triassic Basin, including diabase.

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

“Streambank Erosion in Suburban Stream Valley Parks”

Tuesday, July 29, 7:30 pm
Aspen Hill Library

Former USGS Geologist, John De Noyer, and Environmental Specialist, Ann Czonka, will give a presentation on the results of an extensive study of the effects of channelized stormwater runoff, streambank erosion, deepening and widening of stream channels, and damage to native flora, wildlife, and habitats that threaten many of our streams. Discussion will include possible solutions and appropriate offsite controls to allow natural re-stabilization.

Directions: Please see below.

“Diabase Communities of the Washington Metro Area”

Tuesday, August 26, 7:30 pm
Aspen Hill Library

Join botanists John Parrish and Rod Simmons for an in-depth presentation on the diverse flora and natural communities that occur on diabase soils. Diabase is a calcium-rich, igneous rock that occurs within the Triassic Basin in the piedmont and supports the greatest floristic diversity in our region. Several thousand acres of high quality diabase forests, wetlands, and grassy areas have recently been preserved in Montgomery County, Maryland and Fairfax County, Virginia. Some of these communities and flora are now globally rare. John and Rod will discuss the results of extensive surveys of plants, wildlife, and habitats on these lands.

Directions: From the Washington Beltway (495) take Connecticut Avenue North to Aspen Hill Road. Turn left onto Aspen Hill Road. Library is about 2 ½ miles on right, just past stoplight at Parkland Drive and Aspen Hill Road. You will see a large parking lot.

Please also see the upcoming Chapter Events on Page 3.

Native News

Maryland Native Plant Society

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Native News is published
six times a year by MNPS.

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Carolyn Fulton	Meghan Tice
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President's Letter

Greetings,

Another rainy weekend thwarts my enthusiasm for hiking through our verdant forests. The wet winter brought great relief to last year's severe drought, but now I wonder if the spring has taken us to the opposite extreme. Weather is often compared to an average temperature or rainfall, which is computed from the past 30 years data. A year will rarely consist of "average" weather; rather it will vary above or below the weather of a "normal" year.

The ability of our native plants to tolerate varying climatic conditions instills awe and wonder about the adaptations that enable their survival. The resilience of our native species, their tolerance for a wide range of conditions, and their ability to recover from natural disturbance are critical aspects of how our native ecosystems function. Unfortunately, our landscape is becoming increasingly developed, fragmenting our forests and increasing impervious surfaces (roads, buildings, parking lots). The impacts of these actions include restricting movement of plants and animals between patches of habitat, changing the hydrology of a region, and the introduction of non-native species that out-compete our natives.

MNPS's concern about how human actions affect native habitats has instigated many conservation efforts, including preserving Chapman Forest, opposing the Inter-county Connector, and initiating invasive removal projects. Our latest effort is the preservation of globally rare Magnolia Bogs. Over the past year, many MNPS volunteers, primarily Rod Simmons, Meghan Tice, Lou Aronica, John Parrish, and Mark Strong, conducted intensive surveys to document the unique plant communities and soil composition of Magnolia Bogs. We have petitioned MDE (Maryland Department of the Environment) to have Magnolia Bogs recognized as Wetlands of Special State Concern.

One of these, Araby Bog in Charles County, is being threatened by a development project. MNPS joined MAGIC and residents who live near Araby Bog in a potential citizen suit against the Army Corps of Engineers, beginning with a 60-day letter of intent. Collectively, we are being represented by the Institute for Public Representation, a nonprofit public interest law firm at Georgetown University Law Center. We believe that in authorizing the Hunters Brooke project, the Army Corps of Engineers violated its non-discretionary duties to comply with the Clean Water Act. One concern (of many) is that the adverse effects on Araby Bog, including impacts on state threatened species and on Mattawoman Creek, are not minimal. If this legal action is successful, Araby Bog and other Magnolia Bogs may gain extra protection, by preserving the surrounding lands that are maintaining the hydrology which fosters these unique plant communities.

This is just one example of how MNPS acts to preserve our native ecosystems. Through a variety of activities: botanical surveys, establishing protective status, connecting adjacent land use with the functioning of habitats, and eternal vigilance, we are striving to protect Maryland's native habitats.

I hope to have positive news on this project in future issues and that we can add Araby Bog to our list of conservation accomplishments.

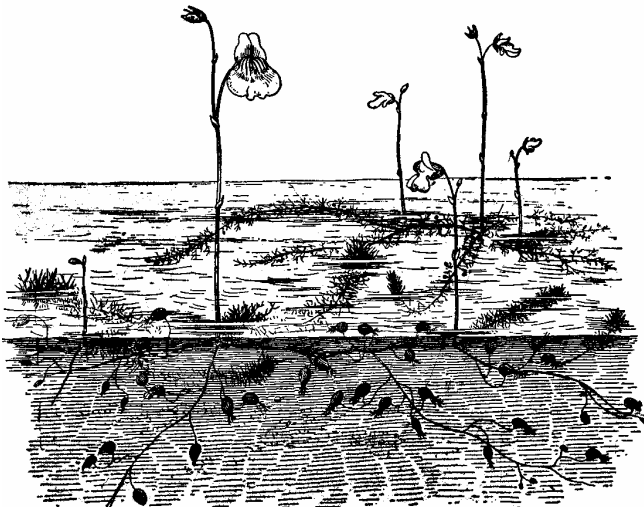
Until next time,



Chapter Events & Updates

Eastern Shore Chapter

We are pleased to report that after a period of inactivity, the Eastern Shore Chapter of the Maryland Native Plant Society has become active once more. The steering committee met at Adkins Arboretum recently to plan events and activities for the coming year. All members of the Maryland Native Plant Society who reside on the Eastern Shore also belong to the Eastern Shore Chapter at no extra charge. The Maryland counties in our region include Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester. Members who live in Cecil County may be included in both the Eastern Shore and Northeast Chapters if they so choose. Chapter members will receive early notice of field trips, speakers, and other events that the chapter sponsors. We hope many of you will join us as we explore our special Eastern Shore habitats in the months ahead. For further information, please contact our chapter chair, Ms. Sylvan Kaufman, skaufman@intercom.net or 410-634-2847 x13. The Eastern Shore Chapter is hoping to plan one or two field trips for July and August, but dates are yet to be determined. Please contact Leslie Hunter-Cario 410-745-9620 if you would like to be updated on field trips. Our next steering committee meeting will be on Monday, September 8 at 6:30 pm in Easton, followed by a general meeting at 7:00 pm. Deborah Landau from the Maryland/DC Chapter of The Nature Conservancy will speak about how she is restoring Delmarva Bays. Please contact Sylvan Kaufman for information on where the meeting in Easton will be held. The steering committee is seeking new participants. Currently, Sylvan Kaufman is serving as chair and treasurer, Fran Parker as secretary, Leslie Hunter-Cario for membership communications, and Carol Jelich as state liaison. We would like to find members to be in charge of publicity, event scheduling, and to serve as treasurer. For more information about the Chapter, please contact Leslie Hunter-Cario 410-745-9620 or Sylvan Kaufman (please see above).



Upcoming Chapter Events

(Please see the Field Trip pages for more info.)

Greater Baltimore Chapter's July Program

Date: Wednesday, July 16 **Time:** 6:30 – 8:00 pm
Location: New (Future) Irvine Nature Center Site
Join ecologist Jeff Wolinski for a walk to explore Irvine Nature Center's new Caves Valley property. Jeff will focus on the various habitat types and plant management issues, including wetland management, restoration, and exotic species control.
Directions: We will meet on the east side of Garrison Forest Road just past Ruxton Country Day School, approximately 3 miles north of Greenspring Valley Road. Turn will be marked with a "MNPS-B" sign. Call Irvine Nature Center (410-484-2413) for more details.

Southern Maryland Chapter's Quarterly Meeting

Date: Tuesday, July 22 **Time:** 7:00 pm
Location: Phillips House, Prince Frederick, Calvert County
Contact: Karyn Molines kmolines@chesapeake.net (preferred) or 410-286-2928 for more information.
Directions: From Rt. 2-4 in Prince Frederick (Calvert County), turn east onto Duke Street (one block south of Rt. 231). Turn left into Library parking lot. Park in upper lot and take the walkway to the Phillips House.

MNPS Summer Picnic!

(Hosted by the Catoctin Chapter)
Date: Sunday, August 3 **Time:** 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm...
Location: Pine Cliff Park in Frederick County
Please see the announcement on page 5.

Eastern Shore Chapter Meeting

Date: Monday, September 8 **Time:** 7:00 pm
Location: Easton, to be announced
Deborah Landau, Conservation Ecologist, Maryland/DC Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, will speak on restoration of Delmarva Bays. Open to the public. Free.

Fall Flowers at Glendening Preserve

(Co-sponsored by Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary)
Leader: Karyn Molines
Date: Saturday, September 13 **Time:** 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Greater Baltimore Chapter's September Program

Date: Wednesday, September 17 **Time:** 7:30 pm
Location: Irvine Nature Center
Talk on invasive exotic plants – identification and eradication methods.
Call Irvine Nature Center (410-484-2413) for more details.

MNPS Announcements

Board Meetings

The Society's Board of Directors is tasked with setting Society policy and managing the finances. We meet on a bimonthly schedule and invite any interested member to attend. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please come to one of these meetings. The 2003 Board meetings are tentatively scheduled as follows. Please check with Karyn Molines, President, or Jane Osburn, Secretary to verify dates and locations.

Sunday, July 20: Irvine Nature Center; 1:00 pm

Monday, Sept 22: Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary; 6:30 pm

November 16 or 17: Audubon Naturalist Society

Call For Volunteers

Here are some of our current volunteer needs:

Monthly Email Announcements: We need a volunteer who is somewhat computer savvy, who has internet access, an email account, Microsoft Access 2000, and is willing to put together a monthly announcement of upcoming events to email to our members. We are currently using a shareware program, WorldMerge, which simplifies the process.

Information for the announcements is provided by Meghan Tice (Field Trip Coordinator) or collected off of our web site. This job takes about 2-4 hours per month, depending on how comfortable you are with the software, and how fast your modem line is. Interested or want to find out more? Contact Karyn Molines (President) at 410-286-2928 or kmolines@chesapeake.net.

Seeking Nominations for the Board of Directors: We're seeking a few good men and women to help steer the Society on the Board of Directors. You may nominate yourself or another willing member. Email is the critical vehicle for communication amongst the Board. Duties and Responsibilities of the Board of Directors include:

- a) Determine the Society's mission and purpose
- b) Identify and promote appropriate policies and evaluate our ability to meet objectives
- c) Develop, implement, monitor, and strengthen the Society's programs and services
- d) Enhance and promote the Society's public standing
- e) Ensure effective organizational planning
- f) Determine adequate resources (time and money) and manage them effectively
- g) Ensure legal and ethical integrity and maintain accountability
- h) Recruit and orient new Board members and assess Board performance
- i) Provide direction for any needed changes
- j) Come to Board meetings prepared to discuss agenda items
- k) Serve on at least one Committee
- l) Attend four of the six Board meetings

In addition to Directors, we're seeking nominations for President and Treasurer. Duties and responsibilities of the

President include providing general supervision and direction for the Society, presiding over all board meetings, preparing agendas (in collaboration with the Executive Committee), representing the Society as determined by the Board of Directors, and acting as an *ex officio* member of all Committees (except the Nominations Committee). Karyn is willing to act as Past President to assist in the transition of the new President. Duties and responsibilities of the Treasurer include supervision over the financial accounts, providing financial statements as required by the Board of Directors, and Chairing the Finance Committee. If you feel you or someone you know have these skills, please contact Jane Osburn, Secretary.

Welcome New Members!

New Members who joined in April and May: Miles Barnard and Alexa Fry, Gary Bohl, Patrick Campbell and Cindy Phillips, Geralyn Drymalski, Barbara and Dale Graff, Holly Gwin and Bill Chandler, Joan Janssen, Beth Kirk, Eileen Menezes, Ann Michener, Tom and Kelly Neff, Ann Nichols and Jeanie Powers, Lorna Patrick, Kathy Stevens, Scott Silberman, Roberta Strickler, Lisa Schmidt, Clare Walker, and Mark Willoughby. Thank you!

Renewing Members

Please check the expiration date on your label and mail in your renewals, if it's time. Your support is very important and we appreciate your dues and additional donations.

Come to the MNPS Summer Picnic!

(Hosted by the Catoctin Chapter)

Sunday, August 3 from 2:00 – 7:00 pm

Visit Pine Cliff Park in Frederick County.

Meet other MNPS members for a social gathering.

A short walk and/or tree ID after eating.

Bring a dish to share.

For more info, please see the next page.

**Look for your
2003 Multi-state Fall Conference
brochure to be arriving with the next
(September/October) issue of
Native News!**

**Information will also be provided soon
on the MNPS website.**

Please visit www.mdflora.org

For more conference info, see page 10 inside this issue.

Summer Field Trips

Plant ID at Piney Orchard Nature Preserve, Anne Arundel County

Leaders: Joe Metzger and Cathy Weber

Date: Saturday, August 2 **Time:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Help add to a list of plants occurring naturally at Piney Orchard Nature Preserve. Already increased from 93 to 184.

Directions: Meet in Piney Orchard Nature Preserve parking lot. **From Baltimore or Washington**, take I-295 and exit at Rt. 175 East towards Ft Meade. Piney Orchard Parkway, Rt. 170, begins south of Rt. 175, a right turn coming from the west or Columbia and Ft. Meade. From Piney Orchard Parkway, going south past the Food Lion and Ice Rink, make a left turn onto Sandy Walk Way and then an immediate right into the parking lot. **From Annapolis**, take I-97 to Rt. 32 to Rt. 170 South. Piney Orchard Parkway begins south of Rt. 175. On Piney Orchard Parkway, going south past the Food Lion and Ice Rink, make a left turn onto Sandy Walk Way and then an immediate right into the parking lot.

Bring: Lunch and water.

Note: Moderate walk.

Contact: Joe Metzger 410-775-7737 or jmetzger50@hotmail.com (preferred).

MNPS Summer Picnic

Date: Sunday, August 3 **Time:** 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Location: Pine Cliff Park in Frederick County
Meet other MNPS members for a social gathering. A short walk and/or tree ID after eating. Along the Monocacy River.

Bring: A dish to share, coordinate with Joe.

Note: RSVP. Joe will provide directions to Pine Cliff Park and meeting location. See the ADC Frederick County map, page 30, A-11.

Contact: Joe Metzger, coordinator, at 410-775-7737, jmetzger50@hotmail.com, or at meetings.

Gunpowder State Park – Hereford Area, Baltimore County

Leader: Dwight Johnson

Date: Sunday, August 24 **Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

This will be a 4-mile nature and exercise hike along the Gunpowder from Masemore Road to Prettyboy Dam. There will be steep and very rocky sections along the trail. We will stop for anything that is interesting.

Directions: From the Baltimore Beltway, go north on I-83 for 12 miles and take exit 27 onto Mount Carmel Road. Proceed west for 0.7 miles and make a right at Masemore Road and proceed for another 1.5 miles to parking area. The speed limit is posted at 10 mph at the bottom of Masemore Rd. Believe it. There is a very sharp, narrow turn at the mill.

Bring: Lunch and water. Binoculars might be handy. Hiking boots are highly recommended.

Note: Rain or shine.

Contact: Dwight Johnson 410-366-7239.

Chesapeake Natives Wildflower Farm, Anne Arundel County

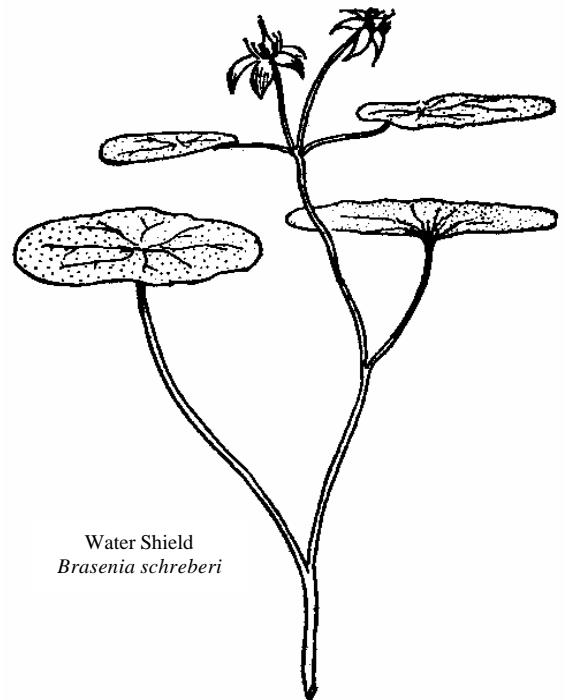
Leader: Dr. Sara Tangren

Date: Saturday, August 30 (rain date Sept 1) **Time:** 6:00 pm
Tour the area's only local ecotype native seed production farm. Observe over 60 species of native flowers and grasses. Flowers that will be blooming in late August include sweet goldenrod, spotted mint, woodland sunflower, butterfly milkweed, downy blue lobelia, fall phlox, Maryland goldenaster, mistflower, shaggy blazingstar, orange coneflower, gray goldenrod, and New England aster. Also expect to see many species of pollinators, including butterflies and possibly hummingbird moths. Monarch caterpillars will be abundant. Anecdotes and natural histories, native gardening tips.

Directions: From Route 50, take the Riva Road/Aris T. Allen Blvd exit. Make sure to get onto the Riva Road exit ramp. There is a traffic light at the end of the ramp. Turn right onto Riva Road and travel 3.8 miles. Turn left onto Aisquith Farm Road. Go to the white oval sign and follow the bend to the right. Notice the colored streamers; follow these down the road to the farm fields. You will enter an open area with a subdivision on your left and farm fields on your right. Near the end of the farm fields, follow the bend in the road to your left. You will see a square brown sign. Turn right toward the two barns standing side by side. Follow the streamers to the other side of the barns and park along the road, as you like. If you get lost, call 301-580-6237 for assistance.

Bring: Butterfly guides, light mosquito repellent, and lots of questions.

Contact: Sara Tangren 301-270-4534 office, 301-580-6237 cell, or SATangren@ChesapeakeNatives.com. www.ChesapeakeNatives.com



Water Shield
Brasenia schreberi

Downs Park Walk & Beach Picnic, Anne Arundel County

Leaders: Rod Simmons & Meghan Tice

Date: Saturday, September 6 **Time:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Downs Park lies along the shore of the Chesapeake Bay and consists of coastal, sandy, oak/pine/heath forest community. We will mostly walk along the perimeter trail, which is paved. The trip will focus on the numerous species of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants. The woodland contains a dense under-story of ericads including fetterbush (*Leucothoe racemosa*) and highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*). There are quite a few species of ferns, including New York fern, marsh fern, netted chain fern, sensitive fern, cinnamon fern, royal fern, lady fern, Christmas fern, and bracken fern. Late summer native flowers should be in bloom in the pond. Birds, butterflies, and other animals will also be observed.
Directions: From 97 or 295 (B/W Parkway) north or south take the Route 100 exit east toward Gibson Island. When 100 splits with Route 10, stay on 100 (you will have to change lanes). From 695 (Baltimore Beltway) you can take Route 10 South to 100 (10's lanes become 100). Follow 100 to its end at Mountain Road. You will merge right onto Mountain Road. Downs Park is @ 10 miles from Rt. 100. Not far past Chesapeake High School, bear left onto Pinehurst Road. The park entrance is on the right. We will meet in the parking lot to the left, opposite the park entrance. There, parking is free. We can walk or carpool to the entrance side.
Bring: Water and picnic lunch and blanket; binoculars, field guides. Picnic tables are also available. There are restrooms.
Note: There is a \$4.00 per car park entrance fee at the booth.
Contact: Meghan Tice 301-809-0139/cecopia13@msn.com.



Marsh St. John's Wort
Triadenum virginicum

A Day in the Blue Ridge – Thorpewood

Leader: Joe Metzger

Date: Sunday, September 7 **Time:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Explore Thorpewood and possibly walk to nearby Black Rock (not on the Appalachian Trail).

Directions: Contact Joe.

Bring: Lunch and water. **Note:** Moderate walk.

Contact: Joe Metzger 410-775-7737 or
jmetzger50@hotmail.com (preferred). Registration required.

Fall Flowers at Glendening Preserve, Anne Arundel County

(Co-sponsored by Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary)

Leader: Karyn Molines

Date: Saturday, September 13 **Time:** 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Asters, goldenrods, and bonesets should be plentiful in the open fields of the Glendening Preserve in southern Anne Arundel County. The "confusing composites" can be a challenge to identify. Learn some field identification techniques while enjoying the beauty of the fall fields.

Directions: Meet at the Sanctuary's Wetlands Center and carpool to site. **From Annapolis:** From West St. at Parole, take Rt. 2 south 18 miles. At the Lothian circle, go $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way around and stay on Rt. 2. Go past the fire station, schools, and St. James Church (on left) until the next stoplight at Rt. 258; go right (west) on Rt. 258. Continue on Rt. 258 for 4.5 miles until this ends near the Park & Ride, just after crossing over Rt. 4. At stop sign, turn onto Wrighton Rd and continue 1.5 miles to Sanctuary entrance on left.

From Baltimore: From Baltimore Beltway (695), take Rt. 97 south to Rt. 3. Follow this south towards Upper Marlboro. At Rt. 50, Rt. 3 becomes Rt. 301. Continue on Rt. 301 south to Rt. 4 at Upper Marlboro. Go east/south on Rt. 4 for 3 miles (1.5 miles after crossing Patuxent River) to Plummer Lane exit on right. Follow Plummer Lane for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to Wrighton Rd. Go right on Wrighton Rd and continue $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to Sanctuary entrance on left. **From Washington, D.C.:** Take Pennsylvania Ave east to Capital Beltway (495). At the Beltway, Penn. Ave becomes Rt. 4. Follow Rt. 4 east/south for about 10.5 miles to Plummer Lane exit. (Plummer Lane is 3 miles east of Rt. 301 and 1.5 miles east of Patuxent River.) Proceed as above. **From Calvert County:** Take Rt. 4 north and take Bristol-Deale exit (Rt. 258). At stop sign, go left over Rt. 4 and continue to stop sign at Wrighton Rd (near Park & Ride). At stop sign, turn onto Wrighton Rd and continue 1.5 miles to Sanctuary entrance on left.

Bring: Wear sturdy shoes and be prepared to walk for two hours at a moderate pace (approximately three miles) on natural surface paths, with some short, steep sections.

Note: Children should be at least 10 years old.

Contact: Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary 410-741-9330 or
jugbay@toad.net. Reservations Required.

MNPS will be returning to the **New Jersey Pine Barrens** on September 21. Look for more details in the next (September-October) issue of *Native News*.

Invasive Exotic Plant Removal Workdays

Ruth Swann Park, Charles County

Dates: First Sunday, monthly (July 6 and August 3)

Time: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

We'll remove invasive growth to uncover native species, some of which are rare. Excellent progress has been made in the past three years. Five-ten% invaded now, these parks will become 30-50% invaded unless we help in a timely manner. Eradicate alien invasive plants from most of the old-growth area of Swann Park. Learn a remarkably efficacious technique for Japanese honeysuckle. There will also be time for plant identification and a beautiful beach lunch. Participating organizations include MNPS and Sierra Club.

Directions: Meet at the Ruth B. Swann Park-Potomac Branch Library parking lot, 20 miles south of Washington Beltway (I-495) on Rt. 210 (Indian Head Hwy). Give yourself 30 to 40 minutes from the beltway.

Bring: Gloves, lunch, and water. Long sleeves and pants recommended.

Contact: Marc Imlay 301-283-0808.

Northwest Branch of the Anacostia, Montgomery County

Dates: Third Saturdays, July 19 and August 16

Time: 10:00 am – 1:00 or 2:00 pm

Please join us near 4-Corners in Silver Spring to remove a variety of invasives from areas along Northwest Branch. Exotics are removed by hand pulling or with spading forks.

Directions: From the intersection of 29 (Colesville Road) and University Blvd in Silver Spring, go east on University and turn (there's only left) on Williamsburg Drive. 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 Road at the bottom of the hill. 10204 Big Rock Road.

Bring: Water and gloves. Veggie lunch provided.

Contact: Jane Osburn 301-754-1564.

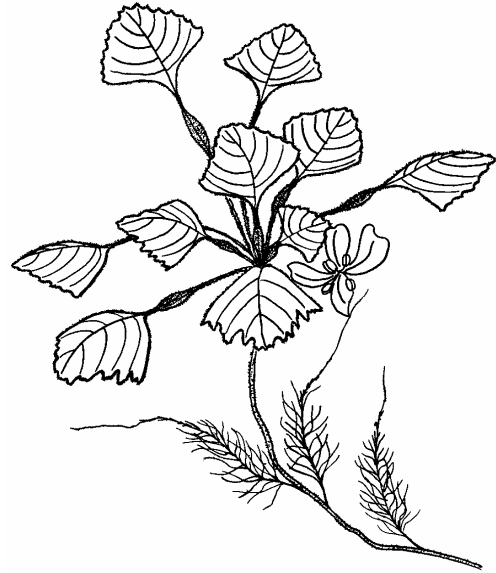
All members of MNPS welcome and there is no need to register. Space is limited for non-members of MNPS; please register in advance by phone. No email registration.

Brookside Gardens, Montgomery County

Weed Warriors needed for the forested areas surrounding the gardens. You will be given directions to work independently on your schedule, weekends or weekdays. There has been a tremendous amount of work done by volunteers and Brookside staff, but we still need help in maintaining these areas to keep the invasive weed population under control.

Contact: Stacy Parsons 301-962-1417 or stacy.parsons@mncppc-mc.org

Websites: www.BrooksideGardens.org and/or www.MC-MNCPPC.org/environment/weed_warriors/intro.shtm



Water Chestnut (*Trapa natans*) is a highly invasive Eurasian species that has become a huge problem in some of Maryland's rivers.

For more info, see: http://www.dnr.state.md.us/bay/sav/water_chestnut

Sligo Creek Park, Montgomery County

Friends of Sligo Creek welcome your help with invasives in this 8-mile tributary of the Anacostia, running from Silver Spring south into D.C. Work is usually organized by section stewards and features protection of ponds, floodplains, upland woods, as well as narrow, urbanized sections. In cooperation with M-NCPPC staff and the Weed Warrior program, Sligo Friends sponsor work parties and many small-group opportunities to work together to uncover Sligo's many treasures and to work out techniques for dealing with the usual range of invasives.

Contact: Sally Gagne sgagne@erols.com or Laura Mol 301-681-9686 for more information.

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.

Contact: Carole Bergmann, M-NCPPC Forest Ecologist, at 301-949-2818 for more info or to sign up.

Announcements

Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes

Instructor: Bill Sipple; Cost: \$375

July 11-12, Environmental Concern, St. Michaels, MD

This 2-day course will train students in the identification of grasses, sedges, and rushes. Through lecture, the examination of live plant specimens in the lab and the field, and keying exercises, the students will learn the morphological terminology necessary to identify grass, sedges, and rushes. Students will leave with an understanding of the families, family subdivisions, and genera of the often-difficult species of grasses, sedges, and rushes (wetland and upland).



Habitat Survey and Mapping Project at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary

Dates: Tuesdays, July 15, July 29, Aug 12, Aug 26; Wednesdays, July 23, Aug 6, Aug 20; Saturdays, July 12, July 26, Aug 2, Aug 16 **Survey Run Time:** 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Volunteers set out in teams to identify and map the habitats found at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary as part of a long-term habitat and plant inventory project. The methods are relatively simple and, regardless of plant knowledge, there's a job for everyone! We survey 10m plots and identify plants and trees found within the plot and measure the trees. We'll teach you the survey methods and tree identification techniques. For adults and teens. To register or receive more information, please contact Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary at 410-741-9330 or jugbay@toad.net.

Botany 2003 Conference:

"Aquatic and Wetland Plants: Wet & Wild"

Arthur R. Outlaw Convention Center, Mobile, Alabama from July 26-31. The Botanical Society of America (BSA), the American Bryological and Lichenological Society (ABLS), the American Fern Society (AFS), and the American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT) will meet jointly at the conference. Dr. E. O. Wilson will deliver the plenary lecture – "The All-Species Initiative and the Future of Life." Special lecture by Dr. Paul A. Keddy – "Wet and Wild: Conserving and Restoring Plant Diversity in Wetlands." The conference will include a special forum focusing on issues concerning botanical education and outreach. See: www.botany2003.org

Invasive Plants Conference August 6-7, Philadelphia

Invasive plants are serious threats to biological diversity and the health of our natural resources. Researchers now estimate that there have been over 50,000 plant species introduced into North America. This conference brings together experts from the front lines of research, the green industry, policy, funding, education, and on-the-ground management who are working together to solve this problem.

Speakers and Topics include: Emile DiVito "Impacts of Invasives"; Cole Burrell "More than a Pretty Face: Native Alternatives to Invasive Species"; Rick Darke "Roadside Restoration with Native Plants"; panel discussions on herbicide use as a control measure and the St. Louis Declaration; and new research regarding stiltgrass and mile-a-minute. Specific topics to be presented include the role of the federal government in addressing the problem, biological control, deer impacts, ethics, and case studies.

Presented by: Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council, Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, The Nature Conservancy, Penn State Extension, in partnership with regional businesses and organizations. The conference cost is \$150/person and includes lunches for both days.

For a complete brochure contact: Morris Arboretum, 100 Northwestern Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19118; 215-247-5777 x159; mabxeduc@pobox.upenn.edu
Visit: www.upenn.edu/paflora

Native News

Irvine Nature Center's 2003 Native Plant Seminar & Sale

Date: Saturday, August 23 **Time:** Seminar 9:00 am – 1:00 pm; Afternoon Workshops (optional) 2:00 – 4:30 pm; Plant Sale open to the public 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.

Seminar: \$45 donors/\$55 non-donors. Workshop: \$25.

Seminar Speakers: Bill Cullina, Nursery Manager and Propagator for the New England Wild Flower Society: "*What the Heck's Gonna Grow There? - Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines for Challenging Situations*"; Jil Swearingen, Entomologist and IPM Coordinator for National Park Service, National Capital Region: "*Getting a Grip on Invasive Plants in the Mid-Atlantic Region*"; Steve Eisenhauer, Assistant Director of Stewardship & Protection, Natural Lands Trust: "*Maintaining Native Plant Communities by Managing Deer, Invasive Plants, and Hydrology*"

Workshops:

Landscape History - Charlie Davis will lead a discovery walk on interpreting historic land use change based on plant communities and cultural features. Participants will discover 'relicts', evidence of forces of past change, evidence of age, and plant life histories.

Land Management & Restoration - Jeff Wolinski will lead a discussion and exploration of plant management issues, including wetland management and restoration, exotic species control, and Irvine's plans for establishing extensive meadows on current agricultural lands.

In addition, we'll offer two NEW workshops (details TBA). **Growing Wildflowers from Seed** - Bill Cullina will provide an overview of seed development, seed collection, cleaning and storage aimed at encouraging participants to begin collecting and processing their own seeds. Live samples, a projection microscope, and/or slides as well as handouts are included. The workshop then turns to seed dormancy and germination, especially the unique strategies and obstacles necessary to germinate difficult genera such as trillium.

Participating Native Plant Nurseries: Atlantic Star Nursery, Forest Hill, MD; Doyle Farm Nursery, Delta, PA; Enchanter's Garden, Hinton, WV; Heartwood Nursery, Monkton, MD; Kollar Nursery, Pylesville, MD; Lower Marlboro Nursery, Dunkirk, MD; Maryland Natives Nursery, Baltimore, MD; Natural Landscapes Nursery, West Grove, PA; Sunshine Farm & Gardens, Renick, WV; Sylva Native Nursery, Glen Rock, PA; Virginia Natives, Hume, VA; Wild Earth Native Plant Nursery, Freehold, NJ; Wildlife Landscapes, Monkton, MD.

For more information or a brochure, call 410-484-2413 or visit Irvine's website at www.explorenature.org

"Wings of Fancy" – Brookside Gardens

Through Sunday, September 21, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm daily
See this annual live butterfly show featuring all stages in the life cycle of species native to Maryland, North America, and Central America. Entrance fee: \$4 per person; \$3 for ages 3-12. Show tickets and parking are available at the Visitors

Center and Conservatories. The Visitors Center is located at 1800 Glenallan Avenue, Wheaton, MD. The Butterfly Exhibit is located in Brookside Garden's south conservatory located at 1500 Glenallan Avenue. For more information, visit www.mc-mncppc.org/Parks/brookside/butterfly or call 301-962-1400.

GREEN SPRING GARDENS: Open 9:00 am to 4:30 pm everyday except Sunday, noon to 4:30. For more information call 703-642-5173. Registration required for all programs. Send your name, address, daytime phone number, program name, and check (payable to FCPA) to: Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, VA 22312, Attn: Class Registration. Register with credit card by phone. Dress appropriately for outdoor events.

Rooster Walk \$5 – July 19, August 6 & 16, 7-8am
Early risers will experience our gardens in a whole new light. Tours begin in the Gazebo.

Garden Walkabouts \$5 – July 21, August 4 & 18, 10-11am
Spend an hour in our garden and gain inspiration for your own. This guided tour is the perfect introduction to one of the best and most exciting gardens in the Washington, D.C. area (great for groups or individuals). Tours begin in lobby of the Horticulture Center.

Pond Secrets \$15/child – July 12, 1:30-3 pm
What is more wonderful than water? Tadpoles, turtles, and fish need water to live, lily pads need water to float, and water striders need water to walk on. Join us for an afternoon exploring the ponds and bog to discover watery creatures. After poking around the pond, we'll make some 'pond scum' to take home! Adult must accompany child.

Hunting for Hummers \$15/child – Aug 9, 1:30-3 pm
Hummingbirds are tiny winged jewels that fascinate both young and old. Did you know that hummingbirds lay the smallest eggs? They are half the size of a jellybean. Come search for hummingbirds and learn interesting facts that will fuel your sense of amazement. We will make a feeder and you can take home one of their favorite nectar plants. Adult must accompany child.

Beautiful Butterflies \$5 – August 20-22, 9:30-10:15am
What happens to that fat, wiggly caterpillar? Find out about metamorphosis and go on a wild butterfly hunt in our native habitat garden to learn about the special plants they love.

Integrated Pest Management: Find out about native plant restoration along U.S. highways. The *IPM Practitioner* celebrates 25 years of publication with an article about native plants along the roadside. Find out how 38 states are using native re-vegetation to reduce herbicides, protect wildlife, prevent erosion, and manage exotic invaders. Learn about plant communities, specifications and native plant lists. A resource list includes organizations, websites, and other specific information to help you get involved. To order the publication or find out more, contact: Native Plants, IPM Practitioner, PO Box 7414, Berkeley, CA 94707; 510-524-2567; birc@igc.org; www.birc.org.

Native News

~ Mark your calendars for the 2003 Multi-state Fall Conference! ~

The Blue Ridge Mountains and Potomac Valley in Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia

Native Plants and Geology of the Blue Ridge Province

Saturday, October 4 - Sunday, October 5, 2003

Location: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, West Virginia

Theme: Native plant populations and natural communities don't conform to political boundaries. This conference will focus on how the Potomac River connects three states, rather than divides them. Speakers will discuss flora, natural communities, and geology common to all three states as well as conservation issues within each.

Sponsoring Organizations: Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia Native Plant Societies and National Park Service

General Info: The 2003 multi-state fall conference will feature lectures, Saturday and Sunday field trips, workshops, poster sessions, a Saturday evening social, and time to network with people who have similar interests and concerns. Registration also includes Saturday breakfast and lunch.

Directions: Directions to the conference site and campus maps are available upon request. They will be provided to early registering attendees and will be made available on the MNPS website (www.mdflora.org) at a later date.

Lodging: To reserve a room at the conference site, please contact the conference chair and register by August 1. Rooms at the National Conservation Training Center are \$84.00/night/1 person. NCTC room fees include 3 meals – dinner on the evening of arrival, breakfast, and lunch. If you wish to share a room with one other person, there is an extra \$36/night meal fee. (MNPS is responsible for reserving rooms at this site.) There is a list of local motels available at the NCTC website (<http://training.fws.gov/hotel.html>). *Room rental and payment is the responsibility of attendees.* Also visit: <http://www.shepherdstownvisitorscenter.com/> and/or <http://www.hilltophousehotel.net/>

Saturday Evening Social: Hilltop House in Harpers Ferry, WV (\$16.50 per person). Cost includes a 4-entree buffet (including a vegetarian selection), salad bar, bread, coffee, tea, other non-alcoholic beverages, and dessert. They have a full bar and orders will be taken at your table. *Alcoholic beverages are an additional, personal expense.* Harpers Ferry is only @10 miles from Shepherdstown. This historic hotel is very lovely and has beautiful scenic views of the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers. Some may wish to reserve rooms there. Phone 304-535-2132.

Registration and Fee Info: Register by July 15th to receive a special early bird registration discount!

Early Bird Fee: \$35.00 per person (+\$16.50 per person for Saturday Social reservations)

Members Fee (Members of MNPS, VNPS, WVNPS, PATC, BSW, and DOI employees registering after July 15): \$45.00 per person (+\$16.50 per person for Saturday Social reservations)

Non-member Fee: \$55.00 per person (+\$16.50 per person for Saturday Social reservations)

Contact Info: To register early, please send a check (payable to Maryland Native Plant Society) to:
Meghan Tice, P.O. Box 25, Bowie, MD 20719

For more information, please contact:
Meghan Tice, 2003 Regional Conference Chair
cecropia13@msn.com
301-809-0139

Native News

Brickbats & Kudos

Brickbats

- Brickbats to Maryland Governor Ehrlich and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission for moving ahead with plans to release Asian oysters (*Crassostrea ariakensis*) into the Chesapeake Bay despite a myriad of unanswered concerns and cautions. Ehrlich hopes to “accelerate” the process to get a federal permit to release the Asian oyster soon and Virginia plans to release sterile Asian oysters into the Bay this summer to compare their water-filtering capacity against the native oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) before introducing fertile Asian oysters next year. (*Washington Post*, June 19, 2003) Once the source of the world’s richest and most famous oyster beds, the Bay has sadly accumulated too many downstream pollutants to the point where it can no longer function naturally, resulting in the demise or loss of many of its plant and animal species. Neither state is willing to seriously address the issue of curbing over-development in the region’s upstream forests, farms, and waterways, and instead opts for “quick fixes” and virtual science solutions.

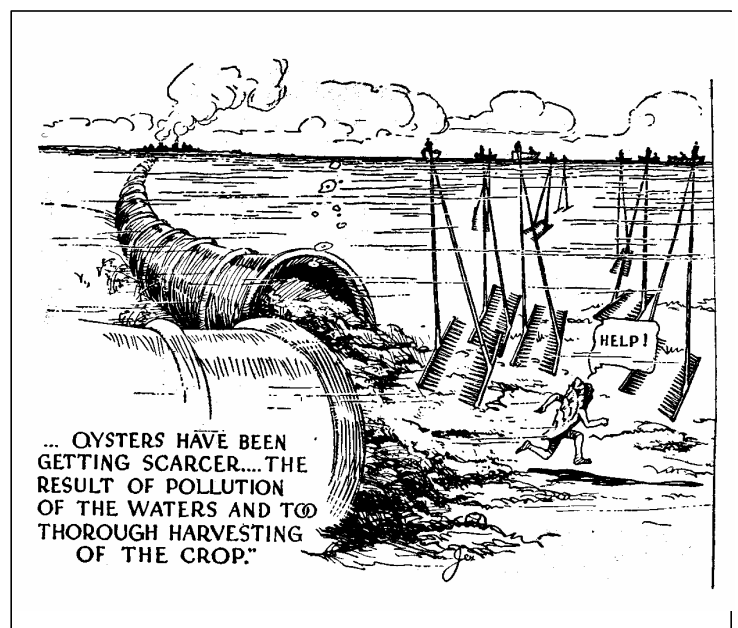
- Brickbats to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for proposing a rule that would allow the killing of unlimited numbers of Double-crested Cormorants in 24 states, resulting from the misguided belief that these birds deplete sport fishing resources and aquaculture stocks. This proposal rejects the science-based opinion of biologists and conservationists and embraces corporate and fishing interests, which are making birds the scapegoats for fishery declines that are in fact caused by over-fishing, pollution, habitat destruction, and dams. “This new rule would not only be potentially devastating to the cormorants but would also set a dangerous precedent for the potential slaughter of other birds such as Caspian Terns, Great Blue Herons, mergansers, and even kingfishers. This has already begun in the Pacific Northwest, where Caspian Terns have been erroneously blamed for salmon declines and shot under FWS permits.” (American Bird Conservancy BirdWire action alert, May 2003) With all of the destruction to natural habitats and the over-exploitation of our natural resources that humans continue to impose, we still try to make enemies of the dwindling wildlife. Fisheries have over-harvested and have actively destroyed the very environments that are necessary to ensure the future well being of our natural heritage, food sources, people’s livelihoods, and the sustainability of resources that our many species of wildlife and the entire ecosystem generally are dependant on. It’s shocking that this sort of primitive thinking is still happening to this day.

The drawing at right is from *Nature Magazine*, published by the American Nature Association in February 1928, and appeared in an article entitled “Oysters of the Blood Royal” by Ernest S. Clowes.

Kudos

- Kudos to U.S. District Judge James Redden for upholding the merits of a suit against the National Marine Fisheries Service whose plan to protect “12 endangered species of salmon and steelhead” from extinction was ruled “improper” and not compliant with the Endangered Species Act. The future survival of the salmon are at serious risk because of inadequate flow of water over several dams in the Columbia and Snake River systems in the Pacific Northwest, which is greatly reduced to generate electricity for the rapidly growing region. Breaching the dams, which comprise the country’s “largest federally built hydroelectric system,” is regarded by government scientists and environmentalists alike as the only effective option for restoring the disappearing salmon populations and habitat. (*Washington Post*, May 8, 2003)

- Kudos to the Prince George’s County Council for unanimously adopting a resolution opposing the Inter County Connector (ICC), which would link I-95 in PG County with I-270 in Montgomery County. Despite the fact that developers wish to build a sprawling, mega-mall complex on the Konterra site at the eastern end of the proposed route, which is home to the best remaining examples of a globally-rare type of Magnolia Bog in Maryland, the council “voiced strong fears that a highway would draw jobs away from the county” and that the ICC would “further frustrate efforts to attract economic development.” (*Washington Post*, June 13, 2003) Extensive studies have shown that the ICC would not alleviate traffic congestion.





Maryland Native Plant Society

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