

Native News

Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

March/April 2004

Volume 4 Number 2

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Red Maples (*Acer rubrum*) are the first to begin brightening the forest with the red cast of their buds and blooms early in the spring. ? shown.

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

“A Year of MNPS Field Botany”

Tuesday, March 30, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Join Rod Simmons, plant ecologist and Botany Committee chair, for a review of the plant surveys and conservation efforts conducted by MNPS over the past year. Work focused on several diverse natural communities throughout the state, including seepage bogs, old-growth forest, the Potomac Gorge, and various upland forest types. The results of the surveys, including plant associations and recently discovered flora, and conservation updates will be discussed.

Directions: Please see below.

“Native and Introduced Earthworms in Urban and Rural Habitats”

Tuesday, April 27, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

The voracious appetite of the non-native earthworm has been linked to a decline in the forest floor community, which, in turn, affects woodland mammals, invertebrates, and microbes. Yet, native earthworms play important roles in our forests and wetlands. Dr. Kathy Szlavecz of Johns Hopkins University is investigating the role of native and non-native earthworms (and other soil invertebrates) in both urban and natural environments through the Baltimore Long-Term Ecosystem Study. She will also discuss the ecological implications of the non-native species and the role natives play in natural ecosystems.

Directions: Exit the Washington Beltway at New Hampshire Ave (exit 28). Go north about 2 miles. The library is the first building on the right, once you have passed under Route 29, just after the Sears store.

Please also see 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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Ann Lundy	

President's Letter

Greetings,

For the past several years, the Board has held an annual planning meeting to help guide our activities for the coming year. We came up with several great ideas, which I would like to share with you, get feedback, and, (of course), volunteers to help accomplish these projects.

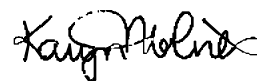
First, we have come to realize that the Board must work harder to inform the membership about upcoming issues that may negatively and positively affect our native plants and their habitats. The Society submits dozens of letters every year to public agencies and officials, private nurseries, and community groups regarding our stance on the impact their actions have on native communities. We have written in support of preserving open space; filed complaints to the USDA regarding the sale of wild-collected trilliums; testified in opposition to the Inter County Connector; and provided the State nursery with native plants to grow in place of the invasive species they now sell to other state and local groups (sawtooth oak and Russian olive as two egregious examples). I will try each issue to update you on these actions, but in addition, we want to start sending our "Email Action Alerts" to get our members voicing their own opinions on these issues. Generally, the alerts will be once a month or so and will provide background information about an issue, as well as the Society's position. Members are welcome to provide items for the action alerts or suggest ways to make this project a success.

We also discussed *Native News* and *Marilandica* and their role in communicating information to our members. Over 35% of our annual budget is dedicated to these two publications. No one disputes the value of spending the money, but we're searching for ways that may help either offset the costs of publication; reduce the actual costs; or find funds to help produce these journals. Several suggestions have been made. We may try to solicit sponsorship of issues (such as donations earmarked for the publication). We could also explore the possibility of sending email only versions of *Native News* rather than mailing them (giving members the option of which format they prefer). Perhaps there are grants available to assist with printing *Marilandica*. We will also research what other printing options are available – perhaps we can find a printer who can offer us a discount if we make a long-term commitment. Again, if you have ideas or suggestions about this, we want to hear from you.

Finally, over the past year our chapters have become more active in providing activities around the state and "closer to home" for our 300 members who live outside of Montgomery County. Over the next year, we hope to increase the level of member participation in chapter projects. Field trips, evening meetings, and our presence at fairs and festivals can bring us in contact with potential members. For the Society to help conserve habitat throughout the state, we've got to know about these places. Our conservation efforts can only be expanded by having an active membership that knows and cares about their local habitats. We need you to identify special places that deserve protection and restoration.

It looks like it'll be another busy year – we better get started now!

See you soon,



Karyn Molines

Chapter Events & Updates

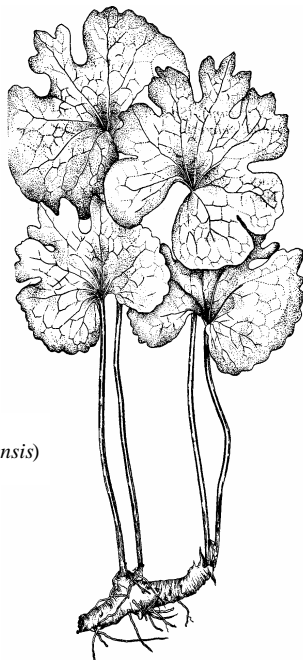
Eastern Shore Chapter

The Eastern Shore Chapter's last meeting was held at the University of Maryland Center of Environmental Science, Horn Point Laboratory. Dr. Kristin Saltonstall talked about her research distinguishing native from non-native *Phragmites* strains and instructed participants on how to distinguish between the two. For more information on *Phragmites* identification, see <http://www.invasiveplants.net>, *Phragmites* diagnostic service.

The Eastern Shore Chapter will hold its next meeting on Monday, March 29 at 7:00 pm at Queen Anne's County Free Library, Kent Island Branch, 200 Library Circle in Stevensville. For directions, call the library at 410-643-8161. Our speaker will be Mary Stuart Sierra, owner of Lower Marlboro Nursery, a small nursery located in Southern Maryland and dedicated to the preservation and dissemination of perennials, trees, and shrubs native to the Eastern United States. The topic will be "Spring Ephemerals." For further information, contact Sylvan Kaufman at 410-634-2847 x24. Our spring field trip will be a canoe trip on Tuckahoe Creek starting from Tuckahoe State Park on May 22. This should be a great time of year to see the azaleas and fringe trees in bloom along the banks.

Greater Baltimore Chapter

The Greater Baltimore Chapter's March 17 meeting will be at Irvine Nature Center in Stevenson, MD at 7:30 pm. The speaker will be Michael Beer, co-founder of the Jones Falls Watershed Association, talking about the Jones Falls Watershed and natives in the city. Our May 19 meeting will also be at Irvine Nature Center at 7:30 pm and our speaker will be Louisa Thompson talking about "Native Plants for Rain Gardens."



Bloodroot
(*Sanguinaria canadensis*)

Upcoming Chapter Events

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

Greater Baltimore Chapter's March Program

Date: Wednesday, March 17 **Time:** 7:30 pm

Location: Irvine Nature Center

Michael Beer, co-founder of the Jones Falls Watershed Association, will discuss the Jones Falls Watershed and natives in the city.

Contact: Ann Lundy 410-366-9365 or
aplundy@attglobal.net

Southern Maryland Chapter's Quarterly Meeting

Date: Wednesday in March **Time:** 7:00 pm

Location: Phillips House, Prince Frederick, Calvert County

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.

Contact: Carolyn Fulton cofulton@chesapeake.net or
301-885-6384 for more information.

Coastal Woodland Walk, Charles County

Leader: Rod Simmons

Date: Sunday, March 28 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Eastern Shore Chapter Meeting

Date: Monday, March 29 **Time:** 7:00 pm

Location: Queen Anne's County Free Library, Kent Island Branch, 200 Library Circle in Stevensville
Mary Stuart Sierra, owner of Lower Marlboro Nursery, will discuss "Spring Ephemerals."

Directions: Please call the library at 410-643-8161.

Contact: Sylvan Kaufman at 410-634-2847 x24.

Civil War Fort Sites Series – Fort Dupont

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

Dates: Sundays, April 4, May 2, and June 6

Gunpowder State Park Wildflower Hike – Hereford Area

Leader: Dwight Johnson

Date: Saturday, April 17 **Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Greater Baltimore Chapter's May Program

Date: Wednesday, May 17 **Time:** 7:30 pm

Location: Irvine Nature Center

Our speaker will be Louisa Thompson talking about "Native Plants for Rain Gardens."

Flowers on the Tuckahoe – Canoe Trip

Leaders: Maureen MacFarland and Sylvan Kaufman

Date: Saturday, May 22 **Time:** 10:00 am – noon

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MNPS Directory 2004

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Northeast Chapter - VACANT
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Please send corrections or additions to Meghan Tice, Editor, *Native News*. Thank you.

Early Spring Field Trips



Small-flowered Baby Blue Eyes
(*Nemophila aphylla*)

Coastal Woodland Walk, Charles County

Leader: Rod Simmons

Date: Sunday, March 28 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

We will explore the woodland north of Mount Aventine, a part of the north tract of Chapman Forest. This area is characterized by deep, sandy soils, abundant seeps and streams, and extensive clubmoss colonies. We should see four species of clubmoss, a variety of evergreen ferns, the state rare pipsissewa (*Chimaphila umbellata*), and some plants more commonly associated with the outer coastal plain, like prickly pear cactus, that grow here along sandy woodland edges. We may also find the state rare small-flowered baby blue eyes (*Nemophila aphylla*) blooming near Mount Aventine.

Directions: Take Indian Head Highway (Rt. 210) from the Capital Beltway. Proceed on Rt. 210 south towards Indian Head for app. 20 miles. Look for Chapmans Landing Road (on your right) app. 1 mile past the Bryans Road intersection (Rt. 227 and Rt. 210 – a McDonalds and Burger King will be on your right). Take Chapmans Landing Road for app. 2 miles to Mount Aventine entrance on right. Park in spots outside gate.

Bring: Lunch and water.

Note: Drizzle is fine but canceled if rain is heavy.

Contact: Rod cecropial3@msn.com or 301-809-0139.

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (33rd in the Series)

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

Date: Sunday, April 4 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

On April 4, May 2, and June 6 we will return to **Fort Dupont** to study, in great detail, the terrace gravel plant associations at Fort Dupont. While we have been to Fort Dupont before in different seasons, we have not concentrated on the upland plant communities. This three month sequence will give us the opportunity to observe the terrace gravel plants from spring through the beginning of summer.

Directions: We will meet at the parking lot of the Ft. Dupont Activity center off of Randall Circle. Randall Circle is on Minnesota Avenue SE at Massachusetts Avenue SE. Access via East Capital Street and go south on Minn. Ave to Randall Circle. Or, take I-295 from the beltway north to Pennsylvania Avenue SE and turn north on Minn. Ave to Randall Circle.

Bring: Lunch and water. **Note:** Easy to moderate walk. Drizzle is fine but canceled if rain is heavy.

Contact: Mary Pat Rowan blair-rowan@starpower.net or 202-526-8821.

Gunpowder State Park Wildflower Hike – Hereford Area

Leader: Dwight Johnson

Date: Saturday, April 17 **Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

This will be a five-mile circuit or a straight 2½-mile hike (your choice) along the shores of the Gunpowder River between York Rd and Big Falls Rd. The trail at times will be steep, rocky, and narrow. This is a good walk for wildflower beginners.

Directions: From the Baltimore beltway go north on I-83 for 12 miles and take Exit 27 west onto Mount Carmel Rd. We will meet at the Park and Ride just west of I-83.

Bring: Lunch and water. Hiking boots highly recommended.

Contact: Dwight Johnson 410-366-7239.

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (34th in the Series)

Date: Sunday, May 2 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

For details, please see April's trip.

Spring Flowers

Leader: Karyn Moline

Date: Saturday, May 15 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Many woodland plants bloom before the canopy shades the forest floor. We'll hike the woods of the Glendening Nature Preserve to admire Bloodroot, Trout Lily, and Spring Beauties. This will also initiate the beginning of our plant inventory of the site. Participants meet at the Sanctuary's Wetlands Center and carpool to the site.

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

Note: Children must be at least 10. Reservations are required. Restrooms are available at the Wetlands Center, but not at the Preserve.

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

Flowers on the Tuckahoe

Leaders: Maureen MacFarland and Sylvan Kaufman

Date: Saturday, May 22 **Time:** 10:00 am – noon

Paddle past azaleas and fringe trees along Tuckahoe Creek's banks in Tuckahoe State Park. Sylvan Kaufman, conservation curator at the neighboring Adkins Arboretum, and Maureen MacFarland, volunteer docent at the Arboretum, will lead the trip. Canoe rental is available at Tuckahoe State Park.

Directions: From Rt. 50, take Rt. 404 east towards Denton. Make a left on rt. 480 towards Ridgely then a quick left onto Eveland Road. Make a left on Crouse Mill Road. Parking for picnic/canoe launch area on right.

Bring: Water and binoculars.

Note: Easy to moderate paddle. Please RSVP.

Contact: Sylvan Kaufman 410-634-2847 x13 or skaufman@intercom.net.

Invasive Exotic Plant Removal Workdays

Greenbelt National Park, Prince George's Co.

Dates: First Saturdays, monthly (March 6, April 3, May 1)
Time: Meet at 11:00 am in the Sweetgum Picnic Area.
Located just 12 miles from Washington, D.C., Greenbelt Park is a beloved retreat from the city and an important refuge for native plants and animals. Come join us in defending Greenbelt Park from encroachment by alien invasive plant growth. Volunteers will be hand pulling harmful non-native plants such as Japanese honeysuckle, beefsteak mint, mile-a-minute vine and garlic mustard. 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.

Directions: From the Capital Beltway (495), take Kenilworth Avenue south about ¼ mile to Greenbelt Road (Rt. 193). Kenilworth goes under 193. Stay to the right so you can take Rt. 193 East (a left to go over Kenilworth) for only a few hundred yards to the park entrance. Greenbelt Park is on the right hand side before the turnoff for the BW Parkway. Follow the signs to the Sweetgum Picnic Area.

Carpool Info: We have changed the carpool from the Student Union to meet behind the Sierra Club office behind the College Park Shopping Center (the upper lot behind the Wawa & Vertigo books) at 10:30 am.

Bring: Lunch, drink, and appropriate clothing for weather.
Contact: For any questions and information about upcoming events Tom Crone 301-864-1959 or tomnjan@erols.com, Kate Odell kateo@wam.umd.edu or 301-474-5395, or Laurel Imlay 301-864-1009h/301-277-7111w.

Ruth Swann Park, Charles County

Dates: First Sundays, monthly (March 7, April 4, May 2)
Time: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Remove invasive non-natives from the 200-acre Swann Park. There will be time for plant identification and a beautiful beach lunch. Participating organizations include MNPS and Sierra Club. To empower ourselves, there are general methods and species specific methods such as best season for species, wet soil condition for pulling, handouts, extent of area of natives seen rescued, delayed gratification, targeted use of herbicides, and matching funds for staff to do what volunteers find hard to do.

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.

Carpool Info: Meet at Sierra Club Md. Chapter office at 9:00 am; return 5:00 pm. Call Laurel Imlay at 301-277-7111.

Bring: Gloves, lunch, and water. Durable long sleeves and pants recommended.

Contact: Marc Imlay 301-283-0808. RSVP is welcome.

Northwest Branch of the Anacostia, Montgomery County

Dates: Third Saturdays, March 20 and April 17
Time: 10:00 am – 1:00

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.

Aaron Straus Wilderness Area/ Baker Training Facility

Date/Time: Late spring, please contact Shannon.
The Maryland Army National Guard understands the importance of maintaining healthy natural habitats on the training facility. These efforts are part of the initial phase of invasive species management efforts that will be implemented across the Aaron Straus Wilderness Area. The property is in a beautiful area of western Maryland on and adjacent to Sideling Hill. The property is bounded to the south by the Potomac River and is split by Sideling Hill Creek. Topography of the property is very steep, except along the Sideling Hill Creek floodplain. There are several shale barrens on the property and between the barrens, creek, floodplain, and hillsides the property supports one federally endangered plant, over 20 state threatened or endangered plants and an additional 23+ state rare and watch list plant species. Join us for a late spring garlic mustard, etc. pull. All skill levels welcome.

Directions: The Aaron Straus Wilderness Area/Baker Training Facility is an Army National Guard training facility located approximately 16 miles west of Hancock, Maryland (2 hour drive from Washington). The property is located 9 miles off of I-68 and is accessed by taking Exit 78 to Woodmont Road, then following Woodmont Road to Zeigler Road (Woodmont turns into Zeigler), then following Zeigler Road to Sideling Hill Creek. The bridge is repaired at Sideling Hill Creek.

Bring: Gloves, water, and lunch. Dress for the weather, thick woods, and poison ivy, and wear appropriate footwear.

Contact: Shannon Cauley scauley@louisberger.com.

Continued on page 10...

Announcements

18th Annual Lahr Symposium

"Native Plants: Landscapes in Balance"

March 27, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

U.S. National Arboretum

Featured speakers: Donna House, Daniel Chiplis, Dr. Richard Bir, and Chris Ludwig.

Four afternoon concurrent sessions. There will be an ongoing native plant sale on the Administration Bldg East

Terrace. More info: 202-245-5898 or www.usna.usda.gov.

Note: this event fills to capacity annually; it is best to pre-register.

Jug Bay Events

Marsh Cleanup at Jug Bay

Saturday, March 20, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Volunteers help pick up trash that has floated into the marsh from Hurricane Isabel. Please dress in work clothes (long sleeves and long pants), including boots or shoes that can get wet, and bring work gloves, a bag lunch, a change of clothes and a towel. Free admission to the Sanctuary. Children should be at least 6 years old. Scout troops and community groups are encouraged to participate.

Community Service Day

Sunday, April 4, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Join us to help clear trails, straighten up our barns, clean the SAV tanks, and various other projects. Refreshments will be available. Please register and let us know what time you will be arriving. Scouts and community groups are encouraged to participate. Children should be at least 10.

Habitat Survey Training

Saturday, April 24, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

As part of a long-term project, volunteers team up to survey the habitats at the Glendening Nature Preserve at Jug Bay and identify and measure the trees in 10-m plots. The methods are simple, and regardless of your plant knowledge, there's a job for everyone! We'll teach you survey methods and tree identification techniques. Most surveys take place on weekday afternoons, but some weekend dates may be scheduled. Children should be at least 10.

Contact for all Jug Bay events: Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary 410-741-9330 or jugbay@toad.net.

The **Montgomery County Group of the Sierra Club** will sponsor an Environmental Career event at the Brookside Gardens Visitor's Center in Wheaton on Wednesday, April 28th from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. The evening, targeted at high school and college students, will begin with a talk on careers in the environmental field by Dr. Candie Wilderman, Professor of Environmental Science at Dickenson College, Carlisle, Pa. After the main presentation, a few other speakers may give very short reviews of career options. We plan on hosting a number of non-profits, universities, and government agencies to attend with tables to disseminate

information and talk to high school and college students. We are also looking for individuals working in environmental and conservation positions to give brief (3-5 minutes) presentations on the type of work they do and how they got into the field. The oral presentations will take no more than one hour, leaving time for you to interact with students. This is an event we hope will be successful enough to expand to a half or full day conference in the future. Those of us interested in environmental education know that it is critical to reach out to young people and encourage them to consider a career in an exciting, rewarding and ever-important field. If you are interested in participating in this event, or have any questions, please contact us: Dawn A. Walker dsvtx2@comcast.net or 301-949-6194 (evenings before 9:00 pm); Ron LaCoss RonEnviroEd@aol.com or 301-946-1106 (evenings).

Conference Planned for 2004! The Eastern Cougar Foundation is proud to announce "The Eastern Cougar Conference, 2004," to be held April 28th through May 1st in Morgantown, West Virginia. This special conference, only the second such meeting ever devoted entirely to the fascinating subject of the cougars in the East, Southeast, Midwest, and Great Plains of North America, is being organized jointly by the ECF and the American Ecological Research Institute (AERIE), which is directed by Dr. Jay Tischendorf of the ECF Board. This gathering is open to anyone with an interest in wildlife, conservation, nature, cougars, or related topics. Students are encouraged to attend. AERIE and the ECF are currently soliciting proposals for pertinent papers. If you would like to have a presentation, poster, or display considered for inclusion in the final schedule of events, please e-mail a brief (500 words or less) abstract as soon as possible to Dr. Jay Tischendorf at Jay_Tischendorf@Merck.com. Those without computer access may contact Jay Tischendorf by mail at: Dr. Jay Tischendorf (DVM), Director, American Ecological Research Institute (AERIE), P.O. Box 1826, Great Falls, MT 59403. This is an incredibly rare and unique opportunity for anyone, and everyone, with an interest in mountain lions east of the Rocky Mountains to gather together, network, and share in literally the latest and most cutting-edge information and technology on this important subject. For more information on to register for this exciting event, visit the Eastern Cougar Foundation's website www.easterncougar.org.

Wildflower Weekend, April 29 – May 2, 2004

The Gorge in bloom! Join us for the annual Natural Bridge State Resort Park Wildflower Weekend. Wildflower Weekend is an opportunity for native plant enthusiasts to enjoy one of Kentucky's most ecologically diverse areas in bloom. On Saturday and Sunday we'll have dozens of field trips throughout the park and the adjacent Red River Gorge National Geologic Area for all levels of participation, from beginners to advanced wildflower enthusiasts and from short

Native News

easy walks to long hikes. Trips focus on a variety of topics, from trees to rare plants, and are led by university professors, professional biologists, and experienced hobbyists. This year our evening programs are scheduled to include Dr. Wilson Francis, co-author of the new "*Wildflowers and Ferns of Kentucky*," the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Mike Homoya on native orchids of the region, and ferns of the Smokies with Dr. Patricia Cox of the TVA Natural Heritage Program. Registration Fee: \$5/adult, \$2/child (age 6-12), and free for kids age 5 and under, payable upon arrival, no pre-registration required. For accommodation information please call 1-800-325-1710. For event information please contact Zeb Weese, Park Naturalist, at 1-606-663-2214 ext 2104 or jason.weese@ky.gov. For park information please go to www.naturalbridgepark.com. Co-sponsored by Natural Bridge State Resort Park, the Kentucky Native Plant Society, East Kentucky Power Cooperative, the United States Forest Service, and the Kentucky Society of Natural History.

The Manada Conservancy Native Plant Sale will be held Saturday, May 8th from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm at the Derry Township Park and Recreation Center at 605 Cocoa Avenue in Hershey, PA. All plants offered are PA natives or cultivars of natives, and have been chosen for their adaptability to local conditions and their attractiveness to wildlife. Plants are strong-growing stock and are potted in 4-inch pots. Prices average \$4.00 and discounts are available to conservancy members and for quantity orders. We highly recommend pre-ordering plants for the best selection. Pre-order forms will be available in March. To receive a pre-order form or more information, please call 717-566-4122 or email us at manadaconservancy@earthlink.net. You will also find descriptions of the plants available and a downloadable order form on our website at www.manada.org. Please note that all plants (including pre-orders) will be available for you to pick up during the day of the sale, and we are unable to ship them.

The Field Guide for Beginners: A Key to Selected Exotic and Native Plants of the Mid-Atlantic Region by Karen Miles and Jodie Standish, January 2003, is excellent. It fills a niche that has been un-addressed to date and sets the standard for on the ground volunteers and staff removing alien invasive plants. Identification with both photos and drawings is definitive and easy for 37 alien invasive species arranged alphabetically. The page for each species includes a written description, country of origin, invasive characteristics and even a distribution map. A field key is also provided. You may obtain it from the Alice Ferguson Foundation, 2001 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek, MD 20607. There is a discount for 25 or more copies, for \$35 instead of the \$39.95. (5% Tax - MD only)

Environmental Concern Inc., home to the nation's first wholesale wetland plant nursery, is pleased to offer the following courses focusing on native wetland vegetation.

Located in historic St. Michaels, Maryland, on the shore of the Chesapeake Bay, Environmental Concern's 13-plus waterfront acres offer a beautiful and intimate learning environment. For complete course descriptions and registration information, visit us online at www.wetland.org or call 410-745-9620.

Wetland Botany for Non-Botanists – June 11
Wetland Vegetative Sampling – July 27-29
Fern and Fern Allies ID – August 13
Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes – September 15-16

Native Plants and Birds of Peru

Peru is a country of amazing geological and biological diversity. On this educational adventure to Peru we will explore the native plants of the Peruvian Andes and Amazon. Walking with scientists, professors and tribal people we will explore some of the ecological zones, agricultural crops, medicinal plants and traditional uses of Peru's native plants. Program runs from Aug 31–Sept 15, 2003 with an extension to Lake Titicaca to the 19th. For more info go to: www.crookedtrails.com/peru. Crooked Trails is a non-profit community based tourism organization based in Seattle. Call Christine Mackay, Executive Director, at 206-372-4405.

Welcome New Members!

Our newest members include: Jane Folsom, Martha and Frank Hayden, Carol Hayes, Ann Hedgepeth, Jeff Lynch, Maureen MacFarland, Theresa Maclejewski, James Marcench, Anna Murphy, Wayne Russell, and Cordy Tucker. Welcome to the Society.

Do you know when your membership expires?

We appreciate every member who renews because every society activity is made possible by member dues. If you remember to renew before your expiration date, you'll help us save money by reducing the number of renewal letters we have to mail. Generally, we mail renewal letters out the month you expire, and send two reminder letters if we don't hear from you. Early renewals allow us to spend your membership dollars on projects, not stamps for renewal letters. So prompt renewals just makes sense. To tell when your membership expires, take a look at your mailing label. For example, if your label reads 3/1/2004 your membership expires at the end of March. If it's time to renew, please use the form on the back of this newsletter, or download one from the web site. Thanks for your support.

Native News Deadlines: Jan 25, March 25, May 25, July 25, Sept 25, and Nov 25.
January/February Winter Issue
March/April Early Spring Issue
May/June Late Spring Issue
July/August Summer Issue
September/October Early Autumn Issue
November/December Late Autumn/Holidays Issue

Forest Issues

By Bob DeGroot

Forests provide essential services such as cleaning the air we breathe, filtering and cooling water, storing and cycling nutrients, regulating climate, and protecting land against storm and flood damage. Forests also provide marketable goods and services like forest products, fish and wildlife, and recreation. Forests are vital in maintaining a vast genetic library of wild species.

U.S. forests are home to more than 3,000 species of fish and wildlife and many thousands of species of insects. It's estimated that 75 percent of the mammals and 45 percent of the birds around the world endangered by civilization are threatened because of the loss of forest habitat. For amphibians and reptiles, the percentages are even higher. At least 180 plant and 35 animal species have been extirpated from Maryland. Another 310 plant and 165 animal species are rare, threatened, or endangered.

The preservation of other species is essential to maintaining our way of life. Most foods we grow and animals we raise for food have been domesticated from a variety of wild species. Many of the grains and fruits we eat depend upon wild insects to pollinate them. The loss of even a few of these pollinators would raise havoc with our food supplies.

Loss of forest habitats and fragmentation of forests is primarily resulting from human activities and is a serious threat to many species, and ultimately to our way of life. Forest loss means degraded streams and a degraded Chesapeake Bay.

Program Open Space (POS) and GreenPrint are programs designed to protect forests and undeveloped land. These programs have resulted in preserving thousands of acres of forests in the Chesapeake watershed, but additional forest preservation is essential.

Numerous studies have shown the negative ecological effects of forest fragmentation in the landscape. The end result of fragmentation is often a patchwork of small, isolated islands of habitat in a sea of developed land. This is perhaps the greatest worldwide threat to forest wildlife, and the primary cause of species extinction.

Fragmentation also occurs when roads are built into a forest or when activities such as logging occur in forests. These activities will only be curtailed when we recognize the importance of forests and move aggressively to protect them.

Forest bills are being initiated this session to better protect public forests from the damage caused by fragmentation and logging. Public forests should be managed primarily for the

services they provide such as watershed protection, clean air, wildlife habitat, and recreation. The management of public forests for wood fiber is economically unjustifiable and should be discontinued or drastically curtailed.

More information on this subject is available on the Magicalliance.org website under Forests or in the Photo Gallery. Contact Bob DeGroot at 301-340-8348 or bobdegroot@comcast.net, or Dan Boone at ddanboone@yahoo.com.

Forest Stewardship Plans Offer Landowners Tax Breaks – and More

By Marc Imlay

[From *Chesapeake*, newsletter of the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club, Summer 2003, page 11]

Landowners, do you want to preserve your land or restore it to its natural state for future generations? For doing this, you can get financial assistance, including a property tax reduction on your land (assessed on its value set at \$100 per acre). Here's the catch: working with a state forester, you must develop a Forest Stewardship Plan, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must approve it.

After DNR approves the plan, you become part of the Maryland forest stewardship program. All aspects of forest resource management are considered by DNR, and the good news is that you do not have to harvest trees. Some plans, for example, consist entirely of removing non-native invasive plants.

The options offered by DNR for forest resource management include fish and wildlife, natural heritage and recreation, soil and water, and forest products. The natural heritage and recreation aspect, for example, focuses upon restoration of mature old growth with natural biodiversity and resulting ecosystem services (such as water retention) to prevent downstream flooding, crown-fire control, and climate-change mitigation.

Expert Help Required

The stewardship program has a few eligibility requirements, but the most critical consideration is to select a forester trained in ecosystem management and conservation biology to include alien invasive species control, fragmentation theory, herbaceous plants, endangered species, and non-game biology. Most foresters who write plans are trained primarily in forest products. Your forester should be primarily trained in ecology and be supportive of your values.

Here's what DNR has to say about the topic (www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/fcmp.pdf). "Any owner of 5 or

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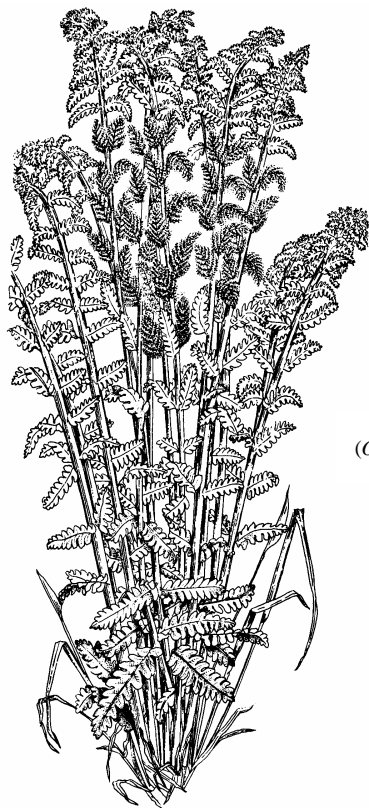
more contiguous acres of forest land may enter the Forest Conservation and Management Program. The forester, with assistance from other natural resource professionals, must match the objectives of the owner to the biological requirements of the forest. Your acceptance in the Forest Conservation and Management Program will depend upon the specific prescription of stewardship practices. You must have your forest stewardship plan prepared by a registered professional forester [state, private, consulting, or industrial] and approved by the Director of the Forest Service. The plan must contain a detailed schedule of practices to be accomplished and their completion date."

The Tax Break

Landowners also can obtain a Forest Conservation Management Agreement (FCMA) through the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation. DNR describes it as "a legal agreement recorded in land records, binding for fifteen years, and renewable for a minimum of five years."

With an FCMA, the landowner can add or delete acreage, add or delete owners, and sell all or part of the parcel. In return, says DNR, "the property is assessed at \$100/acre regardless of its location in Maryland. The assessment is frozen at that level for the fifteen years of the agreement. The FCMA involves fees for developing the management plan, entering the program, and periodic inspections."

For more information on this topic, go to www.naturalresources.umd.edu.



Interrupted Fern
(*Osmunda claytoniana*)

Marc Imlay
Board Member, Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council
Vice President, Maryland Native Plant Society
Biodiversity Chair, Maryland Chapter, Sierra Club
301-283-0808 ialm@erols.com

We are looking for the names of naturalist oriented registered foresters to give to landowners. Please forward to other naturalists who may be able to assist. Thanks!

Continued from page 6...

(Invasive Exotic Plant Removal Workdays)

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.

Brookside Gardens, Montgomery County

Weed Warriors are needed for the forested areas surrounding the gardens. You will be given directions so that you may work independently, weekends or weekdays, on your own schedule.

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

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.

Brickbats & Kudos

Brickbats

- Brickbats to Secretary Gale Norton and the Interior Department for recently opening millions of acres in the pristine, northwest section of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska to oil and natural gas drilling – disregarding federal laws protecting “key wildlife areas” and numerous comments from “government experts” and the public requesting that these areas be protected. The harmful effects on the surrounding land, water resources, and wildlife that would likely result from drilling have also not been adequately assessed. (*Washington Post*, February 18, 2004)

Once again, this shows the great extent to which the Bush administration favors industry and corporate interests over protecting the country’s natural resources and environment. The administration’s recent attempts to open the adjacent Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil exploration and drilling, which failed after the Senate rejected the plan, is yet another example. (Corporate pressure is wielded on a non-partisan basis, however, as illustrated by the Clinton administration’s yielding to oil companies in the late 1990s by re-opening eastern parts of the Preserve to drilling after decades of inactivity in the region.)

Although this region has extensive oil reserves and currently supplies about 20% of the oil produced by the U.S., it is a small fraction of what the country consumes annually, as is all domestic oil production. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates that there is only about half-a-year’s supply of cost-efficient oil in the entire 23.5 million acre Preserve. In short, we are and will remain dependent on foreign nations for most of our oil supply needs, as is the case with most other industrialized countries, and we don’t seem to be in too much of a hurry to develop alternative energy sources. Moreover, almost no effort seems to be made domestically to curb oil consumption – we’ve added many more vehicles per family on roads, and vehicles have gotten larger, heavier, and less fuel-efficient, with GM’s new, quasi-military “Hummer” a particularly egregious example.

- Brickbats to the Bush administration for further encouraging global pollution through the Bush Corporate Energy Policy, which provides a “tax loophole that gives deductions of up to \$100,000 for the purchase of Hummers and other SUVs over 6,000 lbs.” (*Old Dominion Sierra*, January/February 2004).

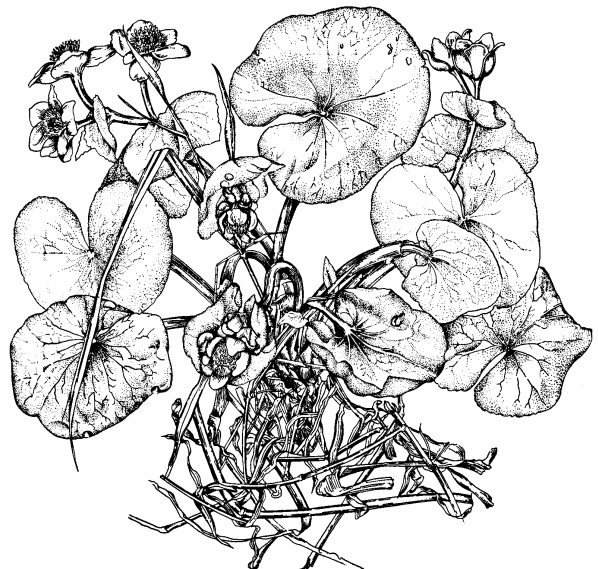
Marsh Marigold or Cowslip
(*Caltha palustris*)

Kudos

- Kudos to the Southern Appalachian Region of the U.S. Forest Service for conducting and publishing the results of a recent opinion survey concerning the management goals and future of public forests in the region. Many residents in the vicinities of Jefferson and Washington National Forests were polled, including the “so-called ‘silent majority’ who do not or cannot attend the public meetings held during the forest planning process.”

The majority of opinions ranked the following as highest priorities: “maintaining the forests for future generations; protecting sources of clean water; protecting wildlife and habitats; leaving the forests in a natural appearance; protecting trees to emphasize healthy forests; and protecting old-growth forests.” At the bottom of the list in terms of importance or value were “providing an abundant timber supply; grazing; providing raw materials and products for industries; gold prospecting and dredging; expanding access for motorized off-highway vehicles, and allowing commercial leasing of oil and gas rights.” (*Old Dominion Sierra*, January/February 2004)

- Kudos to Cambridge, Maryland resident and attorney Douglas G. Worrall, who was recently honored at the Maryland Environmental Trust’s “100,000 Acre Celebration,” for his “long-standing commitment” to land preservation. Worrall was instrumental in establishing the very earliest conservation easements in Baltimore County in the later 1970s, including the granting of an easement on his family’s farm (*The Star Democrat*, November 2, 2003).





Maryland Native Plant Society

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