

Native News

Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

May/June 2004

Volume 4 Number 3

Inside This Issue:

President's Letter
Page 2

~

MNPS Contacts
Page 2

~

Recent Board Actions
Page 3

~

Chapter Events & Updates
Page 3

~

Late Spring/Summer Field Trips
Page 4

~

Invasive Exotic Plant
Removal Workdays
Page 6

~

Announcements
Page 7

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

“Wildflowers of the Central Appalachians”

Tuesday, May 25, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Join Barbara and Victor Medina, authors of *Central Appalachian Wildflowers* and *Southern Appalachian Wildflowers*, for a presentation on spring and early summer wildflowers of the Appalachians, some of which can be found in the piedmont and coastal plain as well. Barbara is an environmental educator and founder and first president of the Maryland Native Plant Society. Copies of Barbara and Victor's two books will also be available for signing.

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.

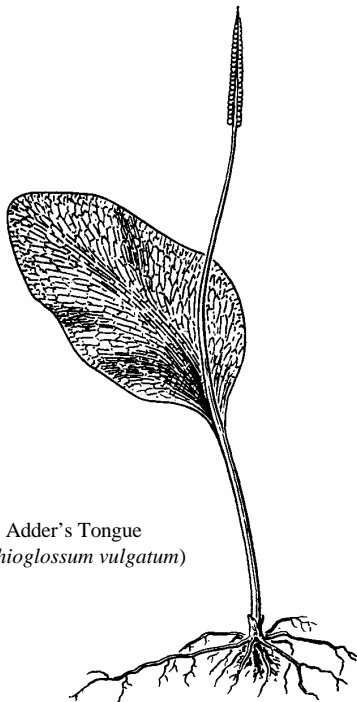
“Ferns of Maryland”

Tuesday, June 29, 7:30 pm

Aspen Hill Library

Joe Metzger, Maryland botanist, will give a presentation on the many species of native ferns found throughout Maryland, in a variety of habitats from coastal plain lowlands to rocky cliffs of the Appalachians. Joe will also discuss their life histories, with an emphasis on field identification. In addition to the presentation, Joe, Dwight Johnson, and Rod Simmons will lead field trips to different locations within the state that have a variety of ferns (see field trip pages in this issue; Joe's trip will be announced at the meeting). Several species of ferns will be available for sale at the meeting.

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.



Adder's Tongue
(*Ophioglossum vulgatum*)

Native News



P.O. Box 4877
Silver Spring, MD 20914
www.mdflora.org

Contacts:

Botany..... Rod Simmons
cecropial3@msn.com
Conservation..... Lou Aronica
202-722-1081
Field Trips..... Meghan Tice
fieldtrips@mdflora.org
301-809-0139
Flora of Maryland..... Joe Metzger
jmetzger50@hotmail.com
Habitat Stewardship..... Marc Imlay
ialm@erols.com
Membership..... Chris Partain
memberships@mdflora.org
Monthly Meetings..... Rod Simmons
meetings@mdflora.org
301-809-0139
Outreach..... Carolyn Fulton
cofulton@chesapeake.net
President..... Karyn Molines
kmolines@chesapeake.net
Publications:
Marilandica..... Rod Simmons
marilandica@mdflora.org
Native News..... Meghan Tice
nativenews@mdflora.org
Website..... James MacDonald
jmacdon@toad.net

Executive Officers:

Karyn Molines, President
Marc Imlay, Vice President
John Parrish, Vice President
Roderick Simmons, Vice President
Jane Osburn, Secretary
Beth Johnson, Treasurer

Board of Directors:

Lou Aronica James MacDonald
Carole Bergmann Mike McQuade
Lisa Bierer-Garrett Joe Metzger, Jr.
Jean Cantwell Chris Partain
Cris Fleming Mary Pat Rowan
Carolyn Fulton Sara Tangren
Jane Hill Meghan Tice
Ann Lundy

President's Letter

Greetings,

The first weekend of spring was forecast to be cool with a chance of rain. It was one of my first weekends in almost three years when I had no looming deadline for class projects, papers, or reading. (I did have my President's Letter looming, but never mind that!) I still had a month of classes to go, but the temptation of exploring and getting outside was too great to resist. Fortunately, Rod Simmons had planned a hike for Chapman Forest on the exact day I had free! So, Gary and I packed a lunch and rain gear and traveled to western Charles County. When we arrived, a crowd was waiting, some long-time MNPS members, a few new ones, and a few nonmembers (should I say 'soon-to-be?'). I was surprised that two friends from my Jug Bay life were there, having seen the trip advertised in the Pennysaver. The only one missing was Rod. Shortly after 10, Rod and Meghan pulled up and apologized—they were meeting at another location where a second group was heading off to explore Araby Bog, a unique habitat threatened by massive housing developments (more on that in a future President's Letter).

The hike itself was easy, heading along the Coastal Woodland Trail, down a stream valley, and along the Potomac River. A few glimpses of spring ephemerals, soon to emerge from winter's dormancy, were scattered in the leaves. Even the bunches of garlic mustard had a hard time distracting me from the beauty of the forest (it actually added a spicy aroma as we pulled up the rosettes along the trail). The diversity of trees kept us on our toes, learning from Rod how to identify the trees by bark. Similar to real estate, *location, location, location* helped define which species it was likely to be.

As a naturalist, I had as much fun exploring all the facets of Chapman Forest. Butterflies—spring azures, sulphurs, and anglewings—were frequent sightings along the trails. Since I often had my eyes on the ground in search of all things great and small, my ears were constantly alert. The "usual suspects" of winter birds seemed to follow our group, and then I heard a vaguely familiar call from high in the trees. Was it a straggler Junco? Soon, Gary found a Pine Warbler, an early spring migrant, just in from Central or South America. What a great treat to hear this in early spring. During lunch, we were treated to Bald Eagles soaring overhead, and later along the trail a Red-headed Woodpecker. A pair of Common Mergansers was a beautiful sight swimming and diving in the Potomac.

Of course springtime is mating season for many amphibians and in the distance we could hear American Toads, Spring Peepers, and Southern Leopard Frogs. Eventually we came upon a Toad heading to join his mates—he was very docile and allowed us to hold him (with only a few agitated chirps) to see all the identifying features indicating American, rather than Fowlers. But the best sighting was when Kevin Kirchner questioned Rod about which snakes were found on Chapman. Amazingly enough, almost where Kevin was standing, Rod spotted one, so lethargic we thought it was a Black Rat Snake. Kevin successfully captured the snake, allowing us to positively identify it as a Black Racer, a new species for Chapman's fauna list.

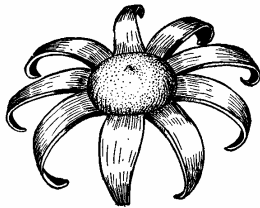
Oh, and the plants. Mayapple seedlings hinted at what was to come in the next month or so. A Jack-in-the-Pulpit was fully leaved out, but no flower. And the Skunk Cabbage! The many seeps and springs along the creek were prime habitat for one of my favorite flowers. Its leaves were such a vibrant green compared to the drab browns and grays of the leaf litter. As the day progressed and the sun broke through the clouds, the Spring Beauties opened their petals to the warming rays. Yet, the true beauties of Chapman Forest are the majestic trees. The giant Tulip Trees at the stream headwaters, Cherry Bark Oak (how do you tell it from the Southern Red Oak?), and the biggest Cottonwood I've ever seen.

Native News

President's Letter Continued...

This trip was the best way to spend a Sunday; everyone spotted something interesting to share. This trip truly epitomized one of the greatest aspects of the Society—exploring and appreciating Maryland's natural heritage. And, need I mention, it was the efforts of MNPS members, and many other local activists, that enabled Chapman Forest to be preserved as a state park.

This issue is packed full of field trips and meetings, at least one should fit into even the busiest of schedules. I hope to make it out to more field trips once I graduate in May. Until then—



Earth Star

Enjoy spring,

Karyn Molines

Recent Board Actions

In January, the Board held our annual planning meeting. In the morning, we reviewed the past year's events and brainstormed ideas for the coming year. Here are some examples of projects we will try to accomplish this year and the board members to contact.

- * Develop a brochure for Rock Creek Park and other parks using existing trail markers to highlight the native plants of the area. Mary Pat Rowan, Jane Hill, and Lisa Garrett
- * Co-sponsoring hikes with other organizations, such as the Maryland Ornithological Society and the Washington Area Butterfly Club, to share our knowledge and learn from each other. Jane Hill, Marc Imlay, Beth Johnson
- * Offer some new membership promotion events, such as socials or picnics, and design bumper stickers or decals promoting native plants (any suggestions for snappy messages?) Chris Partain, Lisa Garrett
- * Develop a membership outreach brochure. Carolyn Fulton
- * Form a new "Growers Committee" to foster our relationship with local native plant nurseries, investigate whether MNPS should hold plant sales, what the pros and cons would be, and how this fits within our mission. Sara Tangren, Jane Osburn, Mike McQuade, Ann Lundy, Mary Pat Rowan

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, May 26, 6:30 pm at Brookside Gardens. All members are welcome to attend these meetings. Contact Jane Osburn or Chris Partain for directions. Future Board meetings are tentatively scheduled for July 18 or 19, September 19 or 20, and November 21 or 22. Contact Jane Osburn to confirm date, time, and location.

Chapter Events & Updates

Greater Baltimore Chapter Events

Tour Jerry Hudgens' Fern Dell Garden on Sunday, May 16.

Greater Baltimore Chapter's May Program

Date: Wednesday, May 19 **Time:** 7:30 pm

Location: Irvine Nature Center

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

Dwight Johnson will lead a fern walk on June 27.

Our July meeting will be on July 21 at 7:30 pm at Irvine Nature Center and will be a propagation workshop for native plants. [Please see field trip pages for more info.]

Washington, D.C. Chapter Acts as Valuable Resource

The Maryland Native Plant Society's mission reflects a concern for Maryland's plants, yet we have come to adopt an ecological perspective on native habitats. Ecosystems rarely follow political jurisdictions. The ecology of Washington, D.C. illustrates this—it is one point along the Piedmont-Fall Line-Coastal Plain continuum. A few years ago, a Washington, D.C. chapter was formed to focus on the conservation issues within the city. The actions of our WDC members, specifically Lou Aronica and Mary Pat Rowan, have resulted in some important outcomes. Over the years they have led close to forty excursions to the Civil War Forts and surround lands. This continuous study resulted in the discovery of terrace gravel communities relatively free from non-native species. Because of the knowledge gained from these field trips, Mary Pat and Lou are writing an article for a National Park Service publication about the Civil War Forts. The Chapter has been invited to serve on the Steering Committee of the Green Infrastructure Forum to promote low-impact development and natural landscaping as a method for reducing urban pollution into the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers. In addition, they have been working with Casey Tree Foundation, whose mission focuses on the city's trees. MNPS is advising the Foundation on appropriate native tree species and encouraging a perspective that goes beyond the street trees. Those of you who live or work in Washington, D.C. are encouraged to become involved in issues critical to preserving the 'urban forest' that comprises the city. Please contact Mary Pat Rowan at blair-rowan@starpower.net or 202-526-8821 about upcoming Civil War Fort trips or other opportunities to help the Chapter.

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

Native News

Late Spring/Summer Field Trips

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

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

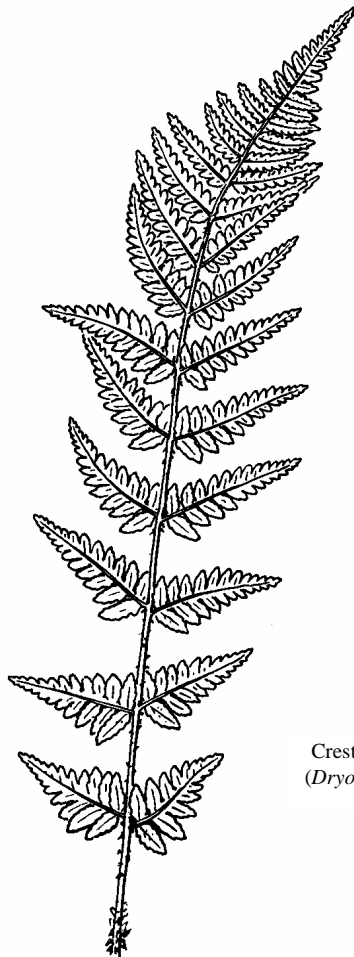
Date: Sunday, May 2 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

On 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 Minnesota Ave to Randall Circle. Or, take I-295 from the beltway north to Pennsylvania Avenue SE and turn north on Minnesota 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.



Crested Wood Fern
(*Dryopteris cristata*)

Wildflower Farm Tour

Leader: Sara Tangren

Date: Saturday, May 15 (3rd Saturday of each month)

Time: 3:00 pm

Celebrate spring at a 5-acre wildflower farm in Davidsonville, Maryland! See over 70 species of flowers and grasses native to the Chesapeake watershed. In bloom: balsam groundsel, arrow-leaf violet, primrose-leaf violet, blue sedge. You are likely to see monarch and fritillary caterpillars, and many species of pollinators!

Directions: From Route 50 Take the Riva Road/Arris T. Allen Blvd. exit. Make sure to get onto the Riva Road exit ramp. Turn right onto Riva Road and travel 3.8 miles. Turn left onto Aisquith Farm Road. Go to the white oval sign that says Chesapeake Native Nursery and follow the bend to the right. Follow the colored streamers to near the end of the farm fields, follow the bend in the road to your left. As you emerge from the woods you will see a square brown sign. Turn right toward the two barns (one collapsed). Follow the streamers to the other side of the barns and park along the road as you like.

Note: Call regarding postponement due to weather, rain date May 22nd, 3:00 pm.

Contact: Sara Tangren, 301-580-6237 and 301-270-4534.

Spring Flowers

Leader: Karyn Molines

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.

Fern Dell, Churchville

Leader: Jerry Hudgens

Date: Sunday, May 16 **Time:** 1:30 – 3:30 pm

For more than 30 years, MNPS member Jerry Hudgens has been creating a 4-acre woodland and streamside garden in Harford County. Jerry has blended native and exotic shade-loving plants with extraordinary knowledge and artistry, distilling the beauty of nature into its essence. Don't miss this opportunity to see an exceptional range of late spring native wildflowers and ferns in a wild garden setting and to learn from a true Master Gardener.

Contact: For directions to Fern Dell (about 45 min. from the

Native News

north side of Baltimore), contact Ann Lundy at 410-366-9365 or aplundy@attglobal.net.

Carpool Info: Contact Louisa Thompson 410-707-2550 or louisathompson@erols.com (email preferred).

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.

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (35th in the Series)

Date: Sunday, June 6 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

For details, please see May's trip.

Ferns of Chapman Forest

Leader: Rod Simmons

Date: Sunday, June 13 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

We will walk a beautiful section of mature, coastal plain lowland forest on the largely unexplored south tract of Chapman Forest near Mattawoman Creek. We should see Adder's Tongue Fern, Crested Wood Fern, Broad Beech Fern, and extensive colonies of Hay-scented, New York, and Lady Ferns, as well as others.

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. There's an open house; park/meet in field at far end from Mt. Aventine home.

Bring: Lunch and water.

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

Contact: Rod cecropia13@msn.com or 301-809-0139.

Wildflower Farm Tour

Leader: Sara Tangren

Date: Saturday, June 19 (3rd Saturday of each month)

Time: 3:00 pm

June is an exciting time to visit Chesapeake Native Nursery's 5-acre wildflower farm. In bloom: hyssop skullcap, foxglove beardtongue, Carolina rose, prickly pear, whorled coreopsis,

butterfly milkweed, common milkweed, and more.

Bottlebrush grass is especially beautiful in June, as the new white ears have just emerged. Blue sedge will have seed heads. You are likely to see monarch and fritillary caterpillars, and many species of pollinators!

Directions: Please see May 15 trip above.

Note: Call re postponement due to weather. No rain date; next tour is July 17th at 5:00 pm.

Contact: Sara Tangren, 301-580-6237 and 301-270-4534.

Flower Power

Leader: Jamie Zambo

Date: Saturday, June 19 **Time:** 10:00 am – Noon

Come explore our field and learn about pollination and the important role butterflies and bees play in making new flowers. Also learn how to attract butterflies to your own backyard! This program is designed for families--all ages welcome.

Note: There is an Entrance Fee to the park: \$3 adults/\$2 children. Reservations are required.

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

Tree Identification & Habitat Survey Training

Date: Saturday, June 19 (+weekdays in June)

Time: Noon – 4:00 pm

Volunteers team up to survey the habitats at the Glendening Preserve and identify and measure the trees in 10-m plots using an easy to learn method. Regardless of your plant knowledge, there's a job for everyone! Please call for exact dates and times of the weekday trainings. A great project for a home school family. Participants meet at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary's Wetland Center and carpool to the Preserve.

Bring: Binoculars, hand lens, water. Wear sturdy shoes for walking off trails.

Note: Children should 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.

Ferns on the Gunpowder, Gunpowder State Park – Kingsville (Perry Hall) Area

Leader: Dwight Johnson

Date: Sunday, June 27 **Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Learn about common and some not so common ferns along the Gunpowder River in Kingsville. We will explore three different paths, each about one mile long. You can choose to explore as many as you want. Most of the ferns will be on the first path but the more rare ferns will be on the next two. The path will be flat, easy walking.

Directions: We will meet at the parking lot is on the east side of US Rt. 1 (Belair Rd) at the Gunpowder River 5.4 miles north of Interstate 695 (Baltimore Beltway) Exit 32.

Bring: Lunch and water.

Contact: Dwight Johnson 410-366-7239.

Invasive Exotic Plant Removal Workdays

Greenbelt National Park, Prince George's Co.

Dates: First Saturdays, monthly (May 1, June 5, July 3)
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 (May 2, June 6)
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 (May 15 and June 19)

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.

Washington/Allegany Counties Sideling Hill Creek Weedbuster Workday

Date: Saturday, May 15 **Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

The target will be barren bromegrass (*Bromus sterilis*), a troublesome exotic that threatens to displace some of the rare plants that occur only on shale barrens. Test your billy (or nanny) goat skills as we work on a sometimes steep and rocky slope of the Bellegrove Shale Barren. We will be pulling the invasive; herbicide is not involved.

Contact: Meredith Malone, Conservation Steward, The Nature Conservancy, mmalone@tnc.org or 301-897-8570.

Washington County, Licking Creek Weedbuster Workday

Date: Thursday, June 17 **Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

There is a large but manageable infestation of *Ailanthus altissima*, the tree-of-heaven (also known as the "tree from hell" among land managers), just uphill from a rare limestone forest community. Our continuing goal has been to extirpate this non-native invasive so that its seeds don't drop downhill and degrade the rare plant habitat. For two years we have conducted "hack and squirt" treatments on the larger trees with great success. This year our task will be foliar spraying of new growth with herbicide.

Contact: Meredith Malone, Conservation Steward, The Nature Conservancy, mmalone@tnc.org or 301-897-8570.

There is an on-going movement to educate folks about garlic mustard. In an effort to eliminate and control the spread of further growth of this plant at Patapsco State Park, the Friends of the Patapsco Heritage and Greenway and Patapsco State Park sponsor an annual "Garlic Mustard Challenge." This year the challenge will be held in the Avalon area, off of US Route 1, just north of Elkridge, Sunday, May 2, 1-5 pm.

Announcements

Olmsted Woods Walks

Friday, May 7 and Saturday, May 8, 2:00 pm-- **Flower Mart** -- Take a relaxing walk in the Woods to learn more about the restoration project, including planting plans, water management, and amphitheater restoration.

Thursday, May 13, 10:00 am-- **What's Blooming?** -- On this tour, we'll take a look at what's blooming in the Olmsted Woods. Cathedral horticultural staff will focus on wildflowers, groundcovers and shrubs in late spring. Please note a Bird Walk precedes this tour. Leader: Anne Elsbree, Project Co-Chair.

Thursday, May 20, 10:00 am-- **Restoration Update** -- Come wander the Woods, with a stop on the Woodland Bridge, and a visit to the outdoor amphitheater. Please note a Bird Walk precedes this tour. Leaders: Anne Elsbree and Dede Petri, Project Co-Chairs.

Thursday, June 17, 10:00 am-- **Tree Identification** -- As the summer solstice approaches, we will focus once again on how to identify the many trees in the Olmsted Woods. A staff member will lead this tour.

Bird Walks

As the Woods undergoes restoration, a guiding principle is the inclusion of groundcovers, shrubs, and trees attractive to birds and other wildlife. Please join experienced birder Sheila Cochran at the George Washington Statue. Wear sturdy shoes and don't forget your binoculars!

Bird Walks Schedule: Thursday, May 13 and Thursday, May 20 at 9:00 am. *For the tours:* Please wear sturdy waterproof shoes. Unless otherwise noted, participants should meet at the George Washington Statue on Pilgrim Road. *No reservations are required and all programs are free.* Programs will be cancelled in the event of heavy rain.

Questions: Call the Woodlands Info Line 202-537-2319. Visitors are asked to remember that trampling harms the restoration effort. All Hallows Guild was founded in 1916 to provide for the care and beautification of the gardens and grounds of Washington National Cathedral.

Solar Home & Residential Conservation Landscape Tour

Leaders: Mr. Mike Tidwell, Executive Director of Chesapeake Climate Action Network; Ms. Jenny Reed, M.A.L.D. of Gardens by Design; Dr. Sara Tangren of Chesapeake Native Nursery

See how the Tidwell-Varchaver family has converted one of Takoma Park's historic bungalows into Maryland's only 95% renewable energy household, all for less than the cost of one cup of coffee per day! Tour includes solar power, corn furnace, alternative fuel cars, solar-baked cookies, tofu-powered lawn mower, and more! Conservation landscaping installation began in the winter. Talk with the designer, see locally native flowers and grasses in a formal front yard, learn about rain barrels, and tour unfinished side and back

yards to learn about some of our area's most intransigent invasive plants!

Date: Saturday, May 8

Time: First tour starts at 11:00 am, last tour starts at 3:30 pm
Directions: Metro Rail-Takoma Station exit and walk 3 blocks east along Carroll Ave, left on Willow Ave, 4th house on right. From D.C.-16th Street N to Aspen. Right on Aspen under the Metro Bridge; 2nd left onto Willow St. At the 1st light, right on Carroll Ave and immediate left onto Willow Ave; 4th house on right. From Beltway-New Hampshire Ave, right at light onto Piney Branch, left at next light onto Carroll Ave. Follow Carroll until you're almost in downtown Takoma Park and take a right on Tulip Ave. Next left onto Willow Ave, 3rd house on left.

Note: Landscape portion of tour cancelled if steady rain.

Contact: Mike Tidwell mwtidwell@aol.com 301-270-3722.

Brookside Gardens Events

1800 Glenallan Avenue, Wheaton, MD 20902

The new guide to programs and events at Brookside Gardens is now available. Call us at 301-962-1400 to be placed on the mailing list, or visit us at www.brooksidegardens.org.

Wings of Fancy Butterfly Show Opening Day Celebration

Welcome the butterflies with a colorful painted face (compliments of our face-painter), hear a butterfly story, and make a butterfly craft on this special opening day of Brookside Gardens' live butterfly exhibit. Saturday, May 8, Noon – 4:00 pm. This "celebration" in the Visitors Center Children's Classroom is Free; no registration required.

(Admission fees for Butterfly Show in the Conservatory still apply.) Call 301-962-1400 or visit the web for more information. The "Wings of Fancy" Live Butterfly Show runs May 8 – September 19 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm daily. Be surrounded by butterflies flying freely amidst a colorful garden of tropical flowering nectar plants. Learn about the butterfly life cycle. Observe exotic tropical butterflies from Costa Rica in addition to native Maryland species. Fees: \$4 adults; \$3 ages 3-12. Groups of 10 or more by appointment only, call 301-962-1408 for reservations. We regret that we are not able to accommodate strollers in the Butterfly Show. Brookside Gardens South Conservatory. Call the Butterfly Show hotline at 301-962-1453.

Focus on Butterflies! Don't miss this opportunity to have the butterfly show to yourself – almost! On these special mornings, a limited number of photographers will be welcomed (with their tripods) into the conservatory to photograph Brookside's remarkable butterflies prior to the show opening to the public. Enjoy a quiet morning in the conservatory, when the light is perfect and the butterflies are just becoming active – they're likely to be basking or perched this early in the day. A limit of 10 photographers will be allowed into the conservatory for these unique offerings. Photo Opportunity: Saturday, May 22, 8-10:00am. Fee: \$20; registration required. Call 301-962-1451 or visit the web for more information.

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. Events

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.

Spring Kayak Tour

May 22, 12:00 – 6:00pm, Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center, Grasonville

Instructor: Daniel Firehawk— Descendant of Nanticoke Tribe

Join Daniel in a physical and spiritual journey viewing the Eastern Shore's marsh-lined waterways from the First People's perspective. Along the way we will learn about native uses of plants, native hunting and fishing techniques, native trade paths, and more. Light refreshments will follow.

Cost: \$50 non-members/\$35 members
Call To Register – Spaces Are Limited

Spring Basket Workshop

June TBA, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, EC, St. Michaels

In spring as we loosen our coats in preparation for short sleeves, the trees loosen their bark in preparation for growth. This is the time to harvest the bark needed to cover native houses – and create baskets, perfect to hold the juicy berries of the season to come. Learn to build a bark basket from bark harvest to berry picking in this exciting two-day workshop. Lunch is included. Cost: \$50 non-members \$35 members

Wetland Law and Policy – May 20-21

Course Instructor – Dr. Royal Gardner

\$375 non-members \$335 members

Wetland Botany for Non-Botanists – June 11

Course Instructor – Bill Sipple

\$230 non-members \$200 members

Wetland Vegetative Sampling – July 27-29

Course Instructor – Bill Sipple

\$650 non-members \$585 members

Open House – June 12 – Environmental Concern welcomes native plant enthusiasts to an open house. Come visit and tour the nation's first wholesale wetland plant nursery. See how many of the over 100 species you can identify. Learn

about integrated pest and nutrient management options. Plants will be offered for sale. Fun wetland games for the kids. Bring the whole family! For more information please contact Bronwyn Mitchell, Education Director, at dir.educate@wetland.org.

Solar Home and Residential Conservation Landscape

You are needed to help with a demonstration conservation landscape project at historic Takoma Park bungalow, now Maryland's only 95% renewable energy household, toured by over 1,000 people each year. Landscape installation began with the front yard in the winter. See blue sedge, foxglove beardtongue, blueberries, narrow-leaf mountain mint, and more used in a formal setting! We will begin preparing the side and backyards for landscaping, and conduct any maintenance needed in front yard. Designer Jenny Reed and native plant expert Dr. Sara Tangren will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about this project (or one in your own yard) as we work.

Dates: June 12; August 14; December 11

Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm for June and August (Dec. 12-3)

Directions: Please see May 8th event above.

Bring: Water, gloves, trowel, garden scissors, or other favorite garden tools.

Note: If morning rain, postponed to 4-7 pm.

Contact: Sara Tangren 301-270-4534, CALL TO CONFIRM.

The 55th annual meeting of **The Lepidopterists' Society** will be held during July 14-18 in College Park. It will be jointly sponsored by: the Entomology group of the National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian), the Systematic Entomology Lab of USDA, and the Entomology Department of the University of Maryland. Field trips will be organized by: the Maryland Entomological Society and the Washington Area Butterfly Club. To see full information and to obtain a registration form, go to:

<http://alpha.furman.edu/~snyder/lep/meet.htm>.

Clarification:

In the last issue of *Native News*, an insert for the Home and Garden Show was included, and some people have questioned why it was included. We apologize if the flyer was not clear in informing members that the Greater Baltimore Chapter had an MNPS booth and native plant exhibit. The Chapter included this flyer so that they would see many friends at the Show and encourage those who appreciate native plants to come support the few native plant exhibitors who were there. In the future, we'll try and make sure these sorts of inserts clearly indicate why MNPS is mailing them to our members.

We often receive requests from other organizations for our mailing list so that they can mail information that may be of interest to our members. BUT, *MNPS does not lend, share, sell, or give away our membership information*. Our long-standing policy is that if the Board determines that this information may be useful to our members, MNPS will mail the information to our members.