

Native News

Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

July/August 2004

Volume 4 Number 4

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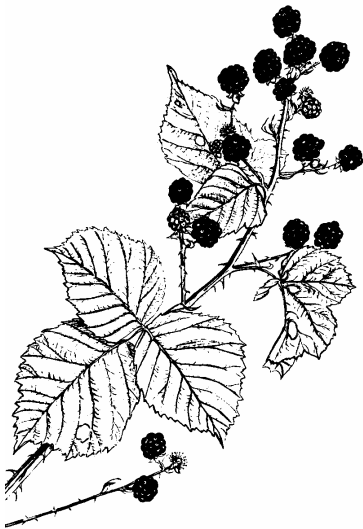
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Blackberries – a favorite summertime treat.

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

“Invasive and other Non-Native Plants in the Washington, D.C. Region”

Tuesday, July 27, 7:30 pm

Aspen Hill Library

Beth Wells, George Washington University Botany Professor, will give a fascinating presentation on the history of invasive exotic plants in our area. Most wild plants of the Washington, D.C. region are readily characterized as native (naturally occurring), or as non-native (only because of direct or indirect human intervention, also called exotic, alien, or non-indigenous), with a few interesting cases such as the black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) still being debated. Many additional kinds of plants from other lands have been grown in the Washington area for gardening and landscaping, agriculture, forestry, and other purposes, and yet others have arrived accidentally as weeds. However, once escaped, wild non-native plants can be further dispersed by wind, animals, and other means, as are native plants. The history of exotic plants in our region, including their folklore and medicinal uses will also be discussed.

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.

“The Native Oaks of Maryland”

Tuesday, August 31, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Join John Parrish, botanist and MNPS Vice President, for an informative presentation on the diversity of oaks in Maryland. John will discuss identification techniques, natural ranges, and habitats of nearly three dozen species of oaks in Maryland, including the many natural hybrids.

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.

Native News



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President's Letter

Greetings,

"*The health of our waters is the principal measure of how we live on the land.*"
~ Luna Leopold

Summer is in full swing—time to explore the meadows and wetlands that flourish in hot and humid weather. Summer is when we fully appreciate the forests and the grand trees that provide cooling shade. The temptation to laze in the shade of a towering oak is great, but we've got some important work to do. Planning is under way for our 12th Annual Fall Conference at the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons, hosted by the Southern Maryland Chapter. Each year the Society holds the conference to highlight the important natural heritage of a region, while connecting the local history (both human and environmental) with the larger environmental issues facing the mid-Atlantic region. This year's theme is "Pieces of the Puzzle: Connecting Land, Water and the Bay," with an emphasis on watersheds. As the quote above succinctly captures, water quality and land management are intertwined. This conference will attempt to bridge the terrestrial and aquatic systems, exploring how the interactions of surface and groundwater influence the waters of the Chesapeake.

Southern Maryland is identified by the waters that frame the land; the Chesapeake Bay on the east, the Potomac River on the west, and the Patuxent River which bisects it. Many communities arose because of water-based economies: Port Tobacco, Broome's Island, and Golden Beach. In recent years, land development has increased, changing the rural water and agricultural character to 'bedroom communities' for Washington, D.C. commuters. Protection and conservation of undeveloped land within Southern Maryland have become forefront issues of county governments and local communities.

Every week articles in the *Washington Post* and *Baltimore Sun* lament the state of the Bay—declining SAV beds; nitrogen pollution from septic systems and waste water treatment plants; discoveries of detrimental invasive species like snakeheads. Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia have taken the crucial steps to set water quality goals and criteria for healthy waters. The real challenge, though, is taking actions to accomplish these objectives. The water in the Chesapeake Bay is a reflection of our actions on land—excess sediment eroding from farms and construction sites; fertilizer runoff from lawns and gardens; nitrogen input from car exhaust and aging sewer systems.

Must we accept the degradation of the Bay as the price for the need for new houses and economic development? The Society has chosen to work to maintain functioning ecosystems on land that will ultimately result in protecting the Bay. Your membership, participating in meetings and field trips, and informing your friends and neighbors about the value of native plants and the importance of habitat protection all play a role in this lofty goal.

Please join us in the many field trips, meetings, and other efforts to educate others and ourselves about the amazing natural heritage that surrounds us all.

Until next time,

Karyn Molines

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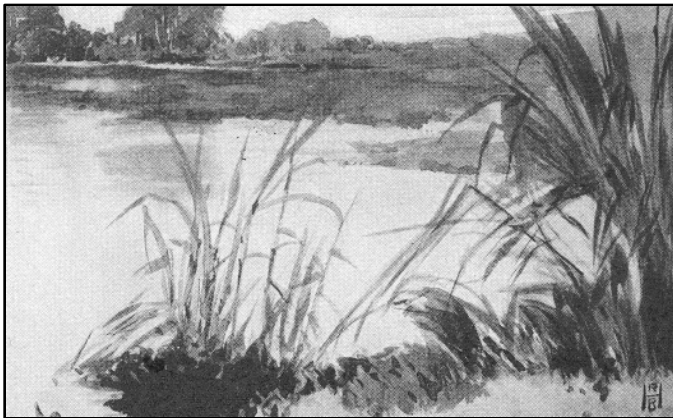
MNPS Announcements

Board meetings are open to all members of the Society. Future Board meetings are tentatively scheduled for July 18 or 19, September 19 or 20, and November 21 or 22. The exact day, time, and place to be determined. Please contact Jane Osburn, Secretary (see below), or Karyn Molines, President, for more information.

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: develop, implement, monitor, and strengthen the Society's programs and services; enhance and promote the Society's public standing; identify and promote appropriate policies and evaluate our ability to meet objectives; serve on at least one Committee; attend four of the six Board meetings.

In addition to Directors, we're seeking nominations for President. 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. If you feel you or someone you know has these skills, please contact Jane Osburn, Secretary. Call Jane at 301-754-1564 or email jgosburn@earthlink.net.



MNPS Summer Picnic – Saturday, July 31!

Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary River Farm
Come socialize with other MNPS members at this beautiful, waterside location. Folks are welcome to arrive early if they want to enter through the main gate of the Sanctuary, hike the trails, and then drive to the River Farm. Please see Summer Field Trips page 5 for more info.

Chapter Events & Updates

Catoctin Chapter Workshops

July date; 10:00 am, 1:00 pm
Joe Metzger will conduct two workshops on how to identify ferns, one in the morning, another in the afternoon. Registration Required. Contact Joe Metzger 410-775-7737. For more details visit: www.mdflora.org.

Eastern Shore Chapter

The Eastern Shore Chapter met on Kent Island in April to hear a wonderful presentation on spring ephemerals by Mary Stuart Sierra of Lower Marlboro Nursery. The canoe trip on Tuckahoe Creek in May was well attended. Although the azalea flowers had passed already and there were no fringe trees to be seen, the *Viburnum dentatum*, elderberry, and blue flag iris were in full flower. Our next field trip will be a boat trip out to the Poplar Island restoration project in the Chesapeake Bay. This is an ambitious project to restore an island using dredge spoils. They are planting native vegetation and putting particular emphasis on creating bird habitat. This trip is limited by boat capacity and so is by reservation only -- reserve your space today!

[Please see field trip info on page 6]

Greater Baltimore Chapter Programs

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, July 21 at 7:30 pm at Irvine Nature Center. Our speaker will be Dwight Johnson who will talk about "Ferns Native to Maryland." He will talk about the variety of native ferns, their identification, and their habitats. There will be potted specimens available and slides of ferns in the wild. The Chapter's September meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, September 15 at Irvine. Our speaker will be Sue Dieter of Heartwood Nursery in Monkton, MD. She will talk about propagating native woody plants and do a hands-on demonstration of propagation techniques.

The Steering Committee of the Greater Baltimore Chapter is looking for more members to help plan meetings and field trips and run the Chapter. We will also be planning the fall 2005 conference for the Maryland Native Plant Society. If you are interested in helping out, we meet at 6:00 pm at Irvine Nature Center for pizza before the Chapter meeting. For more information, contact Ann Lundy at aplundy@attglobal.net or 410-366-9365.

Native News Deadlines:

July 25	September/October Early Autumn Issue
Sept 25	November/December Late Autumn/Holidays Issue
Nov 25	January/February Winter Issue
Jan 25	March/April Early Spring Issue
March 25	May/June Late Spring Issue
May 25	July/August Summer Issue

Native News

Brickbats

Brickbats & Kudos

Kudos

- Brickbats to the Bush administration for lopsidedly favoring natural resource exploitation (as always) over sustainable conservation by “changing the rules on protecting wild salmon” in the Pacific Northwest. In a recent decision that favors large corporations, the administration will count hundreds of millions of hatchery salmon when “deciding whether endangered wild salmon deserve federal protection.” By counting hatchery-bred fish with wild salmon, it is expected that several species will lose their federal endangered or threatened status (*Washington Post*, May 7, 2004). Throughout the past four years as the current administration has consistently tried to set back decades of environmental progress, federal courts have often been (thankfully) the last resort in upholding long-standing laws. However, we shouldn’t expect that to necessarily continue or to be a failsafe.

- Brickbats to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Transportation Planning Board (COG) for voting to include the Inter County Connector (ICC) with several other projects being studied for their effects on regional air quality. Despite a large number of comments requesting that the ICC’s effect on regional air quality be studied on its own, the COG planning board voted to include it with other projects, which will greatly affect the overall analysis and mislead the public as to its real threat on our air quality. (*ICC: Perspective*, June 2004)

Chestnut Blight Spreading

The United States Department of Agriculture warns owners of chestnut timber immediately to consider salvaging their trees suitable for poles and tannic acid manufacture, in view of the fact that the chestnut blight, a fungus growth, is continuing to spread rapidly through the Southern States. All but 14 of the chestnut producing counties of Virginia have 80% or more of the trees infected or killed, and other states have been invaded similarly.

The above text was taken from *Nature Magazine*, January 1928, published by The American Nature Association, their purpose being: “To Stimulate Public Interest in Every Phase of Nature and the Out-of-Doors, and Devoted to the Practical Conservation of the Great Natural Resources of America.” The American Chestnut, though once a major component of our native forests, is now long gone as a thriving, reproducing species and we now face newer threats to our native trees, such as Sudden Oak Death Syndrome, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Dogwood Anthracnose, and Emerald Ash Borers.

- Kudos to Mayor Bill Beck and the conservation-minded City Council of Fredericksburg, Virginia for putting together a plan to permanently preserve 21 miles of undeveloped land along the Rappahannock River. The city-owned property, totaling nearly 5,000 acres in size, would be sold to a coalition of land trusts for 1.3 million - far less than the land is worth. The “vast majority” of citizens at a recent hearing voiced their strong support for the proposal. Not surprisingly, opposition to the plan has been “limited mostly to pro-development forces,” including a few officials from adjacent counties. The Mayor and City Council are working on a version of the plan that will help “win more support from neighboring counties.” (*Washington Post*, May 2, 2004)

- Kudos to Stephen Syphax, Natural Resources Manager of National Capital Parks East, for upholding high standards for forest protection and management on park land in the face of complaints from some that mature forests at the Fort Circle Parks attract crime and should be thinned (*Washington City Paper*, June 11, 2004). Throughout the past year, especially after Hurricane Isabel and other storms, there have been many outrageous examples of destructive forest clearing - from power companies greatly overstressing their trimming maintenance boundaries to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors considering a plan to clear the forest understory at Ossian Hall Park in Annandale, Virginia because it may contribute to gang activity. One insane recommendation that is being considered in Stafford County, Virginia by a “new county task force on youth driving” is to cut down trees along roadsides in wooded, rural areas - “the trees close to the road should be cut down because they’re a hazard and they really scare me,” in the words of one resident urging supervisors to adopt the measure.

- Kudos to Mendocino County, California for voting to “ban genetically modified plants and animals from being grown or raised within county lines - the first law of its kind in the United States” (*Sierra*, May/June 2004). Kudos also to the state of Vermont for passing the Vermont Farmers Protection Act, which “holds the manufacturers of bioengineered crops accountable for contamination” (*Sierra*, July/August 2004). A recently completed, long-term study by British scientists on the use of pesticides on genetically engineered corn, soybeans, and cotton found that pesticide use overall “skyrocketed” after the initial pest resistance diminished and pests and weed communities adapted or became resistant. While the “biotech genie is already out of the bottle” in the United States, most European nations do not commercially allow such products (*Sierra*, May/June 2004). It is well documented that growing conventional crops, especially through organic farming practices, is far safer on the environment, more biologically diverse, and produces healthier products than genetically modified material.

Summer Field Trips

Summer Wildflower Wander

Patuxent Research Refuge, North Tract

Leader: Esther Woodworth

Date: Sunday, July 11 **Time:** 8:30 – 10:30 am

Discover the role that wildflowers play in the ecosystem and learn to identify some common species on this guided walk. The North Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge encompasses 8,100 acres that were formerly a military training area. The land was transferred from the Department of Defense to the Refuge in 1991, and it is open for public use activities that are compatible with research and wildlife management objectives. Meet at the Visitor Contact Station located at the entrance to the North Tract facility. All visitors must check in at the Station and receive an access pass.

Directions: The Contact Station is located off of Route 198, just 1.4 miles east of the Baltimore/Washington Parkway.

Bring: Water, field guide, a hat suggested, and clothing appropriate for wandering around in un-mown fields.

Note: People wanting to sign up should call 301-497-5887 and either there will be a machine to leave a message on, or occasionally an individual answers and takes down the information. Registration is required. Age 16+.

Contact: If you have questions, etc., please email Esther at Esther_Woodworth@tax.org.

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (36th in the Series)

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

Date: Sunday, July 11 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Fort Slemmer, which is not shown on most maps, is located on the campus of Catholic University near the intersection of Harewood and Taylor Streets, NE.

Directions: From the north, take North Capital Street south about 10 city blocks beyond the intersection with Missouri Ave/Riggs Rd. Turn left onto Harewood Road (at the traffic light, opposite the cemetery at the U.S. Soldiers Home). Go about 3 city blocks and veer right at the traffic light onto a continuation of Harewood Rd. Proceed about 500 ft and make the first left onto the seminary property (opposite the Ukrainian church on the right side of Harewood Road). Proceed about 300 feet and park.

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.

Wildflower Farm Tour

Leader: Sara Tangren

Date: Saturday, July 17 (3rd Saturday of each month)

Time: 5:00 pm

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 re postponement due to weather. No rain date.

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

Wetland Plant Identification

Date: Saturday, July 24 **Time:** 9:30 am – 12:00 noon

Turtleheads, cardinal flowers, and monkey flowers – just a few of the flowering plants found in tidal wetlands. Learn how to identify many of the sixty-plus species found along the boardwalks leading through the wetlands.

Bring: Hand lens, lunch, and water.

Note: Children should be at least 12. Reservations are required. Restrooms are available at the Wetlands Center.

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

Annual Members Picnic, Anne Arundel County

Date: Saturday, July 31 **Time:** 3:00 – 8:00 pm

Location: Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary River Farm

Relax in the cooling breezes of the Patuxent River during our annual picnic. Take a hike through the woods, enjoy a leisurely paddle in a canoe (if the tide is high), and meet other MNPS folks.

Directions: Please note that this is a different entrance than if you visit the Wetlands Center.

From Washington, D.C.: From the Washington Beltway (495), take Route 4 (Pennsylvania Ave) south for about 10 miles. Turn right onto Plummer Lane. In ½ mile it turns into Pindell Road. Continue on Pindell and see directions below:

From Baltimore: Take Interstate 97 south to Route 50 west/301 south. In about 7 miles take 301 south exit off of Route 50. Follow 301 south to Route 4 south. In 3 miles turn right onto Plummer Lane. In ½ mile it turns into Pindell Road. Continue straight on Pindell and see directions below:

From Annapolis: Take Route 2 South to Route 258 (About 15 miles south of Annapolis). Turn right onto Route 258. Take Route 258 4.5 mile to the end. Cross OVER Route 4 (do not get on Route 4). At stop sign, at the Park & Ride, turn left onto Wrighton Road. In one mile you'll come to the stop sign at Pindell Road. Turn left. See directions below:

From Calvert County: Take Route 4 North. Take the Route 258 Exit. At stop sign go left over Rt. 4 and continue to stop sign at Wrighton Road (near Park & Ride). At Stop sign, turn Left onto Wrighton Road. In about 1 mile, turn Left onto Pindell Road. Follow directions below:

Once on Pindell Road: Continue about 1.3 miles. The road will make a sharp left-hand curve – look for 5 mailboxes on right. Turn RIGHT into wide paved driveway after the mailboxes. Take the hairpin turn to enter the River Farm (not



the first two driveways that go to private houses). You'll see a large brown sign for River Farm. Follow the drive about a mile to the end, to the two houses, and park along driveway. Walk down to the river between the two houses to the Sweet Flag Picnic Area.

Bring: A non-perishable dish, snack, or dessert to share. MNPS will provide drinks. **Note:** Rain or shine.

Contact: Karyn Molines 410-286-2928 or kmolines@chesapeake.net (preferred).

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (37th in the Series)

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

Date: Sunday, August 1 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Bald Eagle Hill, located at the extreme southeastern edge of the District of Columbia, is not actually a Civil War Fort site, but serves as part of the green corridor between the Fort Connector and Oxon Cove in Maryland. We have visited this site twice before; this time we will examine a section on the southern side which contains grass and meadow species.

Directions: From the north, take the Anacostia Freeway (I-295) south to the South Capital Street exit. Take the exit and proceed about 1 mile to First Street, SE and turn right (just after Galveston St.). Shortly, make a right onto Joliet Street. Proceed up the hill about 2 blocks and park opposite the recreation center.

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.

Poplar Island Restoration Project

(Sponsored by the Eastern Shore Chapter)

Leaders: Wayne Bell and Carol Jelich

Date: Friday, August 6 **Time:** 9:30 am – 1:30 pm

We will travel by boat to Poplar Island to see the Poplar Island Restoration Project, which is creating a 1,140-acre island from dredged material placement, approximating the island's historic configuration in 1847. It will be interesting to see how the native vegetation and bird populations have rebounded. We will leave the MES boat dock at Tilghman Island, Knapps Narrows, in Talbot County, promptly at 9:30 am and travel to the island. We will tour the island, have lunch, and return to the boat dock by 1:30.

Directions: When you register for this trip you will receive directions and carpooling information.

Bring: Lunch, sunscreen, bug repellent (less critical), and binoculars. Spotting scopes are very helpful.

Note: RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. No fee.

Contact (for more information and to register): Carol Jelich by July 30 410-827-7759 or jrj_csj@mindspring.com. For further information on this project see:

www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/Maryland/PoplarIsland/index

Summer Wildflower Wander

Patuxent Research Refuge, North Tract

Leader: Esther Woodworth

Date: Sunday, August 15 **Time:** 8:30 – 10:30 am

For Info: Please see the July 11 trip above.

Gunpowder State Park - Hereford Area

Date: Saturday, August 21 **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. We will stop for anything that is interesting. We should find a good variety of ferns and wildflowers.

Directions: From the Baltimore Beltway, go north on I-83 for 12 miles and take exit 27 onto Mount Carmel Rd.

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 miles 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. There will be steep and very rocky sections along the trail. **Note:** Rain or shine.

Contact: Dwight Johnson 410-366-7239.

Wildflower Farm Tour

Leader: Sara Tangren

Date: Saturday, August 21 (3rd Saturday of each month)

Time: 5:00 pm

Directions: Please see July 17 trip above.

Note: Call re postponement due to weather. No rain date.

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

Invasive Exotic Plant Removal Workdays

Greenbelt National Park, Prince George's Co.

Dates: First Saturdays, monthly (July 3, August 7)

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 301-864-1009(h)/301-277-7111(w).

Ruth Swann Park, Charles County

Dates: First Sundays, monthly (July 4, August 1)

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 (July 17 and August 21)

Time: 8:30 am – 11:00 or 12:00 (you may stay for lunch)
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 and 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.

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If you see any *Ailanthus* trees that appear to be dying on their own this summer, Jay Stipes, Professor Emeritus of Plant Pathology at VA Tech, would be interested. If you see any, you can contact him directly at 540-231-7479(w) or treedr@vt.edu. If the dying tree looks like it is an area where it may have been sprayed, you might want to check first to make sure it hasn't. From Jay: Here's the burden of this missive. As a pathologist for most of my career, I tried to save trees! Now, I have become a switch hitter, and have joined the weed killers of my department and am now trying to kill trees, actually now only one! It is the exotic, weedy, proliferating, invasive, stinky, nasty *Ailanthus* or Tree of "Heaven." Official name: *Ailanthus altissima*. It is often confused with the roadside sumac with the compound leaves. *Ailanthus* has become a plague to highways, homeowners, farmers, and foresters and on almost any site where a native plant or tree could grow. Our survey, for instance, found that it grows at least along one-third of the road distance from the Christiansburg I-81 exit up to I-64 at Staunton and east to Richmond! That turns out to be at least hundreds of thousands of trees. *Ailanthus* grows singly or in "clumps" (copses). It regenerates via seed and root sprouts, and exudes a highly toxic chemical that kills many other plants. In the late 1990s, I found a fungus (*Fusarium*) associated with dying *Ailanthus* trees on several diverse geographic sites; this suggests its potential as a bio-control agent (rather than the use of herbicides in this chemophobic age).

Request: If you are aware of any dying trees this growing season, I would greatly appreciate your advising me of the exact site for my visitation. You might see dead or dying trees that may have yellowing/flagging leaves.

[Ed. Note: Not sure if Jay's interested in looking at Md. specimens or if he's limiting his research to Va. trees.]

Announcements

Chapman Forest Open Houses take place monthly on a Sunday (July 11 and August 8) from noon to five at the Mt. Aventine entrance to Chapman State Park, off Chapmans Landing Road in Charles County. Participate in history talks and guided nature walks. See www.chapmanforest.org for directions and more Chapman Forest information.

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>.

Resident Canada geese that have lost the urge to migrate are an invasive species of the bird world, particularly in urban areas. There are so many on the Anacostia River now that they're turning our wetland restoration efforts into goose poop. Please join us for the 2nd and 3rd of our 2004 "Goose Counts" along the Anacostia banks on Saturday mornings, July 17 and September 11, 9:00 – 11:30 am, at the Langston Golf Course parking lot, 26th and Benning Road, NE in D.C. You'll be sent to a defined geographic "sector" to check out how many geese are waddling around – particularly in grassy areas along the river shore, their preferred habitat. The count results will be fed into the creation of a management plan by the D.C. government and the local NPS unit. To sign up, please call or email Steve McKindley-Ward at the **Anacostia Watershed Society**: 301-699-6204 or steve@anacostiaws.org.

Environmental Concern, Inc.

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 Vegetative Sampling – July 27-29

Heavily field oriented, this 3-day course will be an in-depth exploration into the variety of vegetative sampling and analysis tools available for wetland professionals with special attention paid to jurisdictional delineation. Students will collect quantitative data including density, percent cover, basal area, frequency, and species richness (fixed and plotless methods for trees). Both the comprehensive method in the Corp's 1987 manual, and NRCS's Point Intercept Sampling Procedure used in the 1989 Federal Delineation manual will be practiced. Course Instructor – Bill Sipple
\$650 non-members \$585 members

Fern and Fern Allies ID – August 13

Add fern and fern allies to your arsenal of vegetation knowledge, useful for delineation, mitigation planning and wetland restoration work. This 1-day course will be a combination of classroom and field work. The first half of the day will be spent learning select morphological terminology on ferns and fern allies and an examination of live collected specimens. The remainder of the day will be spent in the field examining and identifying ferns and fern allies in both wetland and upland sites. Habitat preferences and other ecological preferences will be discussed as appropriate. Instructor: William Sipple/Cost: \$185

Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes – September 15-16

A solid understanding of grasses, sedges, and rushes is necessary for anyone working with wetlands. Come and learn which sedges have edges, which rushes are round and why in this 2-day course designed to train students in the identification of these members of the plant kingdom. 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 grasses, sedges, and rushes. Students will leave with an understanding of the families, family subdivisions, and genera of these often-difficult species (wetland and upland). Instructor: William Sipple/Cost: \$390

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: August 14; December 11. Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm for August (Dec. 12-3) 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.

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.

Native News

Butterflies and Dragonflies at Banshee Reeks (Virginia)

Saturdays, July 17 and August 21; 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
Join the Friends of Banshee Reeks and the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy for one of our free, summer butterfly and dragonfly walks. We will investigate some of Banshee's many diverse natural areas and identify all of the butterflies and dragonflies we can find. If you own binoculars, please bring them. Questions – Contact Joe Coleman 540-554-2542 or jandkcoleman@erols.com.

Brookside Gardens' Wings of Fancy Live Butterfly Show

Brookside Gardens South Conservatory, Wheaton
Now through 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. We regret that we are not able to accommodate strollers in the Butterfly Show. Fees: \$4 adults; \$3 ages 3-12.
Call the Butterfly Show hotline at 301-962-1453.

Welcome New Members!

Jim Akers, Edward Barrows, Larry Brammer, Amy Brush, Patricia Caro, Peg Christie, Erica Cline, Patricia Cornman, Cecelia Dalzin, Terry Dammann, Igor Dawid, Veronica Dougherty, David Fry, Nan Fry, Barbara Gilford, John Gleason, Edward Hazlett, Heidi Hoffmann, Vernon Husted, Paulette Kirkpatrick, Carl Koproicz, Sharon Eisenhower Koproicz, Tony Lhotsky, Mary Love, Kathy Marmet, Amanda Martin, Dick Menzer, Nigel Ogilvie, Sue Ormsby, Gwen Pal, Deborah Patton, Christina Pax, Heidi Pringle, Charles Pritchard, Betty-Anne Proctor, Charles Proctor, Lori Radloff, Dolores Raff, Christine Rodick, Jeff Schowinsky, Diane Shuey, Wendy Smith, Thomas Smith, Gail Spiva, Kathleen Spry, C. Thompson-Deahl, Bill Trakat, Marge Van Egmend, Lauren Wheeler, Bob Yacovissi, Ginny Yacovissi.
Thank you for your recent membership in the Society.

Members - Do you know when your membership expires?

We appreciate every member who renews because every Society activity is made possible by your 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. If we have your email, we are sending one email reminder the month before you expire. We will 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 make sense. To tell when your membership expires, take a look at your mailing label. For example, if your label reads 7/1/2004 then your membership expires at the end of July. If it's time to renew, please use the form on the back of this newsletter, or download one from the website. Mail your dues to MNPS Membership, P.O. Box 4877, Silver Spring, MD 20914.
Thanks for your support.





Maryland Native Plant Society

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Please do not list me in your membership directory.

Please do not send me monthly Society announcements by e-mail in addition to post.

**If you are a business you can be included on the MNPS providers list.
Please indicate the name of your business and what type of business it is:**

Business's name _____

Native plant propagator or grower

Native plant supplier

Native plant landscape professional

**Please make checks payable to the Maryland Native Plant Society and mail to:
Maryland Native Plant Society; P.O. Box 4877; Silver Spring, MD 20914**

The Maryland Native Plant Society is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible. V4N4J/A04

Membership Dues:

- Individual: \$25.00/year
- Double: \$35.00/year
- Student/limited income: \$15.00/year
- Lifetime: \$250.00

Additional Donation _____

Total Enclosed _____

Please Check: New Renewal