

Native News

Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

September/October 2004

Volume 4 Number 5

Inside This Issue:

President's Letter
Page 2

~

MNPS Contacts
Page 2

~

Request for Volunteers
Page 3

~

Chapter Events & Updates
Page 3

~

Brickbats and Kudos
Page 4

~

Summer/Autumn Field Trips
Page 5

~

Invasive Exotic Plant
Removal Workdays
Page 8

~

General Announcements
Page 10

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

“Natural Grassland Communities in Maryland”

Tuesday, September 28, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Join Rod Simmons, plant ecologist, for a presentation on many of the natural grassland communities and habitats in Maryland, most of which are in prime bloom in late summer and early fall. Characteristic species will be discussed, both common and rare, from communities ranging from old successional fields to riverside prairies. Identification techniques, with an emphasis on asters, goldenrods, and grasses, will also be discussed. Members are encouraged to bring in samples of plants they may want identified.

Directions: Please see below.

“Botany in the Washington, D.C. Region: A Historical Overview”

Tuesday, October 26, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

J. Douglas Ripley, a botanist and natural resource manager with the Air National Guard at Andrews Air Force Base, will give a presentation on the history of botanical exploration in the greater D.C. area - a region extending from the High Alleghenies of West Virginia to the ocean shore of New Jersey and the Delmarva Peninsula. The plants and ecological habitats of the D.C. region have long been studied by residents and visitors alike. American Indians relied on many native plant species, as well as farm crops such as corn and squash that came from elsewhere in North America. In 1607, Captain John Smith marveled at the Potomac's rich, dense forests with many unfamiliar kinds of trees. Early botanists such as John Clayton, David Warden, and Samuel Rafinesque described many of the Washington area's plants scientifically. More comprehensive views of the local flora emerged by the late 19th Century, and have been refined to the present day.

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.



Boneset
Eupatorium perfoliatum

Request for Volunteers

Monthly Email Announcements: We need a volunteer who is somewhat computer savvy, who has internet access, an email account, Microsoft Access 2000, and is willing to put together a monthly announcement of upcoming events to email to our members. We are currently using a shareware program, WorldMerge, which simplifies the process, although any email program would work (as long as your ISP allows you to send out 'bulk' emails. Information for the announcements is provided by Meghan Tice (Field Trip Coordinator) or collected off of our website. This job takes about 2-4 hours per month, depending on how comfortable you are with the software, and how fast your modem line is. Interested or want to find out more? Contact Karyn Molines at 410-286-2928 or kmolines@chesapeake.net.

Native News Mailing Volunteers: Meghan Tice works many hours putting together a professional newsletter for the Society. We need other volunteers to help get *Native News* mailed to members. There are several jobs, including joining our 'mailing parties' where we fold, stuff, label, eat (food, not *Native News*), and socialize. These mailing parties occur around the last weekend of even numbered months. We also need volunteers available on a weekday, with a car, the ability to lift the boxes of newsletter, in addition to the patience to wait in line at the Post Office, to actually deliver our newsletters to the Post Office in Rockville. Please contact Chris Partain (chris.partain@mncppc-mc.org/301-540-9135) if you are interested in helping with the mailings.

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, at 301-754-1564.

Chapter Events & Updates

Eastern Shore Chapter

We are planning a family bike ride to look at Blackwater Wildlife Refuge's marsh restoration and flora on October 30 from 10 am – noon. There is a 6 or 3-mile loop on paved road, and, of course, the terrain is relatively flat. This should also be a great time to see waterfowl. See the field trip listings for more details.

The second annual seed collection at Adkins Arboretum will take place on Sunday, September 26. Seeds are collected for restoration projects at the Arboretum and participants may collect some seeds for their own gardens.

The Eastern Shore Chapter is seeking members to help plan field trips and meetings. Please contact Sylvan Kaufman skaufman@intercom.net or 410-634-2847 x24 if you are interested.

Greater Baltimore Chapter Programs

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 Chapter's November meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, November 17 at Irvine Nature Center.

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.

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Upcoming Board Meetings

Board meetings are open to members of the Society. Future Board meetings will be held on Monday, September 20 at the Folk Art Studio Café in Bowie and one tentatively set for November 21 or 22. The exact day, time, and place to be determined. Please contact Jane Osburn, Secretary, or Karyn Molines, President, for more information.

Native News Deadlines:

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
July 25	September/October Early Autumn Issue

Native News

Brickbats & Kudos

Brickbats

- Brickbats to power companies in Maryland, like PEPCO, for excessively destructive and unnecessary clearing of vegetation under powerlines in many areas. A combination of heavy herbicide use, including drift into non-target areas, heavy equipment, and bush-hogging has seriously damaged the vegetation, soil, and natural environment under power lines throughout the area. This is especially egregious because much of the vegetation posed no threat to the wires. Moreover, sections of several globally-rare Magnolia Bogs, like the Sandy Spring Bog (McKnew Bog) - Montgomery County's last remaining bog, which partly occur under power lines were also trashed, despite their presence being known to the companies. MNPS, along with other groups like the Eyes of the Paint Branch, has worked with the power companies for years (and will continue to do so) to reduce pesticide use and preserve native flora and healthy waterways, including Magnolia Bogs and rare plants.

Images of these degraded areas will be displayed on MNPS's website, along with contact information for the power companies.



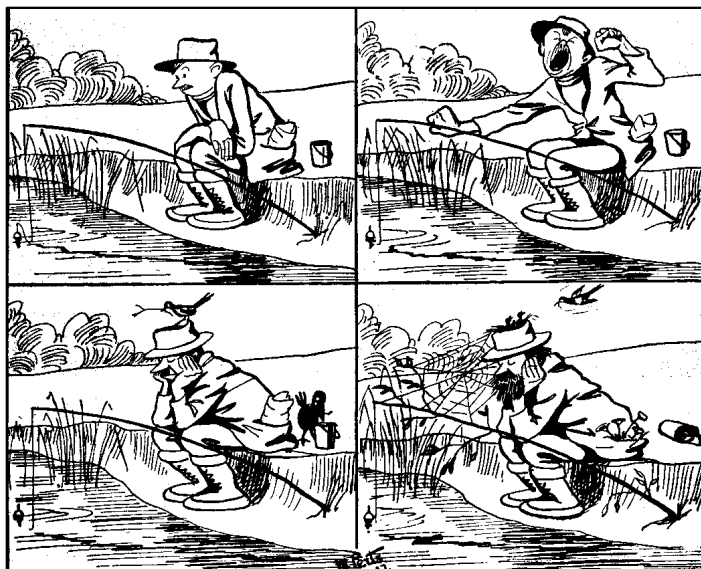
- Brickbats to the Bush administration for "ordering the reopening of huge areas of the Tongass National Forest in Alaska - the world's largest temperate rainforest - despite a declining logging industry and a dysfunctional U.S. Forest Service logging program that allows large stocks of clear-cut timber to be abandoned, annually "costing the federal government between \$30 million and \$35 million more than it collects in timber sales." A "glutted market" of timber from foreign sources has greatly reduced the economic viability of the logging industry in the Pacific Northwest. (*Washington Post*, August 1, 2004)

On the bright side, the ecotourism industry in the region is steadily increasing and will likely replace the once-dominant logging industry in the future, with the main benefits being long-term natural resources protection and a sustainable economy. (Hawaii's economy was saved by its expanding tourism industry when its economic staple, the pineapple industry, sharply declined decades ago.) Unfortunately, the Bush administration exclusively favors the shortsighted economic interests of the logging industry rather than viable economic solutions and the conservation of pristine, non-renewable natural resources.

Kudos

- Kudos to the National Park Service - C&O Canal Natl. Historical Park and their workers for making considerable headway in removing large amounts of Stilt Grass (*Microstegium vimineum*) from Bear Island along the Potomac River in Maryland. The invasive exotic grass had become established along many trails on the island, with large patches spreading out into adjacent natural areas. Teams of Park Service personnel and workers have been very carefully hand-pulling the Stilt Grass which is interspersed with many species of native grasses and wildflowers.

- Kudos to the 500-Year Forest Foundation, a non-profit forest conservation organization that operates out of Lynchburg, Virginia, for making progress through partnerships with "forest owners toward the development of permanently conserved old-growth forests and the biodiversity natural to those forests." Many surveys have been conducted in recent years to try to determine the existence and percentage of remaining old-growth stands in the eastern U.S., including in Maryland - especially through MD DNR's old-growth forest initiative, organizations like MNPS and MAGIC, and other researchers like Dan Boone. It is estimated that about 1% of old-growth forest remains in the eastern U.S., although that number may increase somewhat when less traditional old-age communities are assessed and rightfully included, such as dry ridge tops and Terrace Gravel Forests of the Fall Line region. "Forests, especially old-growth forests, are of critical importance to our environment as biological repositories, as agents of water and soil conservation and carbon storage, and for ecological stability. Research indicates that numbers of bird species are greatest in uneven aged stands of trees and in forests with significant standing dead trees, both characteristics of old-growth forests. Certain species, such as the endangered Cerulean Warbler, require old-growth forests as habitat while others, such as Gray Fox, Black Bear, and the Winter Wren clearly thrive in old-growth." (*Old Dominion Sierra*, July/August 2004) For more information, visit the 500-Year Forest Foundation at www.500yearforestfdn.org or call 434-384-2324.



Patience Beside a Sterile Stream

Summer/Autumn Field Trips

Cranesville Swamp/Swallow Falls State Park, Garrett County Day Trip

Leaders: Rod Simmons and John Parrish

Date: Saturday, September 11 **Time:** 7:00 am – 10:00 pm

Itinerary: We will meet at 7:00 am at the Black Hill Regional Park Visitor Center and the van/s will leave for Cranesville Swamp at 7:30 am. This will be about a 3½-hour drive. When we arrive at Cranesville Swamp, we will wander the trails and boardwalk. Cranesville Swamp features boreal tree species, such as Red Spruce, Tamarack or American Larch, Eastern Hemlock, and naturally occurring White Pine. The boardwalk traverses a northern bog community that features Cranberry, Cottongrass, and Sundew. We will then drive a short distance to Swallow Falls State Park. There, we will stop for a leisurely picnic lunch and then wander through one of the last old-growth forests left in Maryland. Swallow Falls State Park is “home to the oldest grove of white pine and eastern hemlock in Maryland, with some trees over 360 years of age. This pristine grove of trees lies along the only officially designated Wild and Scenic River, the Youghiogheny. The area is most noted for Muddy Creek Falls, the tallest single drop waterfall in Maryland. At 53 feet, the falls at Muddy Creek originates in Cranesville Swamp in West Virginia and merges with the Youghiogheny within the park. The mix of decaying vegetation and tannins from the swamp give the creek and falls their distinctive color and name. Two other falls occur along the canyon trail on the Youghiogheny itself: the lower is a small hydraulic falls and the upper a cascading falls. Swallow Falls State Park draws its name from the rock pillar located below the upper falls where cliff swallows once nested by the hundreds. This mountain park contains some of Maryland’s most breathtaking scenery. The Youghiogheny River flows along the park’s borders, passing through shaded rocky gorges and creating rippling rapids. Tall hemlocks dominate the silent woods.” Before returning home to Black Hill Regional Park, we will stop at Penn Alps restaurant in Grantsville for dinner (buffet is \$8.99 or choose from their wide menu-vegetarian options).

Bring (Important): Bring your own bag lunch, water, and snacks. Also bring field guides, binoculars, and a hand lens or camera if you wish. Please do dress for the weather. Garrett County tends to be cooler; check the forecast.

Please Note: The fee for this trip is **\$20.00**. The fee covers van rental and fuel expenses. Pre-registration is **required** by September 7. The van limit is **12 people**. If there is sufficient interest, we may rent two vans. Dinner is your own expense. Pets are not allowed and smoking is not permitted in Cranesville Swamp.

Contact: Meghan Tice cecropia13@msn.com/301-809-0139 or Chris Partain chris.partain@mncppc-mc.org/301-540-9135. Contact: Black Hill Regional Park Visitor Center 301-972-3476; Park Manager’s Office 301-972-9396.

Some useful links:

Black Hill Regional Park (includes map):

http://www.mc-mncppc.org/trails/black_hill.shtm

Cranesville Swamp info:

<http://nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/maryland/preserves/art135.html> and

<http://members.gcnet.net/swampman/cranesvilleswamp.html>

Camping info:

www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/swallowfalls.html

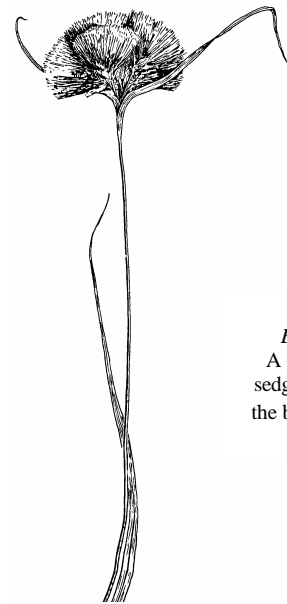
Camping and Cabin info:

www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/herringtonmanor

More Camping/Cabin Info (near Grantsville):

www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/newgermany.html

Restaurant info (menu and history): www.pennalps.com



Cottongrass
Eriophorum virginicum
A not so often encountered
sedge that will be observed in
the bog at Cranesville Swamp.

Ferns and Fall Woodland Composites at Gunpowder Falls, Gunpowder Falls State Park, Kingsville Area, Baltimore County

Leaders: Dwight Johnson and Joe Metzger

Date: Sunday, September 12 **Time:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

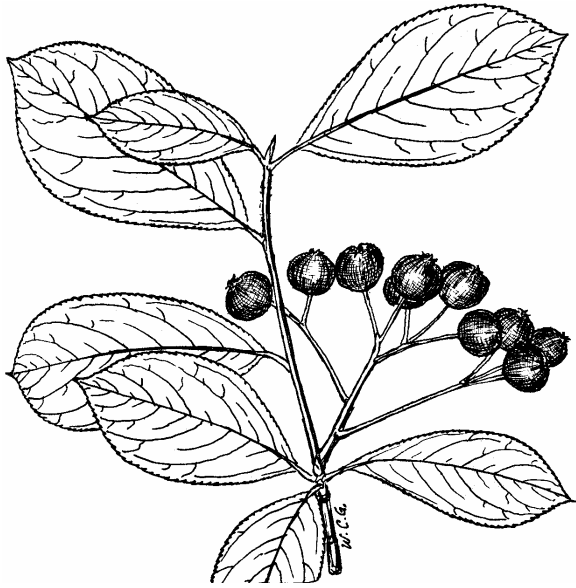
We should see about 15 species of ferns as well as a number of woodland Asters and Goldenrods. We will explore two different paths, each about one mile long. The paths will be flat easy walking with one small stream crossing.

Directions: From I-695 (Baltimore Beltway), take US 1 (Belair Road) 5.4 miles north (outside the beltway) and turn right into the parking lot. Watch out, there is a second section of the park a mile or two farther, on the Little Gunpowder Falls at the Baltimore/Harford County line. Meet in the Parking Lot on the east side of the road (right when coming from the Beltway).

Bring: Lunch & water.

Note: Moderate walk on level ground.

Contact: Dwight 410-366-7239/dwightmj@bcpl.net or Joe 410-775-7737/jmetzger50@hotmail.com (preferred).



Purple Chokeberry (*Aronia prunifolia*)

Plants and Insects at Piney Orchard Nature Preserve, Anne Arundel County

Leaders: Joe Metzger and Beth Johnson

Date: Saturday, September 18 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:30 pm
Help add to a list of plants and insects occurring naturally at Piney Orchard Nature Preserve. The plant list has already increased from 93 to 215. We should see sundews and pitcher plants as well as 15 or more butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, and other insects. After the walk, some of us will go to the open house at Chesapeake Native Nursery, which starts at 3:00 pm.

Directions: **From Baltimore or Washington**, take I-295 and exit at MD 175 East towards Ft. Meade. Go about 2 miles and turn right at the traffic light onto MD 170, Piney Orchard Parkway. On Piney Orchard Parkway, go south past the Food Lion and Ice Rink, make a left turn onto Sandy Walk Way and then an immediate right into the parking lot. **From Annapolis**, take I-97 to MD 32 to MD 170 South. The name of MD 170 changes to Piney Orchard Parkway at the traffic light on MD 175. On Piney Orchard Parkway, go south past the Food Lion and Ice Rink, make a left turn onto Sandy Walk Way and then an immediate right into the parking lot. Meet at the Piney Orchard Nature Preserve Parking Lot.

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

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

Wildflower Farm Tour, Anne Arundel County

Leader: Sara Tangren

Date: Saturday, September 18 (3rd Saturday of each month)

Time: 5:00 pm

Directions: From Route 50, take the Riva Road/Aris 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 large red arrows to the wildflower fields.

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

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

Late Summer Wildflower Wander, Patuxent Research Refuge, North Tract

Leader: Esther Woodworth

Date: Sunday, September 19 **Time:** 9:00 – 11:00 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. The Visitor Contact Station is 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.

Plant ID at Wolftrap, Virginia

Leader: Joe Metzger

Date: Sunday, September 19 **Time:** 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Continue to develop a list of plants occurring naturally at Wolftrap. The list was 139 species before the June trip. We added 24 species on June 20.

Directions: From I-495 (Washington Beltway), take VA 7 west (away from the beltway) about 4 miles to the light at Fairfax County 676 (Towlston Road on the right and Wolf Trap Road on the left, there is a brown sign for Wolf Trap just before the light, allow about 15-20 minutes from the beltway because of traffic lights and low speed limit) and turn left on Wolf Trap Road. Follow Wolf Trap Road about a mile and turn left into the parking lot just below the Filene Center. Or, take VA 267 west (Dulles Toll Road), \$.50 to the Wolf Trap exit. Once on the exit you have to go right and follow Wolf Trap Road a short distance and turn right into the parking lot just below the Filene Center. Or, join the regular monthly (3rd Sunday) walk at Great Falls, VA, (fee or pass) at 10:00 am at the picnic tables at the visitor's center. Meet at the Parking Lot below the Filene Center.

Bring: Water. **Note:** Moderate walk.

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

Native News

Adkins Arboretum Seed Collection

Leader: Sylvan Kaufman

Date: Sunday, September 26 **Time:** 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Come learn to identify seeds and help collect seeds for Adkins Arboretum's restoration projects and native plant nursery. The Arboretum's 400 acres feature many different plant communities. Seeds are used for restoring meadow, forest, and wetland areas.

Directions: Adkins Arboretum is located near Ridgely, MD. From route 50, take route 404 east. Make a left on Rt. 480 then an immediate right on Eveland Road. The entrance to the Arboretum will be 2 miles up on the left.

Bring: Water. **Note:** Please RSVP.

Contact: Sylvan Kaufman 410-634-2847 x24 or skaufman@intercom.net.

Seaside Goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*), at right, is one of the fall blooming plants that can be found at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge.



Fall Line Magnolia Bogs of Northern Montgomery and Prince George's Counties

Leader: Rod Simmons

Date: Saturday, October 23 **Time:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

At the request of Louisa Thompson and Ann Lundy for the Baltimore Chapter, we plan to visit several globally-rare Magnolia Bogs - the last and best of their kind - situated on the high elevation sand and gravel terraces along the Fall Line where 4 counties merge. In addition to getting a good sense of the communities and the springs and underlying geology that sustains them, we will see many interesting native plants, including coastal species that occur in the dry, sandy-gravelly soils surrounding the bogs and those that occur in the bogs themselves, like Sweetbay Magnolia, Cinnamon Fern, Smooth Winterberry, and many others. We should also see the state-rare Halberd-leaved Greenbrier, Swamp Featherbells, Long's Rush, and Low Rough Aster, as well as many uncommon to rare plants like old-age Pitch Pines, Purple Chokeberry, and Virginia Chain Fern.

Directions: From Baltimore, head south from Baltimore on either Rt. 29 or I-95 to the Rt. 198 (Sandy Spring Road) exit in the Burtonsville/Laurel area. Head east on Rt. 198 from the Burtonsville exit or west on Rt. 198 from the I-95 exit. Turn on Old Gunpowder Road heading south (intersection is approximately halfway between Rt. 29 and I-95 off Rt. 198). Proceed south on Old Gunpowder Rd. app. 1 and ½ miles to the Fairland Regional Park and parking lot (on right). We will gather in parking spaces close to entrance and Old Gunpowder Road.

Bring: Snacks or lunch and water. Comfortable shoes for hiking over loose, gravelly soils are recommended. We never walk in the bogs; however, we occasionally step over low wet areas.

Note: Moderate walk. Cancelled for heavy rain, not drizzle.

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

Family Biking at Blackwater

Leader: Debbie Herr

Date: Saturday, October 30 **Time:** 10:00 am - noon

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, in the heart of Dorchester County, has been doing extensive marsh restoration projects. There will be an introduction to the refuge and its flora by a staff or volunteer from the refuge at the Visitor Center followed by an easy bike ride around the refuge. This should also be a great time of year to view waterfowl. Families are welcome on this ride. The road is paved and mostly without car traffic. The terrain is flat with beautiful expanses of marsh and forest. There is a 6-mile loop and a shorter 3-mile loop available. The Visitor Center has outdoor tables for a picnic lunch following the ride.

Directions: We will meet at the Blackwater Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. Directions will be sent with RSVP.

Bring: Water, binoculars, and bag lunch for after ride.

Note: \$1/fee per person for the Refuge. Please RSVP.

Contact: Debbie Herr 410-228-4533 or herr@dmv.com.

Autumn Colors Wildflower Ramble, Patuxent Research Refuge, North Tract

Leader: Esther Woodworth

Date: Sunday, October 31 **Time:** 9:00 am

Celebrate the autumn season!

For info: Please see September 19 trip above.

Dead Heads, Seed Pods, and other Strange Things, Patuxent Research Refuge, North Tract

Leader: Esther Woodworth

Date: Sunday, November 7 **Time:** 9:00 am

This will be an autumn plant walk to look at seed heads, pods, last year's plants, as they will appear in winter.

For more info: Please see September 19 trip above.

Invasive Exotic Plant Removal Workdays

Greenbelt National Park, Prince George's Co.

Dates: First Saturdays, monthly (September 4 and October 2)

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 and Chapman Forest, Charles County

Dates: First Sundays, monthly (September 5 and October 3)

Time: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Remove invasive non-natives from Chapman State Park. We will remove wineberry, Japanese pachysandra, Japanese barberry, and Asiatic bittersweet at the sites treated before. It is important to follow-up at these sites to ensure that there is no re-growth of any plants that may have been incompletely removed. There will be time for plant identification and a beautiful beach lunch. The shell marl ravine area has calcium dependent plants mixed with the usual acid loving flowers and other plants. 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.

Woodend Sanctuary, Montgomery County

Dates: Second Saturdays, monthly (Sept 11 and Oct 9)

Time: Between 9:00 am – noon

The Audubon Naturalist Society is seeking volunteers to help remove non-native plants from its Woodend Sanctuary in Chevy Chase. Volunteers will be trained by staff and/or experienced volunteers.

Call: 301-652-9188 x 30 for more information or to sign up.

Fort Meade Army Installation, Anne Arundel County

Dates: Second Saturdays, monthly **Time:** 10:00 am

Help remove Japanese stilt grass, English ivy, garlic mustard, tree of heaven, multiflora rose, crown vetch, Japanese honeysuckle, common privet, Phragmites, Asiatic tearthumb, etc. You will receive a short training session from personnel from the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club or the Maryland Native Plant Society in the identification of, removal and control techniques for non-native invasive plants. People of all ages, backgrounds, and interests are invited to spend a day outdoors, hand-pulling some non-native weed populations while learning about the differences between native and non-native plants and helping to preserve the health and native wildlife of the natural areas located on a U.S. Army installation. This project is a Partnership between the Department of the Army, MNPS, the Md. Chapter of Sierra Club, and volunteers.

Directions: Take Route 175 East from the 295 Baltimore-Washington Parkway. Take Llewellyn Avenue South onto the installation. A Ft. Meade representative will meet you at guard station to escort you to work site.

Bring: Hand tools, gloves, lunch & water. Long sleeves and pants recommended.

Contact: Don Marquardt at 301-677-9185 or email marquardtd@emhl.ftmeade.army.mil.

Myrtle Point Park, St. Mary's County

Dates: Third Saturdays, monthly **Time:** 8:00 – 11:30 am

Directions: From Washington, take Rt. 4 south, crossing over the Patuxent River at Solomons. About two miles past the bridge, make a right onto Patuxent Blvd. Go about two miles to Myrtle Point Park. Meet in the Park lot. For more info, or to receive updates about workdays email Bill Burruss billymilkweed@starpower.net.

Native News

Northwest Branch of the Anacostia, Montgomery County

Date: Saturday, September 18

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), and 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.

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.

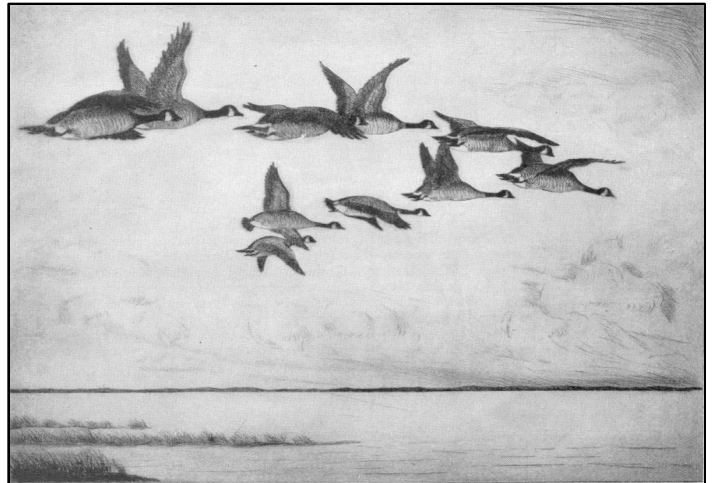
Help clean up at Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve!

After two months of vine cutting and trash collecting at Four Mile Run Park, it's time to return to Dyke Marsh to continue our cleanup efforts! Please join the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program's (RSVP) Northern Virginia Senior Environment Corps and the National Park Service in restoring parts of the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, Belle Haven Park and Marina, and the Mount Vernon Trail by collecting trash and removing invasive plant species.

Cleanup events will be held once a month through May, including two special events, September's International Coastal Cleanup and April's Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. Help make our environment and community a healthier and safer place to live! Upcoming Events:

September 18, 10 am – noon (International Coastal Cleanup);

October 2, 10 am – noon; November 13, 10 am – noon; December 11, 10 am – noon. Location: Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve and Belle Haven Park and Marina located on the George Washington Memorial Parkway (1 mile south of Old Town Alexandria and approx. 6 miles north of Mount Vernon) Registration: All volunteers need to register upon arrival. The registration table is located near the brown bathrooms next to the benches and water fountain in Belle Haven Park (left of the parking lot). Individual volunteers will need to fill out a National Park Service Volunteer Agreement Form. If a volunteer is representing a group only one form is required for that group. Volunteers under the age of 18 need to get a parental approval form signed by a parent or guardian. Returning volunteers do not need to fill out an agreement if already done so. Training: No prior skills are necessary to participate in the cleanup. Training for invasive species removal is provided onsite for volunteers who need it. All cleanups are FREE. Volunteers do not need to bring any hand-tools or trash bags unless desired. The National Park Service will provide all necessary equipment to participate in the cleanup. Volunteers should wear long-sleeve shirts and pants and sturdy shoes. Please contact Brooke by phone at 703-549-1607 ext. 141 or via email at VISTARSVP@aol.com for more information or to sign-up. See you there!



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.

Announcements

Volunteer Needed!

Volunteer with light carpentry skills needed to design and build simple stand and screen for rain barrels in demonstration conservation landscape. Demo landscape is at the Chesapeake Climate Action Network house in Takoma Park, Maryland and features all local native plants. Materials will be provided. Please contact Mike Tidwell 240-460-5838 or Sara Tangren 301-580-6237.

The Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources, Town of Berwyn Heights and the Citizens to Conserve and Restore Indian Creek (CCRIC) invite you to join us for the Stream Teams **Rain Gardens Workshop**, Saturday, September 11 from 9:00 am — 2:00 pm at Berwyn Heights Town Hall, 5700 Berwyn Road. (Rain Date — Sunday, September 12) Volunteer for your community and get a free plant to start your own Rain Garden! What do you need to bring? A bag lunch — we will provide beverages and light refreshments. Wear comfortable clothes — we'll be working outside on Rain Gardens! What are we going to do? The Department of Environmental Resources has received grant funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to reduce pollutants by installing Rain Gardens to catch stormwater from parking lots and rooftops. Two Rain Gardens will be installed at the Town Hall parking lot. We need volunteers to help plant these Rain Gardens with shrubs and perennials. Come join us and receive a free native plant! Don't forget to pre-register! This workshop is free and open to the public, but **space is limited!** Please pre-register by contacting Sharon Meigs slmeigs@co.pg.md.us or 301-883-5898. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Friends and Family Day at ThorpeWood

Saturday, September 11, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
\$25 for family (4 or more); \$10 for adults; \$5 (1st-12th Grades); 5 and under are free
Local artists, children's activities; guided nature walks and talks; tours of building and property; grilling workshops (extra fee); food, a bonfire, and much more!
For more information, please call 301-271-2823 and check out our website: <http://www.thorpewood.org>
Thorpe Foundation, a not for profit organization, places emphasis on serving youth, local and regional communities by modeling stewardship of natural resources and providing environmental education through hands on learning opportunities.

Chapman Forest Open Houses take place monthly on a Sunday (September 12 and October 10) 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.

Based in St. Michaels, **Environmental Concern** has been “all about wetlands” for more than 32 years. Our work in native plant horticulture, wetland restoration and wetland education has developed a national reputation. Learn more about us by logging on to www.wetland.org.

Make plans to join us for the following events:

Living Shorelines Discovery Tour - September 11

If you are a waterfront landowner, you may be facing an eroding shoreline. To protect your investment, you must stop the erosion. Wooden or concrete bulkheads and rocked riprap do protect shorelines, but, unlike wetlands, they offer no habitat or water quality benefits. Environmental Concern has stabilized over 30 miles of shorelines using wetlands. The methodology is tried and true. On September 11, Environmental Concern will be hosting its second annual Living Shorelines Discovery Tour. Together we will tour some of the shorelines, talk with homeowners who made the vegetated choice, and learn how wetlands are the smart alternative to riprap. Spaces are limited. Please call 410-745-9620 to reserve a space or for more information. A \$25 donation is requested – all proceeds are used to support Eastern Shore wetland education initiatives.

Fall Plant Sale and Open House – September 25

Fall is the perfect time to plant trees and shrubs. Bring the whole family to the nation's first wholesale wetland plant nursery. Browse aisles of natives, ask your gardening questions to our certified horticulturists, take a guided tour of a working nursery, and explore the wonders of wetlands with our education staff.

Adkins Arboretum's **Fall Native Plant Sale** will be held on Saturday, September 11 from 9 am – 1 pm. This is one of the region's largest native plant sales featuring almost 200 species of native ferns, grasses, herbaceous plants, shrubs, trees, and vines. The Native Plant Sale is free to the public. Members of Adkins Arboretum receive a 10% discount on plants. Memberships to the Arboretum will also be discounted that day. Adkins Arboretum is located on Eveland Road, two miles north of Route 404 in Ridgely, MD. For further information, visit the website at www.adkinsarboretum.org. Also online is a list of fall programs for adults and children including a mushroom foray, fall gardening, nature journal writing, and tree pruning.

School's Out Special: **Monarch Butterfly Fiesta Day**

Thursday, September 16 at Black Hill Regional Park Visitor Center in Boyds, Montgomery County. Please pass the word and let any interested persons know about this special day in which we celebrate these fascinating creatures. Exhibits, walks, arts and crafts, film and performance, monarch tag and release, children's storytelling, slide presentation, and book signing! Programs are for families and individuals. For reservations, please call 301-916-0220 or send in your reservations requests by fax to 301-515-9520. We will confirm your reservations by phone.

Native News

Brookside Gardens' Wings of Fancy Live Butterfly Show

Brookside Gardens South Conservatory, Wheaton
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 Show. Fees: \$4 adults; \$3 ages 3-12. Call 301-962-1453.

Pollinator Workshop: US National Arboretum is hosting a free workshop, "Promoting Pollinators in Public Places," on September 22. Co-sponsors are the National Park Service and University of Maryland. "Promoting Pollinators in Public Places" is for resource managers, public gardeners, educators, and others interested in enhancing habitat for butterflies, bees, and pollinators in public spaces. Participants will receive useful resources on pollinators and their habitat to promote conservation efforts in gardens, parks, golf courses, and utility properties." The workshop is free, but space is limited and enrollment is required. For more information, and an enrollment form, go to www.usna.usda.gov & scroll down to the Education section.

Plant it and they will come!

The folks at **Elk Ridge NatureWorks** are hosting several open house events at their native plant nursery in Garrett County. The owners Liz McDowell and Ron Boyer propagate native wildflowers and grasses from seed that they collect on the Allegheny Plateau. At their wildlife garden they showcase a variety of conservation landscaping and wildlife habitat practices which homeowners can use to enhance biodiversity in their own backyards. Come experience the joys of conservation landscaping: a wildlife garden filled with bees, birds, butterflies, and beautiful plants. When: Saturday, September 25 from 9 am to noon and Sunday, September 26 from noon to 3 pm. Please note that except for these open house events, our wildlife garden is open by appointment only. Please call ahead to arrange a visit. Directions: From I-68 take exit 22 and follow signs for New Germany State Park. Turn left into the park onto McAndrews Hill Road. Follow McAndrews Hill Road ~ .5 miles to stop sign at Westernport Road. Turn right and travel .25 mile to Red Hill Road. Turn right and drive ~ 1 mile to Elk Ridge Lane. Turn left onto Elk Ridge Lane (a private road). Our wildlife garden is .4 miles out this gravel lane on the right (283 Elk Ridge Lane, Grantsville, MD 21536). Contact: Ron or Liz at 301-895-3686 or visit www.elkridgenatureworks.com.

Welcome New Members!

Bill & Martha Becraft, Gordon & Mary Burton, Lee D'zmura, Sara Eisenberg, Irene Jewett, Christopher Kankel & Lila Guterman, Judith Kay, Steve Kirschnick, Theodora Kramer, Jean Larson, Dennis Riege, Nancy Turner, and Jim Woodworth. Thank you for your membership in the Society.

Virginia Native Plant Society Fall Conference

Sponsored by the Jefferson Chapter of VNPS
October 2-3 at Monticello Holiday Inn, Charlottesville
Please visit www.vnps.org for event info and a printable registration form.

2004 Northeast Regional Master Gardener Conference

October 5-9. With a limited number of slots available for this highly regarded educational event, the University of Maryland Master Gardener Program is offering interested Maryland gardeners - who are *not* Master Gardeners - the special opportunity to register. You'll learn cutting-edge information from regional and national experts, interact with Master Gardeners from the Northeast, and learn more about the Maryland Master Gardener Program. Sign up for the whole conference, including tours, or take advantage of the tours alone. The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn-Select in Timonium, Maryland. Check out the entire conference by going to our website: mastergardener.umd.edu (click on "2004 NE MG Conference"). You can then choose to look at the conference schedule "at a glance," workshops and lectures, the registration process, or other items of interest. If you need help or would like a hard copy of the registration packet, call us toll-free at 888-531-1754 (or 410-531-1754) between 10 am and 1 pm weekdays. We're having 5 great pre-tours, 3 great post-tours, and 3 days of wonderful classes in between. Check out the incredible array of fine speakers (Rick Darke, Colston Burrell, Felder Rushing) and topics, such as rain gardens, heirloom vegetables, rooftop gardening, managing exotic-invasive plants, organic pest management, medicinal herbs, new and exciting perennials, companion planting, growing orchids, etc., etc. You can register for a tour even if you're not registering for the rest of the conference. Please join us!

Members - Do you know when your membership expires?

We recently began sending an email renewal reminder to members. Thank you everyone who responded to these emails—you have saved the Society money! 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 9/1/2004 then your membership expires at the end of September. 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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We thank you for your support!**

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(Your county is the basis of your local chapter affiliation. Please include.)

County _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

E-Mail _____

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. V4N5S/O04

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