

# Native News

Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

November/December 2004

Volume 4 Number 6

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Sweet Pepperbush  
(*Clethra alnifolia*)

## Upcoming Monthly Meetings

### “Local Pollinators”

Tuesday, November 30, 7:30 pm  
White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Dr. Edward Barrows, a biology professor with the Laboratory of Entomology and Biodiversity at Georgetown University, will give a presentation on our local pollinators, including information on many pollinator species and their associated plants and habitat needs.

The Washington, D.C. area (including surrounding counties in Maryland and Virginia) has about 660 species of pollinating animals. They include ants, bees, bee flies, beetles, butterflies, flower flies, moths, thrips, and the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. There are many private and public pollinator havens in the area. However, much of it is covered with noxious urban sprawl that is not especially pollinator friendly. Private yards range from being pollinator pits through pollinator havens. Too many yards are too low in pollinator requirements. A comprehensive online database of local pollinators would be useful for conservationists, gardeners, park managers, students, and others. Information on local pollinators, including published scientific work, Internet sites, and databases including three from the Entomology and Biodiversity Lab will also be discussed.

Directions: Please see below.

### “Annual Holiday Social & Members Share Night” Plus Annual MNPS Business Meeting

Monday, December 20, 7:00 pm  
White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Please bring your slides to present (@ 10 minutes) or photos to display to the group. A slide projector (Vivitar) and carousels will be available. Share images or stories of your local or distant adventures experienced in the past year. Also being an annual business meeting, our 2004 election results will be announced. Please bring holiday cookies to share. Coffee, tea, hot cocoa, and cider will be provided. Door prizes!

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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## 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:

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| Jane Hill           | Meghan Tice      |
| Ann Lundy           |                  |

## What's New?

Have you checked our website lately? The job of managing and updating our website has recently been handed to the highly skilled Iris Mars. Welcome Iris. Our site will soon be featuring more flora lists, as published by Botany Committee members, and will also hopefully be containing links to photos. The Society has many photographs of plants, common and rare, native and exotic, and pictures of our field trips to share.

Many thanks to James MacDonald for his many years of expert management of the website! James is now living in Wisconsin where he is restoring prairie land with native grasses and other native plants.

Our Garrett County van trip was a success! We plan to have more van excursions in 2005 and beyond. Vans will leave Montgomery County heading to locations on the Eastern Shore, Garrett County, and to visit Doyle Farm Nursery in PA for a prearranged tour. MNPS members have been invited to receive a 10% discount on native plants purchased that day at the nursery. Look in future issues of *Native News* for info about these trips.

Moving? Chris Partain is our membership database manager. If you have questions about your membership or mailings, or would like to change your mailing address, please contact her by e-mail or phone (at left). Chris will be happy to make any necessary changes for you.

Our Conservation Chair, Lou Aronica, is on the move. If you would like to contact Lou, call 301-809-0139, and we'll try to provide you with his current whereabouts and phone number.

Board meetings are open to members of the Society. The next meeting is tentatively set for November 21 or 22. The exact day, time, and place to be determined. Please contact Karyn Molines, President, for more information.

Soon, you'll be receiving your election ballot in the mail. Results of this year's election will be announced at the December Monthly meeting.

~ Meghan Tice, Editor

## Baltimore Chapter Meetings Update

The Chapter's November meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, November 17 at Irvine Nature Center in Stevenson, MD. Our speaker will be Robert Mardiney, Education Director of Irvine Nature Center. He will speak on *Native Plants for Birds and Butterflies - An Ecological Perspective*. The Chapter's January meeting will be held at Irvine Nature Center on Wednesday, January 19, 2005.

All members of MNPS are welcome to attend any Chapter meeting.

Want to know what's happening near you? Please check our website ([www.mdflora.org](http://www.mdflora.org)) for more Chapter updates.

## Late Autumn/Winter Field Trips

### Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (38<sup>th</sup> in the Series) – Fort Dupont

**Leaders:** Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

**Date:** Sunday, November 7 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

We will return to **Fort Dupont** to investigate the intricacies of the Terrace-Gravel Forest vegetation in one or more spots within Fort Dupont Park.

**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 'til you get 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.

### Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (39<sup>th</sup> in the Series) – Fort Slocum

**Leaders:** Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

**Date:** Sunday, December 5 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

We will return to **Fort Slocum** to look more closely at the Terrace-Gravel Forest vegetation and the unusual geology of the site.

**Directions:** Ft. Slocum in NW Washington, D.C. is bounded by Madison Street NW on the south, 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW on the west, Ogelthorpe on the north and Kansas Ave on the east. We can park on the east side of Kansas Ave around the intersection with Nicholson Street NW. We'll meet across Kansas Ave in the park.

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

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



Chinquapin (*Castanea pumila*)

### Winter Solstice at Chilton Woods

**Leader:** Rod Simmons and John Parrish

**Date:** Sunday, December 19 **Time:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

This year we will continue the annual tradition of celebrating the Winter Solstice with a walk at the exceptionally beautiful Chilton Woods. This large, old-age forest sits atop massive outcrops of Balls Bluff Siltstone overlooking the Potomac River near the Little Monocacy River and the border of Frederick and Montgomery Counties. The Triassic Basin soils are quite rich and support a diverse flora, including Sugar Maple, Hackberry, Chinquapin, Oak, Sycamore, and a wide variety of evergreen ferns.

**Directions:** Take River Road (Rt. 190) west from 495 towards Whites Ferry. Just west of Seneca, take Partnership Road (just south of Poolesville) north to Whites Ferry Road (Rt. 107) at the town of Poolesville. Take Whites Ferry Road west to Whites Ferry. Look for appropriate parking at the C&O Canal parking lot. We will gather there and next door at the general store and then hike upstream along the towpath.

**Bring:** Lunch and water.

**Note:** Cancelled for heavy rain, not light drizzle or snow.

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



Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*)

#### Native News Deadlines:

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| 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         |
| Sept 25  | November/December Late Autumn/Holidays Issue |

## Invasive Exotic Plant Removal Workdays

### Greenbelt National Park, Prince George's Co.

**Dates:** First Saturdays, monthly (November 6/December 4)  
**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).

### Woodend Sanctuary, Montgomery County

**Dates:** Second Saturdays, monthly (Nov 13 and Dec 11)  
**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.

### Sligo Creek Park, Montgomery County

**Dates:** Saturday mornings **Time:** 9:00 – 11:00 am  
*Friends of Sligo Creek* and the Department of Parks, M-NCPPC, have agreed to work together to make an all-out attempt to remove invasive plants in each section of Sligo above New Hampshire Ave. We will be asking all interested residents of the watershed to come out, and we'd be more than pleased to have further offers of help.  
**Meet:** First parking lot upstream from Colesville Road, near Dallas.  
**Note:** *Call to verify!* Canceled only for heavy rain.  
**Contact:** Sally Gagne sgagne@erols.com or 301-588-2071.

### Ruth Swann Park and Chapman Forest, Charles County

**Dates:** First Sundays, monthly **Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm  
**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.

### Belt Woods, Prince George's County

**Dates:** Saturdays **Time:** 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
**Contact:** Maureen Fine at maureenfine@earthlink.net or 301-464-9306 for more info.

### Northwest Branch of the Anacostia, Montgomery County

**Date:** Saturdays, November 20 and December 18  
**Time:** 10:00 am – 1:00 or 2:00  
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 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. Space is limited for non-members of MNPS; please register in advance by phone.

### WEED WARRIORS WANTED

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's (M-NCPPC) Forest Ecologist is assembling a team of volunteers (Weed Warriors) to monitor and remove non-native invasive plant species in Montgomery County Parks, and we need your help! As a Weed Warrior volunteer, you will receive a short training session from the Forest Ecologist in the identification of, removal and control techniques for non-native invasive plants. Weed Warriors can then work at their own pace and choose a schedule that best suits them. Many current Weed Warriors live near a M-NCPPC Stream Valley Park or Regional Park and do their volunteer work while walking their dogs or taking an occasional hike through their neighborhood park. Whether you choose to work individually or in a group, your efforts will contribute to the control of non-native vegetation in the 28,000 acres of Montgomery County parkland.  
**Contact:** Carole Bergmann, M-NCPPC Forest Ecologist, at 301-949-2818 for more info or to sign up.

## Announcements

A **Chapman Forest/Mount Aventine Open House** will take place on Sunday, December 12 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](http://www.chapmanforest.org) for directions and more Chapman Forest information.

**New Version of The Natural Communities Of Virginia is Now Online.** The Virginia Natural Heritage Program is pleased to announce that the Second Approximation (Version 2.0) of *The Natural Communities of Virginia: Classification of Ecological Community Groups* is now online at the VANHP website: [www.dcr.virginia.gov/dnh/nchome](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/dnh/nchome). Based on intensive field and analytical work over the past four years, the Second Approximation is a refined, expanded, and fully illustrated update to the First Approximation that was released in January 2001. The site contains a wealth of information about Virginia's landscape ecology, plant communities, and individual plant species. Much of the information is also pertinent to Maryland and other states in the mid-Atlantic region. Although a hard-copy version of the Second Approximation is also planned, basing this project on the web will allow it to be easily and continuously updated. Comments and feedback are welcome - contact Gary Fleming, Vegetation Ecologist, VA DCR, Natural Heritage Division at [gffleming@dcr.state.va.us](mailto:gffleming@dcr.state.va.us).

Thirty-two years of wetland horticulture experience captured in one book – *Propagation of Wetland Plants* covers more than 100 species and contains over 200 illustrations. The authors offer detailed tables that contain flowering periods, seed ripeness indicators, and seed collection times. In addition, the book includes a glossary of terms, and an index of botanical and common names. (350 pages - \$54.95 + \$8.00 S&H) Order online [www.wetland.org](http://www.wetland.org) or call 410-745-9620.

### **Olmsted Woods at Washington National Cathedral**

Thursday, December 9, 9:00 am – Bird Walk with experienced birder Sheila Cochran.

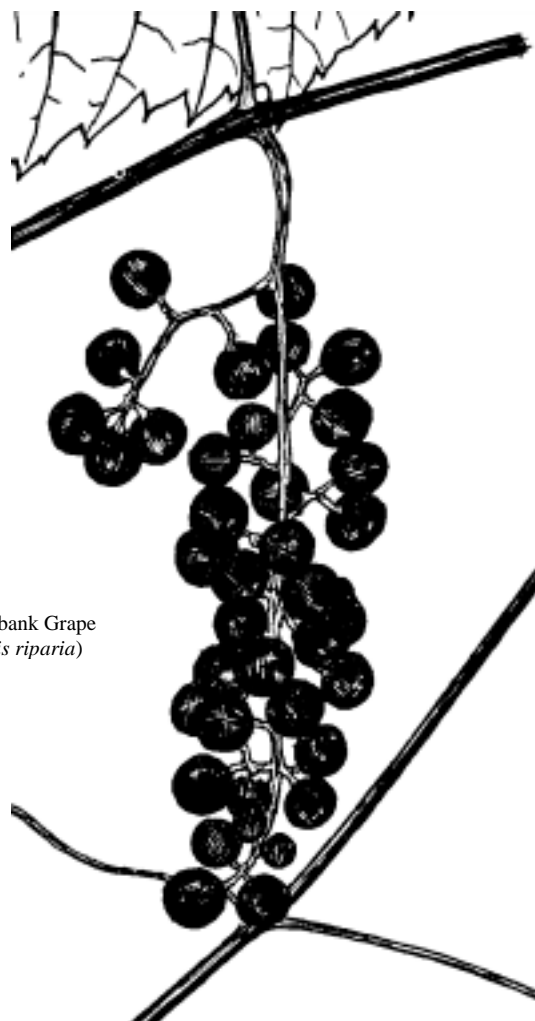
Thursday, December 9, 10:00 am – Winter Buds & Silhouettes Walk with Staff Horticulturist Nate Heavers. Tree identification and appreciation of the winter beauty of the Olmsted Woods will be the subject of this tour. Participants should meet at the George Washington Statue on Pilgrim Road. No reservations are required and all programs are free. Programs will be canceled in the event of heavy rain. Please remember that trampling harms the restoration effort. Kindly leash all pets.

Woodlands Information Line: 202-537-2319.

Sponsored by All Hallows Guild, Washington National Cathedral, Massachusetts & Wisconsin Aves, NW, Washington, D.C. 20016-5098.

### **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 11/1/2004 then your membership expires at the end of November. 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.



Riverbank Grape  
(*Vitis riparia*)



NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ROCKVILLE, MD  
PERMIT NO. 3567

**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