

Native News

Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

January/February 2005

Volume 5 Number 1

Inside This Issue:

President's Letter

Page 2

~

MNPS Contacts

Page 2

~

Chapter Events

Page 3

~

The Multi-Billion Dollar Scam

Page 4

~

Maryland's

List of "Disposable Properties"

Page 4

~

Winter Field Trips

Page 5

~

Invasive Exotic Plant

Removal Workdays

Page 6

~

Announcements

Page 7

~

Designating a Wildland –
Permanently Protect the Crabtree

Creek Old-growth Forest

Page 8

~

Brickbats & Kudos

Page 9

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

“Threatened Lands in Maryland and What MNPS is Doing To Protect Them”

Tuesday, January 25, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Join MNPS for a presentation on significant lands in Maryland that are currently threatened by development, roadway expansion, land-use policies, etc., and what the society is doing to protect them. Unique natural features, native plants, including rare species, forests, and water resources will be highlighted. This a great opportunity to find out more about land conservation in the state and what contributions one can make. We will have several guest speakers on hand to help cover areas from the Delmarva to Garrett County.

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.

“Compartmentalization: The Dynamic Tree Defense Process”

Tuesday, February 22, 7:30 pm

Aspen Hill Library

Richard Murray, an arborist and MNPS member, will present a descriptive talk covering basic themes of tree biology. Why are trees such super survivors? How do they defend themselves? Richard will bring tree dissection samples, allowing us to look inside for answers.

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.

Refreshments are served at each monthly meeting. Feel free to bring cookies or snacks.



Native News



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

Contacts:

Botany..... Rod Simmons
botany@mdflora.org
Conservation..... Lou Aronica
717-766-8685
Field Trips..... Meghan Tice
fieldtrips@mdflora.org
301-809-0139
Flora of Maryland..... Joe Metzger
jmetzger50@hotmail.com
Habitat Stewardship..... Marc Imlay
ialm@erols.com
Membership..... Chris Partain
memberships@mdflora.org
301-540-9135
Monthly Meetings..... Rod Simmons
meetings@mdflora.org
Outreach..... Carolyn Fulton
cofulton@chesapeake.net
President..... Carole Bergmann
carole.bergmann@mncppc-mc.org
Publications:
Marilandica..... Rod Simmons
marilandica@mdflora.org
Native News..... Meghan Tice
nativenews@mdflora.org
Website..... Iris Mars
website@mdflora.org

Executive Officers:

Carole Bergmann, President
Marc Imlay, Vice President
John Parrish, Vice President
Roderick Simmons, Vice President
Carolyn Fulton, Secretary
Beth Johnson, Treasurer

Board of Directors:

Lou Aronica	Mike McQuade
Lisa Bierer-Garrett	Joe Metzger, Jr.
Jean Cantwell	Karyn Molines
Paul Carlson	Chris Partain
Melanie Choukas-Bradley	
Cris Fleming	Mary Pat Rowan
Ann Lundy	Sara Tangren
Iris Mars	Meghan Tice

President's Letter

Greetings,

I write this letter having spent the Thanksgiving weekend with my family in and around Philadelphia. My sister lives in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey so Gary and I decided to explore this ecosystem by taking a walk through Wharton State Forest, near the historic village of Batsto. Even with most plants dormant, the area was beautiful. I am often thankful that so many of our region's natural areas are so accessible. This got me angry about the plan to sell our state lands. The parks and natural areas on the list were preserved to protect them from development, to harbor rare species or ecosystems, or to provide ecological buffers throughout the state. Selling land to the highest bidder (the developers) is not sound fiscal policy. The Society will be submitting a letter of protest, but I encourage each of you to write to your representative and Governor Ehrlich about how important land preservation is. Often it is the citizen involvement that leads to significant conservation milestones.

Just recently, Rod Simmons informed me of the discovery of Maryland's most northern location of the globally-rare Northern Coastal Fall Line Magnolia Bog in Howard County. MNPS member Darian Copiz and a friend inventoried and assessed the site, as well as notified the Heritage Program of the Department of Natural Resources to ensure protection. This site has large, old pitch pines and certainly one of the largest Bog Fern populations in the state (Bog Fern is State Rare S1.)

I also write this letter with a little sadness, for it is my last letter as President. The Society will be in the able hands of Carole Bergmann, as well as the entire Board, volunteers, and membership. This year has also been one of great accomplishments for the Society, so let me run down just a few that I am proud to boast happened on my watch:

- Our field trips took people to a wide variety of habitats throughout the state, around the Fort Circle of Washington, and even into Delaware. Our volunteer field trip leaders are critical to this success and I would like to thank them all:

Orchid Award (leading more than five trips):

Lou Aronica (7)
Mary Pat Rowan (7)
Ester Woodworth (5)

Magnolia Award (leading four trips):

Karyn Molines (4)
Rod Simmons (4)
Sara Tangren (4)

Trillium Award (leading three trips):

Dwight Johnson (3)
Sylvan Kaufman (3)
Joe Metzger (3)

Others who led trips:

Debbie Herr (2)
Wayne Bell
Carole Bergmann
Jerry Hudgens
Carol Jelich
Beth Johnson
Ann Lundy
Maureen MacFarland
John Parrish
Louisa Thompson

- Our evening meetings are another successful program, attracting long-time members and new members to learn more about Maryland's native plants and habitats. Ed Barrows, Barbara and Victor Medina, Joe Metzger, Richard Murray, John Parrish, Doug Ripley, Rod Simmons (three times!), Kathy Szlavecz, and Beth Wells spoke at the Montgomery County meetings. Chapter meeting speakers were Michael Beer, Sue Dieter, Daryl Dutrow, Jim Gallion, Dwight Johnson, Joe Metzger, Kristen Saltonstall, Mary-Stuart Sierra, and Louisa Thompson.
- Joe Metzger's display on "Native Plants for Attracting Birds" won First Place at the Frederick County Fair.

Continued on the next page.

- Iris Mars has taken over the maintenance of the website and revamped it.
- The Habitat Stewardship Committee scaled back a bit this year, but the projects we sponsored have seen some success. Swann Park is now in the "maintenance" phase. Under Marc Imlay's guidance and endless enthusiasm, volunteers have successfully controlled invasives in the park.
- The Southern Maryland Chapter hosted the Annual Fall Conference, and for 2005 the Greater Baltimore Chapter will take on this task. Contact Ann Lundy (aplundy@attglobal.net) to volunteer.
- Joe Metzger created a new "Gardeners Guidelines" on native plants for attracting birds. We should have copies available in early 2005.
- We provided funds to produce "Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping" through the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

I want to thank everyone for their support and assistance over the past three years. I'll still remain active in the Society and will continue to be amazed and awed by all the work this dedicated group of volunteers achieves.

Best wishes in the New Year,



Karyn Molines



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 member dues. If you remember to renew before your expiration date, you'll help us save money by reducing the number of renewal letters we have to mail. 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 makes sense. To tell when your membership expires, take a look at your mailing label. For example, if your label reads 12/1/2004 your membership expires at the end of December. 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.

Chapter Events

Greater Baltimore Chapter

The Greater Baltimore Chapter meeting on Wednesday, January 19 at 7:30 pm at Irvine Nature Center in Stevenson, Md. will feature Dr. Clark Riley speaking on "Native Orchids." Dr. Riley, a member of the Maryland Orchid Society, specializes in growing Lady Slipper orchids and other terrestrial orchids. This will be an excellent opportunity for our members to learn about these wonderful native plants and help them with identification in the field and growing them in their own gardens!

The Greater Baltimore Chapter is looking for interested members to help plan the 2005 Fall Conference and to help with our booth at the Maryland Home and Garden Show in March. The Steering Committee meets at 6:00 pm for pizza before the meeting and welcomes new members.

Plan to visit the MNPS booth at the Maryland Home and Garden Show at the Fairgrounds in Timonium on March 4-6 and 11-13 and enjoy the "Native and Exotic Plant Sale" the first weekend and the "Orchid Show and Sale" on the second weekend.

For more information, contact Ann Lundy at 410-366-9365 or aplundy@attglobal.net.

Eastern Shore Chapter

Join us at 6:00 pm on Thursday, February 17 in Easton to plan spring and summer outings and events. Contact Sylvan Kaufman, skaufman@adkinsarboretum.org or 410-634-2847 x24 for more information.

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

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

Welcome New Members!

Laudie Baer, Catherine Beise, Robert Burnett, Matt Clark, Tom Crone, Judy Gaskell, Catherine Gilleland, Susan Gray, Kate Halla, Marypat Hedges, Emmalyn Holdridge, Mr. and Mrs. Hooker, Liz Jones, Betty Kostkowski, Kimberley Mead, Ellen Menown, Hazel Murdock, Patrick Naehu, Claire Narrod and Scott Malcolm, Jackalyn Noller, Paul Phillips, Elizabeth Pitts, Mary Rollefson, Jeff Schwartz, Pogo Sherwood, Cindy Todd, Taffy Turner, Vincent Vaise, Lee Vines, Frank and Vanessa Vleck, Rita Warpeha, Andrea Weeks, Martha White, Brett Williams, Deborah Wright, Wayne Yoder, and Deborah Zucker.

The Multi-Billion Dollar Scam

During the week of Thanksgiving, the Maryland State Highway Department released a new Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed, and several times rejected, Inter-County Connector (ICC.) Public hearings were scheduled for early January (Tuesday, January 4; 5-11pm, Eleanor Roosevelt High School; Wednesday, January 5; 5-11pm, Gaithersburg High School; Saturday, January 8, 9am-6pm, James Blake High School).

The Society has consistently protested the building of this irresponsible, and environmentally disastrous road project. As of press time, we have not reviewed the newest DEIS, but do not believe that the scope and impact of the project could be any different than in 1997, the last time it was reviewed. Here are just a few of the reasons that the ICC should not be built:

- 1) The 1997 DEIS was rejected or criticized by all local, state, and federal agencies because it would cause incredible community and environmental damage. Numerous studies found that the ICC would provide no real relief to the Washington Beltway, I-270, or I-95 traffic congestion.
- 2) The ICC would spur sprawl development, which would exacerbate traffic problems.
- 3) The ICC would directly destroy 550 acres of forest, 20 acres of wetlands, 144 acres of parkland, not to mention the habitats degraded or impacted indirectly from construction, pollution, and sprawl.
- 4) The ICC would cross streams 77 times. Downstream water quality would decline significantly with the loss of wetlands, riparian forests, and an increase in impervious surfaces.
- 5) The ICC threatens at least 20 rare, threatened or endangered plants. At least 27 forest interior dwelling bird species depend on the mature forests that would be destroyed or fragmented.
- 6) The ICC would cross 5 watersheds: Rock Creek, Northwest Branch, Paint Branch, Little Paint Branch, and Indian Creek. Paint Branch contains the only naturally reproducing trout in the metropolitan area.
- 7) The costs estimates currently are \$1.4 billion for construction. This would easily turn into over \$3 billion with financing and over runs. This would be the entire transportation budget for the Washington area. Don't put all our transportation dollars in this one project--these funds would be much better spent on completing dozens of other projects.

The release of this DEIS appears to be strategically timed to coincide with the winter holidays. Perhaps Gov. Ehrlich hopes that people will be too busy to become involved in the most devastating construction project in our lifetime. We must demonstrate that we will not tolerate such a blatant disregard for environmental impacts.

Native News may arrive too late for attending and speaking at the hearings, but the **public record will remain open until February 1**. Please send your written comments (even if it as brief as "I oppose the ICC" and include your full name and address) to: Wesley Mitchell, Mail Stop C-301, MD-SHA, 707 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.

For additional information you can check out these web sites:
<http://www.iccfacts.com>
<http://www.sierraclub.org/dc/Sprawl/WhyOpposeICC.htm>
<http://www.greenscissors.org/transportation/ICCpr.htm>
<http://www.iccstudy.org> (the SHA web site)

List of "Disposable Properties"

Published November 13, 2004, Baltimore Sun
State-owned land that the MD Department of Natural Resources has designated surplus and targeted for possible sale or transfer.

CENTRAL REGION

Bush Declaration Natural Resources Management Area (NRMA), 256 acres, Harford County
Elk Neck State Forest, 51 acres, Cecil County
Fair Hill NRMA, 12 acres, Cecil County
Forest Hill Lake Fish Management Area (FMA), 10 acres, Harford County
Matthew Henson State Park, 93 acres, Montgomery County
Patapsco Valley State Park, 151 acres, four parcels in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll and Cecil counties

EASTERN REGION

Bodkin Island, 8 acres, Queen Anne's County
Galena Undesignated Tract, 21 acres, Kent County
Green Hill Fire Tower (FT), 2 acres, Somerset County
Powellville FT, 3 acres, Wicomico County

SOUTHERN REGION

Cedarville State Forest, 155 acres, Charles County
Crownsville Hospital Residual Undesignated Tract, 559 acres, Anne Arundel County
Hallowing Point Research Center, 1 acre, Calvert County
Hughsville Pond FMA, 3 acres, Charles County
North Beach, 1 acre, two parcels in Calvert and Anne Arundel counties

WESTERN REGION

Brownsville Pond FMA, 2 acres, Washington County
Brunswick Pond FMA, 5 acres, Frederick County
Cunningham Falls State Park, 27 acres, Frederick County
Deep Creek Lake NRMA, 584 acres, Garrett County
Deep Creek State Park, 15.8 acres, Garrett County
Fort Hill, 103 acres, Allegany County
Frank Bentz Pond FMA, 4 acres, Frederick County
Gambrell State Park, 22 acres, Frederick County
Garrett State Forest, 56 acres, Garrett County
Savage River State Forest, 121 acres, Garrett County
Potomac State Forest, 10 acres, Garrett County
South Mountain State Park, 193 acres, seven parcels in Washington County and 2 parcels in Frederick County
Urbana Lake FMA, 60 acres, Frederick County
Copyright © 2004 The Baltimore Sun

Winter Field Trips

Winter Greens, Charles County

Leader: Marc Imlay

Date: Sunday, February 6 **Time:** 1:00 – 5:00 pm
Maryland has a diversity of plants that are green all winter, even though they are not "evergreens" such as pines and cedars. We'll focus on the less common evergreen species, including herbaceous plants that still have green basal rosettes. Plan to attend the invasive removal project in the morning to help distinguish native from non-native species.

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.

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

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (40th in the Series) – Fort Stanton

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

Date: Sunday, February 13 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
We will return to **Fort Stanton** for a winter walk in a Terrace-Gravel site.

Directions: Meet at Park Drive and 32nd Place SE just off of Branch Ave SE (Route 5 in Maryland); access via Pennsylvania Ave to Branch Ave (about 4 short blocks southeast of this intersection). Edge of connector is called Park Drive on one side of Branch Ave and U Street on the other side.

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.

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (41st in the Series) – Fort Totten

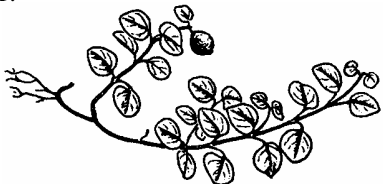
Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

Date: Sunday, March 6 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Fort Totten is one of the most interesting Terrace-Gravel sites in Washington. We will visit to see it in its winter splendor with a few spring ephemerals if we are lucky.

Directions: Meet at Fort Totten Drive near Crittenden St. NE. Park on the street and gather on the meadow at the entrance to the park.

Bring: Lunch and water. **Note:** Easy to moderate walk. A light drizzle is fine but canceled if pouring rain.

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



Bald Eagle at Nest

Cove Point Marsh, Calvert County

Leader: Bob Boxwell

Date: Sunday, March 13 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
The easement property at Cove Point Marsh includes a variety of habitats including upland forest, ponds, fresh and brackish marsh systems, and a barrier beach. According to a study from 1999, over 696 species have been recorded on the site, including 52 species of trees and 63 species of shrubs. There are wet areas, ticks, and other pests to deal with.

Bring: Binoculars and hand lenses are good, but please no cameras.

Note: Pre-registration is required. Directions will be provided after registration is accepted. Space is strictly limited to 10 people and a valid US ID is required (e.g. driver's license) on day of trip.

Contact: Bob Boxwell 410-414-3311 or bobboxwell@hotmail.com.

Native News Deadlines:

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
Nov 25	January/February Winter Issue

Invasive Exotic Plant Removal Workdays

Greenbelt National Park, Prince George's Co.

Dates: First Saturdays, monthly (February 5/March 5)
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 (February 12/March 12)
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 – Please call for specific dates.
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

Want to stay on top of all the environmental legislation coming before the Maryland House & Senate? Join the **Maryland Conservation Council**. For \$25 you'll receive a weekly update, the "Conservation Report," while the Maryland General Assembly is in session. This publication analyzes proposed legislation that affects the environment, either positively or negatively, provides dates of hearings on the bills, and includes articles of interest to environmentalists. You may mail your check directly to George Tyson, 1825 N. Forest Park Drive, Baltimore, MD 21207. For additional information, contact George at 410-448-2362 or www.MarylandConservationCouncil.net.

Daryl Dutrow, owner of Wildlife Landscapes, is presenting a talk "**Planting for Birds and Wildlife**" to the Baltimore Bird Club on February 1 at 7:30 pm at the Cylburn Arboretum at 4915 Greenspring Avenue. The presentation articulates an environment and wildlife friendly vision for residential landscapes as an alternative to the current lawn-based and wildlife hostile American landscape. The approach advocates woodland and meadow-based landscapes using native plants and reversing the commonly used techniques for landscape maintenance. He will discuss basic steps for designing bird and butterfly gardens, including a special plea for encouraging insects in the landscape. In addition to digital pictures, the presentation will include video clips of wildlife in action with a special emphasis on birds. Daryl will be available to answer specific homeowner landscaping questions after as well as during the presentation. Directions: From I-83 take the Northern Pkwy west exit. Immediately move to the left lane and turn left onto Cylburn Ave. Take the next left (south) onto Greenspring Ave and turn left again almost immediately at the stone gate. Follow the drive to the circle in front of the mansion.

Adkins Arboretum's Winter Program on Gardening with Native Plants: Thursdays, February 10 – March 10, 1-3 pm
Fee: \$10/class members or \$12/class general public

This five-part gardening series will give you the fundamentals for planning, designing, planting and maintaining your garden. You will learn how to use native plants in landscaping and to practice conservation landscaping principles to reduce the use of irrigation, fertilizer, pesticides, and power tools to create habitat for that is both beautiful and beneficial to native wildlife. You can register for one or all sessions of the course.

Feb 10 - Analyzing your Site - Debbie Herr Cornwell

Feb 17 - Introduction to Native Plants - Eric Wittman

Feb 24 - Designing the Garden - Ellie Altman

March 3 - Conservation Landscaping Principles - Carol Jelich

March 10 - Identifying and Controlling Invasive Plants -

Sylvan Kaufman

Call 410-634-2847 x0 to register and visit the website www.adkinsarboretum.org for more information.

On Thursday, February 17 from 8:15-4:15 Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve will sponsor the **Fifth Annual Land Ethics Symposium: Creative Approaches for Ecological Landscaping**. This stimulating and informative symposium will focus on ways to create low-maintenance, economical, and ecologically balanced landscapes using native plants and restoration techniques. The symposium is geared toward landscape architects, designers, contractors and other members of the landscape industry, environmental consultants, land planners, managers and developers, and state/municipal officials. Featured speakers and topics include: Neil Diboll, Prairie Nursery- "Five Steps to Successful Prairie Meadow Establishment"; Sara Pevaroff Schuh, Salt Design Studio- "Revitalizing Urban Ecology"; Jeffrey Keller, Habitat by Design- "Creating Biodiversity through Landscape Restoration"; Mark Gutshall, Land Studies- "New Uses for Old Floodplains"; and Miles Arnott, BHWP- "Speaking the Native Language: Choice Plants for Ecological Design." Attendees also will have opportunities to develop contacts with colleagues and share resources. A selection of topical books from the BHWP's Twinleaf Shop will be available for purchase. Continuing education credits are available through various professional organizations. The symposium is co-sponsored by Solebury Township (Bucks County, Pa.) and the PA/DE Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects. This event will be held at the Sheraton Bucks County Hotel, in Langhorne, Pa. and is convenient to I-95. Pre-registration required. For more information and to receive a brochure, call the Preserve at 215-862-2924 or email Nancy Beaubaire (beaubaire@bhwp.org). Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve: www.bhwp.org.

Sylvan Kauffman of Adkins Arboretum will be presenting on exotic invasive plants, and the native alternatives that can help our garden reflect the regional landscape, benefit wildlife, and function to reduce runoff and save energy. The workshop will be held at **ThorpeWood** on Thursday, February 24 from 6-8 pm. Directions can be found on the website www.thorpewood.org. Please call Aaron Morehouse, Program Director, at 301-271-0602.

Blackburn Press would like to announce the reprinting of a classic book in botany: **Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of the Southwest** by Robert A. Vines with Drawings by Sarah Kahlden Arendale (ISBN 1-932846-00-X). Originally printed in 1960, 25 years of labor went into the book by the late Robert A. Vines, which describes and illustrates more than 1,200 species of native and naturalized woody plants of the southwestern U.S. The book covers Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana. The author traveled more than 250,000 miles by car, on foot, and horseback. The species described are grouped into 102 chapters, each chapter representing a different plant family. Accompanying the text are more than 1,200 black-and-white drawings by Sarah Kahlden Arendale. This classic and other botany titles are available at blackburnpress.com and from Amazon.com.

Designating a Wildland – Permanently Protect the Crabtree Creek Old-growth Forest

By Bob DeGroot and Dan Boone

Crabtree Creek flows from the town of Swanton to the Savage River Reservoir in Maryland's Garrett County. On the west slope of this creek is the largest old-growth forest left in Maryland - the only site where one can view and enjoy an extensive area forest that has remained relatively undisturbed by commercial logging activity throughout its history. This amazing natural area is not only aesthetically pleasing but the conditions found in the old-growth forest support an incredible diversity of plant and animal species. The old-growth forest provides abundant food and shelter to a variety of animals that cannot find such habitat in frequently logged areas.

This Crabtree forest is part of the Potomac/Garrett State Forest. Public forests are logged as a state policy, and while the Crabtree old growth is administratively protected, this pristine forest could be cut down with the stroke of a bureaucrat's pen. Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) controls management of the forest, but unfortunately they also receive the funds from selling timber and logging state forests. Thus, they have the incentive to permit logging, and could authorize the destruction of this ancient forest at any time.

Fortunately, we can still act to insure that the forest remains intact both to provide enjoyment for future generations and to nurture species that depend upon its conditions. In 1971, the Maryland legislature passed the Wildlands Protection Act. Under this law, the legislature can protect certain publicly-owned areas from logging or other incursions, and thus preserve them for future generations. The old-growth forest ecosystem at Crabtree Creek needs official protection via a legislative act to make it a Wildland. Unfortunately we may need to overcome some local political opposition in order to get the Maryland Legislature to designate a Crabtree Old-growth Wildland, which should encompass the entire ancient forest plus include surrounding buffer and important habitat areas. The protection area for this Wildland will include nearly 3,000 acres.

How to Help Protect the Crabtree Creek Forest

Wildlands designation limits the types of activities that may occur on State lands to those activities that do not leave a lasting imprint of human activity. Prohibited activities generally include the use of motorized vehicles and equipment, the harvesting of timber, the use of land for commercial gain, mineral extraction, and the construction of new roads, buildings, and structures. Several types of



*"In wildness is the preservation of the world."
~Thoreau*

recreational activities such as hiking, canoeing, kayaking, hunting, and rafting are permitted in Wildlands areas.

We have an opportunity to protect a forest of rare beauty and natural diversity. But we will need your help in setting aside this amazing natural area for us, and future generations, to study and admire. We need to raise some money, write letters, make phone calls, and hold meetings with legislators to urge their support for this Wildlands Bill. If you can help us protect Maryland's best old-growth forest, please contact the Sierra Club MD Chapter Office at 301-277-7111 or via email laurel.imlay@sierraclub.org.

Native News

Brickbats

Brickbats & Kudos

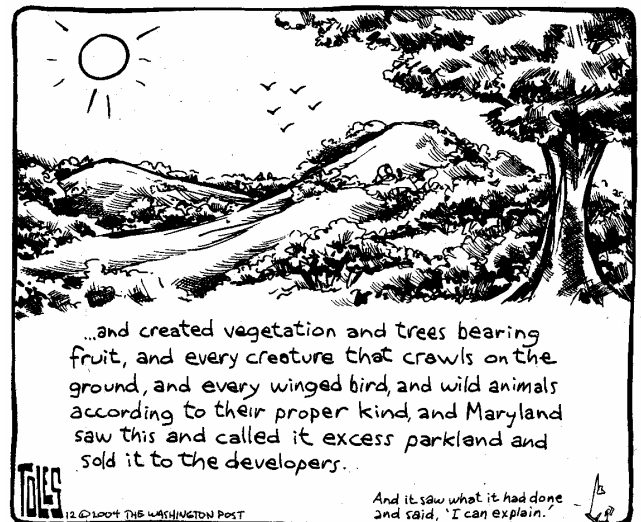
Kudos

- Brickbats to Del. Murray Levy (D - Charles) and the Ehrlich administration for coming up with the outrageous proposal to develop Chapman Forest, including using sections for ballfields. Nearby Ruth B. Swann Memorial Park is also threatened by the proposed swap of county parkland for ballfields. Despite years of secrecy and back-room dealings that began just after Maryland acquired the Chapman site and designated it state parkland, the true and long-suspected designs for the site by state and county officials finally became clear, thanks to a recent, in-depth expose by The Washington Post. Apparently this is the latest and worst in a series of deals under Governor Ehrlich's (R) plan to sell off "questionable state property," including the "proposed sweetheart sale of 836 acres of environmentally sensitive, state-owned forest land in St. Mary's County to a politically connected Baltimore developer who stood to make as much as \$7 million in tax breaks on the deal." The proposed selling and developing of Chapman Forest also is highly suspect because it is locally and nationally renowned for its high concentration of rare natural treasures, like unspoiled waterfront, old-growth forest, and pristine wetlands, and doesn't accord in any way with Ehrlich's stated position that only lands with "little or no environmental value" or "holdings that improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay" would be sold. Levy's position is equally troubling - believing the exchange of at least 226 acres at two parks for ballfields and development to be "a pretty good deal for the state," and that clearing forest for ballfields fits with "protecting environmentally sensitive properties."

MNPS has spent nearly ten years and countless hours working with the state and other agencies in documenting the natural resources of this special place, and together with others faced a long, uphill battle against Levy (former president of the Board of Charles County Commissioners) and other county officials who fought for development at the site, which eventually culminated in the state purchasing the land several years ago. Fortunately, the "media scrutiny" and outcry from citizens and the Maryland legislature prevented the St. Mary's deal from going through, and lawmakers in the General Assembly are preparing to introduce a constitutional amendment that would give the Assembly review power over sales of state-owned, environmentally-sensitive lands and sites earmarked for preservation. It is hoped that this and continued advocacy for conserving natural resources will prevent already preserved lands from being developed and inspire the lasting protection of new ones. One would also hope that elected officials be held politically accountable for any ill-conceived deals that would have permanent detrimental effects, "to ensure that Maryland does not sacrifice its heritage on the altar of cronyism, backroom dealing, and sprawl." (*Washington Post*, November 29 and December 14, 2004)

- Kudos to Maine resident Roxanne Quimby and the Restore: The North Woods group who are lobbying for the preservation of a vast expanse of northern forest through the creation of a gigantic new national park in northern Maine - "a 3.2 million-acre park that would be larger than Yosemite and Yellowstone combined." Quimby, who recently purchased 24,000 acres for preservation in this area, and other conservationists are concerned about the nearly 7 million acres of forest in the region that are mostly privately owned and of uncertain future status. The plan, which has "fared well in a series of public opinion polls," envisions the park to be made up of land "either donated or bought by the government from willing sellers." (*Washington Post*, November 28, 2004)

- Kudos to the Washington Post, New York Times, Maryland Independent, and Washington Times for their accurate coverage in describing Magnolia Bogs and their importance - as globally-rare natural communities, as havens for rare plant and animal species, and for their unique role in maintaining sources of pure, filtered spring water - during the national media frenzy resulting from the December arson fires at the Hunters Brooke development in Charles County. Significant portions of the Hunters Brooke and adjacent Falcon Ridge developments are still planned within the approximately 150-acre watershed of Araby Bog, with large areas of Hunters Brooke to be constructed atop active springs and seepage flows that sustain the bog. MNPS, MAGIC, and SAMMS are committed to working out a solution that adequately preserves the bog and its environs; yet in a day and age when great emphasis is seemingly placed on protecting irreplaceable natural resources like clean water, it is too often the case that jurisdictions in the Washington-Baltimore area, among the very wealthiest in the nation, behave like struggling third world countries by "extracting the last drop of utility from the land."





NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SILVER SPRING, 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