

Native News

Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

March/April 2005

Volume 5 Number 2

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Upcoming Monthly Meetings

“Potomac Gorge Habitat Restoration”

Tuesday, March 29, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

The Potomac Gorge, from Great Falls to Georgetown, is one of the most biologically significant natural areas in the eastern United States. The site harbors more than 400 occurrences of 200 rare species and communities, a major river system with numerous tributaries, noteworthy stands of upland forest, seeps and springs that contain rare groundwater organisms, and abundant wetlands.

Mary Travaglini, the Potomac Gorge Habitat Restoration Manager for the National Park Service, will speak about the importance of the Gorge and how MNPS members can help protect and restore this nationally significant conservation area. The Nature Conservancy hopes to have members of MNPS adopt an area and come out for regular service projects! This is a great opportunity to learn more about the plants of the area and to get out into the field.

Ms. Travaglini was hired as the Potomac Gorge Habitat Restoration Manager in October 2004. She focuses on invasive species control and rare groundwater invertebrate habitat restoration in the Gorge.

Directions: Please see below.

“Spring Wildflowers”

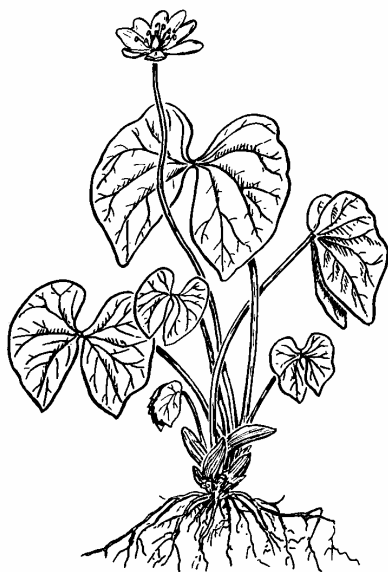
Tuesday, April 26, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Join Maryland botanist Joe Metzger for an in-depth presentation on spring blooming wildflowers in Maryland. Joe will also discuss wildflower identification, habitats, and good places to see them throughout the state.

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.

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



Twinleaf
Jeffersonia diphylla

Native News



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President's Letter

Dear Fellow Members,

I'd like to take a moment to thank you for electing me as President. I have known for a number of years now what a special organization the Maryland Native Plant Society is! **As a very active group of volunteers, we do such important work!**

Without any central office or any single coordinator in charge, we manage to lead incredibly interesting, informative, and even "life-expanding" field trips.

We conduct exhaustive statewide botanical inventories – inventories which are used by individuals and groups for important conservation projects, and for helping to teach/educate/bring an awareness of our natural ecosystems to many.

We research, champion, and testify on the behalf of uncommon and sometimes unique eco-regions.

We produce the important *Native News* and *Marilandica* publications.

We write and post letters to state and federal representatives.

We coordinate, from start to finish, an exciting yearly conference celebrating some aspect of native vegetation in Maryland.

All this because we are truly committed to the Society's mission of protecting Maryland's native plants and their habitats... All this because I think we realize how important this is – for ourselves right now and for those who will live here in the future.

I believe in the good work that the Maryland Native Plant Society has done, and is doing, and I hope that we can all continue to contribute to and expand this work during the coming year.

"Find your place on the plant. Dig in, and take responsibility from there."

-Gary Snyder-

"The key to intelligent tinkering is to keep all the parts."

-Aldo Leopold-

I look forward to working with all of you this year. We have MANY jobs, MANY choices, and MANY opportunities for fellow nature lovers/plant fanatics to pitch in and help our Society keep fulfilling its mission. I hope to see you at the next monthly meeting or on one of our field trips.

~ Carole Bergmann

Chapter Events

Greater Baltimore Chapter

The Greater Baltimore Chapter's March meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 16 at 7:30 pm at Irvine Nature Center in Stevenson, Md. Our speaker will be Dr. Clark Riley (rescheduled due to snow in January) speaking on "Native Orchids." Dr. Riley 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!

Plan to visit the MNPS booth in the 4-H building at the Maryland Home and Garden Show at the Fairgrounds in Timonium on March 4-6 and 11-13. Enjoy the "Native and Exotic Plant Sale" (a percentage of sales to benefit Irvine Nature Center) the first weekend and the "Orchid Show and Sale" the second weekend. Volunteers to man the MNPS booth will receive free entry to the show....

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

Eastern Shore Chapter

Please see the "Coastal Plain Spring Wildflowers" field trip on page 5. For more information about Eastern Shore happenings, please contact Sylvan Kaufman at skaufman@adkinsarboretum.org or 410-634-2847 x24.

All members of MNPS are welcome to attend any Chapter event. Please check our website (www.mdflora.org) for more Chapter updates.

MNPS Announcements

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 renewal just makes sense. To tell when your membership expires, take a look at your mailing label. For example, if your label reads 3/1/2005 your membership expires at the end of March. 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.

Some Websites to Visit

Dr. Edward Barrows would like to invite others who may wish to see photos from the December 19 MNPS field trip to Chilton Woods to visit his website: <http://biodiversity.georgetown.edu/searchfiles/infosearch.cfm?view=all&IDNumber=2678>. The PowerPoint presentation Edd did for our November monthly meeting on "Local Pollinators" can be seen at: <http://biodiversity.georgetown.edu/files/informationfile.cfm?title=posterpages>.

Welcome New Members!

New Members who joined in the past two months: Melanie Choukas-Bradley, Paul Crumrine, Stephen Davies and Katherine Feldman, James Monahan, Doug Mortl, and Michael Wilpers. Thanks for your support and hope we'll see you during the year on a field trip or at a meeting.

Volunteer Needs

Volunteers Needed

The Southern Maryland Chapter will have a booth at the Leonardtown Earth Day Festival on Sunday, April 17 from 12:30 – 4:30 pm. We could use a few people to help at the booth. The Earth Day Festival is a fun day of music, good food, and a chance to showcase MNPS's efforts in Southern Maryland. If you are interested in updating our display board, we could use your help as well. Contact either Karyn Molines at kmolines@chesapeake.net or Mary Alves at mmalves@smcm.edu.

Party Animals Needed!

We need some willing volunteers to help with the mailing of our bi-monthly *Native News*. We have to fold, seal, and label the newsletter. Light refreshments are provided while getting to meet fellow MNPSers. It's usually a fun evening of conversations with only a few paper cuts. The May/June mailing party is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 25, from 6-9 pm. We meet at the offices of the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations (MANO) in downtown Silver Spring, near the intersection of Georgia and Cameron avenues. If you are interested, please contact Karyn Molines at kmolines@chesapeake.net (preferred) or 410-286-2928. If the party needs to be postponed due to printing delays, Karyn will notify you of the date change.

Native News Deadlines:

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
Jan 25	March/April Early Spring Issue

Tentative 2005 Mailing Party Dates:

Mondays; April 25, June 20, August 22, October 24

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.

All Hallows Guild at Washington National Cathedral has announced **Woods and Bird Walks in the Olmsted Woods**. The Walks focus on the Olmsted Woods Restoration Project launched in 1997. The Guild, founded in 1916, is responsible "for the care and beautification of the Cathedral gardens and grounds." Unless otherwise noted, participants meet at the George Washington statue on Pilgrim Road. No reservations are required and all programs are free. Programs will be cancelled in the event of heavy rain. Woodlands Information Line: 202-537-2319.

WOODS WALKS

Thursday, March 10, 10:00 am – *Plants and Their Uses*. Learn how the many trees, shrubs, and flowers in the Olmsted Woods have been useful to people and wildlife. Tour Leader: Nate Heavers, Cathedral Horticulture Manager

Thursdays, April 7, 14, 21, and 28, 10:00 am – *The Greening of the Olmsted Woods*. Join wildflower and horticultural experts for this series of walks designed to track the "greening" of the Woods during the month of April. Tours will focus on spring ephemerals, wildflowers, native plants, and budding trees. The ongoing restoration and stewardship campaign will also be discussed.

Friday, May 6 and Saturday, May 7, 2:00 pm – *Flower Mart*. Want a break from the excitement? Here's an opportunity to take a relaxing walk in the Woods and learn about the All Hallows Guild Restoration Project – including planting plans, water management, and amphitheater restoration. Funds raised at Flower Mart are used to further this nationally recognized restoration. Tour Leader: Dede Petri, Olmsted Woods Restoration Chair, and Anne Elsbree, Co-Chair

BIRD WALKS

Thursday, May 5, 8:30 am. As the Olmsted Woods undergoes restoration, a guiding principle is the inclusion of groundcovers, shrubs, and trees attractive to birds and other wildlife. Please join experienced birder Sheila Cochran at the George Washington Statue. Wear sturdy shoes and don't forget your binoculars!

Please remember: Trampling harms the restoration effort. Kindly leash all pets.

19th Annual Lahr Symposium

Native Plants: Connecting Gardens, Nature, and People

Saturday, March 19

U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002

Speakers will be: Cole Burrell, S. Edgar David, Jessie Harris, Donald W. Hyatt, Dr. Richard Mack, Liz McDowell, Jenny Reed, and Lauren Wheeler.

For full flyer and registration form, call 202-245-5898 or see www.usna.usda.gov/Education/lahr.pdf.

New England Wild Flower Society announces the availability of the 2005 Native Seed Catalog, for home garden use only, at <http://www.newfs.org/seeds/index.htm>. The catalog features 200+ species and includes propagation advice from Bill Cullina. You may order through March 22.

Wildflower, Shrub and Tree ID Hike at the Magothy Greenway Natural Area

Saturday, April 23 at 9:00 am

Join Park Ranger Adam Smith as he looks for all manner of plant life at this newly acquired Anne Arundel County Natural Area in Pasadena, Maryland. The focus of this casual hike will be to identify and record what species of wildflowers, shrubs, and trees are growing along the trails of the property. Please dress appropriately for the day's weather, plan on encountering lots of ticks, bugs, and wet areas, and bring a lunch to eat after the hike. Bring your identification guides if you have them. Being a natural area, there are no facilities on site. For ages 12 and up, adults must accompany children. Pre-registration is required for this 3 hour hike. Call the B&A Trail Park office at 410-222-6244 to sign-up and for directions to the property's parking area.

Environmental Concern, Inc.

All About Wetlands since 1972...Come Learn With Us
Environmental Concern offers the knowledge and experience you need to succeed in the ever-changing and expanding field of wetlands. From basic wetland delineation to law and policy – there is a course to fit all backgrounds and needs. Located on the banks of San Domingo Creek in historic St. Michaels, MD, our classroom facilities provide an intimate and beautiful learning environment. Full course descriptions and instructor bios can be found online at www.wetland.org. Register online or by calling 410-745-9620.

Former MNPS board member, Dwight Johnson, will be leading wildflower/nature walks every Wednesday in April from 10:00 am to noon at the **Cylburn Arboretum** in Baltimore. These walks are sponsored by the Cylburn Arboretum Assoc. and the Baltimore Bird Club. No reservations are required and walks are free. Cylburn is located at 4915 Greenspring Ave and is just south of Northern Parkway. The telephone number is 410-396-7839.

Early Spring Field Trips

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 410-414-3311 or bobboxwell@hotmail.com.



Wood Anemone
Anemone quinquefolia

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (42nd in the Series) – Fort Carroll Area

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

Date: Sunday, April 3 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

We will explore part of the forest just south of St. Elizabeth's Hospital in the SE quadrant of Washington, D.C., in the vicinity of **Fort Carroll**.

Directions: From Washington or Maryland: From the north, take I-295 south past Suitland Parkway to exit #2-Bolling Air Force Base/Malcolm X (formerly Portland) Street. Drive uphill about 3 blocks and park on Malcolm X Street near Newcomb Street. From the south, take I-295 from the beltway; proceed past South Capitol Street (no exit) to Malcolm X, exit on right and proceed as above.

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.

Glen Echo and Cabin John on the C&O Canal

Leader: Cris Fleming

Date: Sunday, April 3 **Time:** 9:30 am – 12:30 pm (Daylight Savings Time begins)

Come explore these two low riverside areas for early spring wildflowers. Among the species we hope to see are the state-endangered Coville's phacelia and few-flowered valerian, state-threatened white trout-lily, and uncommon species such as twinleaf and golden alexanders. This area can be very damp and muddy, so wear appropriate shoes.

Directions: Meet at Lock 7 on the C&O Canal. Park in the parking lot for Lock 7 off the Clara Barton Parkway. This parking lot is only accessible from the southbound lane of the parkway. If coming from the south, take the parkway north to the crossover to the south lanes at Cabin John and go south about ½ mile to parking lot on the right. If coming from the west, take the Cabin John Parkway from the westbound beltway, merge onto the Clara Barton Parkway and the parking lot is about ½ mile south on the right.

Bring: Field guides, binoculars, hand lens, water, snack.

Note: Walk canceled if pouring rain but not if drizzling.

Contact: Cris Fleming 301-657-9289. Reservations required.

Coastal Plain Spring Wildflowers

Leader: Sylvan Kaufman

Date: Sunday, April 10 **Time:** 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Explore the less traveled southern end of Adkins Arboretum walking through upland oak-beech-pine woodlands and rich bottomland forests. Spring beauties, trout lilies, wood anemones, and other delicate spring wildflowers should be in bloom along with dogwoods and sassafras. There are beautiful views over Tuckahoe Creek along this walk.

Directions: Meet at Adkins Arboretum visitor's center, 12610 Eveland Road. From Rt. 50, take Rt. 404 east. Make a left on Rt. 480 and an immediate left on Eveland Road. Visitor's center is 2 miles on the left.

Bring: Water, shoes that can get muddy, binoculars.

Note: The walk will be about two miles with some gentle slopes. Bottomland areas may be muddy.

Contact: Sylvan Kaufman skaufman@adkinsarboretum.org or 410-634-2847 x24.

Gunpowder State Park Wildflower Hike – Hereford Area

Leader: Dwight Johnson

Date: Saturday, April 16 **Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

This will be a five-mile circuit or a straight two and half mile hike (your choice) along the shores of the Gunpowder River between York Road and Big Falls Road. The trail at times will be steep, rocky, and narrow. This is a good walk for wildflower beginners.

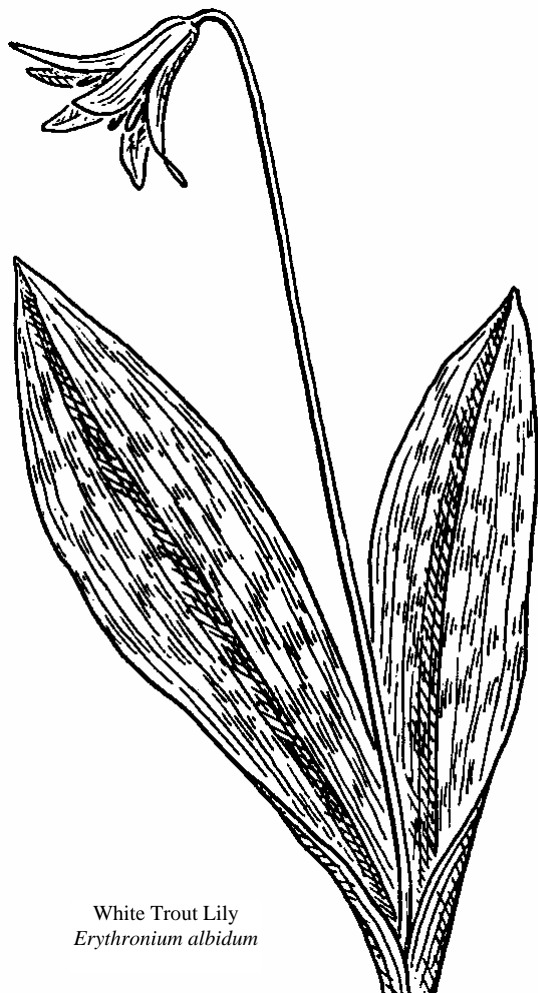
Directions: From the Baltimore beltway, go north on I-83 for 12 miles and take Exit 27 west onto Mount Carmel Road. We will meet at the Park and Ride just west of I-83.

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Bring: Lunch and water. Binoculars can be handy. Hiking boots are highly recommended.

Note: Reservations required.

Contact: Dwight 410-366-7239 or dwightmj@bcpl.net.



White Trout Lily
Erythronium albidum

Scott's Run in McLean, VA

Leader: Chris Partain

Date: Saturday, April 23 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

We will hike a trail that follows Scott's Run which is lined with tall hemlocks, then emerges from the woods beside a waterfall as the stream tumbles into the Potomac. We will see lots of wildflowers adapted to moist, riverine hillsides and the Potomac floodplain, including *Trillium*, wild ginger, Dutchman's breeches, white trout-lily, and twinleaf.

Directions: I-495 to VA 193 (exit 13); VA 193 west 0.3 mi to East Parking Lot, on right with sign. If this lot is full, continue a little farther on VA 193 to another lot and begin hike from there. Visibility can be poor if making a left turn from this second lot.

Bring: Water, lunch, boots (we will probably encounter muddy trails), field guides, binoculars (birding is good here).

Contact: Chris 301-540-9125 or cpartain@gmail.com.

Limestone Bluffs at Snyder's Landing on the C&O Canal

Leader: Cris Fleming

Date: Sunday, April 24 **Time:** 10:30 am – 2:30 pm

Visit very scenic limestone bluffs on north-facing slopes along the Potomac River in Washington County. This area harbors uncommon plants such as shooting-star, dwarf larkspur, spreading rockcress, walking fern, bulblet fern, and others. Some climbing up and down steep paths is necessary.

Directions: Meet at C&O Canal parking lot at Snyder's Landing Road about two miles northwest of Sharpsburg. From D.C. area, take I-270 to Frederick, the I-70 west to exit 49 (Alt. 40). Take Alt. 40 west to Boonsboro, left at light onto MD-34 to Sharpsburg (past Antietam Battlefield). In town, turn right on Mechanic Street (one block past MD-65), then turn left on Snyder's Landing Road and continue about two miles to parking lot on right (in small community of houses). Approximately 1.5 hours from Capital Beltway.

Bring: Bag lunch and water. Binoculars, hand lens, field guides, camera etc. Wear sturdy shoes as some areas may be wet and some climbing up hills will be needed.

Note: Because of the sensitive habitat, this trip is limited to 12 people. Trip is canceled if heavy morning rain.

Contact: Cris Fleming 301-657-9289. Registration is required. Leave your telephone number if leaving a message.

Ferns of Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary's Glendening Nature Preserve

Leader: Karyn Molines

Date: Saturday, May 14 **Time:** 9:00 am – noon

We'll explore the forests, wetlands, and meadows for different ferns growing on the Glendening Preserve. No formal study of ferns has been conducted, so we'll be creating a fern list. We would expect to see Christmas, Cinnamon, Royal, and Hay-scented ferns, as well as several species of *Lycopodium*. We will start at the Wetlands Center (where there are restrooms) then drive to the Glendening Preserve (where there are no facilities at all). Be prepared to hike several miles on unpaved trails.

Directions: From Washington beltway (for directions from other locations, please see the Jug Bay website www.jugbay.org): Take Pennsylvania Ave/ Route 4 east from the Capital Beltway (Rt. 495). Travel for about 10.5 miles to the "Plummer Lane" exit. (Plummer Lane is 3 miles east of Rt. 301 and 1.5 miles east of the Patuxent River). Exit right at Plummer Lane and go ½ mile to Wrighton Road. Go right on Wrighton Road and continue for ½ mile to Sanctuary entrance on left. Take the road a mile to Wetlands Center.

Bring: Hand lens, field guides, water, and snack. Wear comfortable hiking shoes and dress for the weather.

Note: Pre-registration encouraged. Canceled if heavy rain (to protect trails).

Contact: Karyn Molines kmolines@chesapeake.net (preferred) or 410-286-2928; or register through the JBWS 410-741-9330 or jugbay@toad.net.

Invasive Exotic Plant Removal Workdays

Greenbelt National Park, Prince George's Co.

Dates: First Saturdays, monthly (March 5/April 2/May 7)
Time: Meet at 11:00 am in the Sweetgum Picnic Area. Located just 12 miles from Washington, D.C., Greenbelt Park is a beloved retreat from the city and an important refuge for native plants and animals. Come join us in defending Greenbelt Park from encroachment by alien invasive plant growth. Volunteers will be hand pulling harmful non-native plants such as Japanese honeysuckle, beefsteak mint, mile-a-minute vine and garlic mustard. People of all ages, backgrounds, and interests are invited to spend a fun day outdoors while learning about the differences between native and non-native plants and helping to preserve the health and native wildlife of this local natural area.

Directions: From the Capital Beltway (495), take Kenilworth Avenue south about ¼ mile to Greenbelt Road (Rt. 193). Kenilworth goes under 193. Stay to the right so you can take Rt. 193 East (a left to go over Kenilworth) for only a few hundred yards to the park entrance. Greenbelt Park is on the right hand side before the turnoff for the BW Parkway. Follow the signs to the Sweetgum Picnic Area.

Carpool Info: We have changed the carpool from the Student Union to meet behind the Sierra Club office behind the College Park Shopping Center (the upper lot behind the Wawa & Vertigo books) at 10:30 am.

Bring: Lunch, drink, and appropriate clothing for weather.

Contact: For any questions and information about upcoming events Tom Crone 301-864-1959 or tomnjan@erols.com, Kate Odell kateo@wam.umd.edu or 301-474-5395, or Laurel Imlay 301-864-1009(h)/301-277-7111(w).

Woodend Sanctuary, Montgomery County

Dates: Second Saturdays, monthly (March 12/April 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.

Sligo Creek Park, Montgomery County

Dates: Saturday mornings **Time:** 9:00 – 11:00 am
Friends of Sligo Creek and the Dept. 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, ongoing **Time:** 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Bring: Snacks and water. **Note:** Gloves and tools provided.
Contact: Maureen Fine, invasive species coordinator for Western Shore Conservancy, at maureenfine@earthlink.net or 301-464-9306 to register and verify dates.

Northwest Branch of the Anacostia, Montgomery County

Dates: Saturdays, March 19 and April 16
Time: 10:00 am – 1:00
Please join us near 4-Corners in Silver Spring to remove a variety of invasives from areas along Northwest Branch. Exotics are removed by hand pulling 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. Hope to see you there!
Bring: Water and gloves. Vegetarian lunch provided.
Contact: Jane Osburn for more info at 301-754-1564 or jgosburn@earthlink.net.

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.

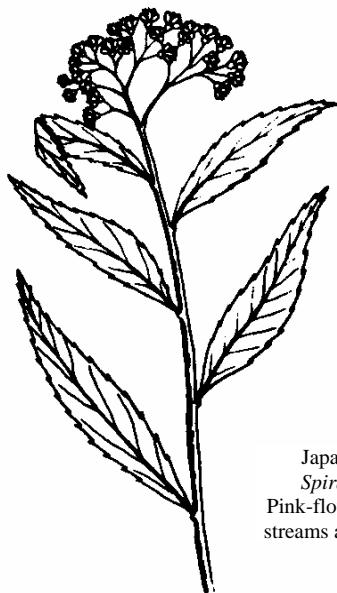
Contact: Carole Bergmann, M-NCPPC Forest Ecologist, at 301-949-2818 for more info or to sign up.

Become an Urban Weed Warrior!

Date: Tuesday, March 15 **Time:** 4:00 – 6:00 pm
Baltimore City Recreation and Parks has started its own Urban Weed Warriors program. Weed warriors can come to the session to learn about the non-native invasive problem in Baltimore City parks. Training will include weed ID, removal techniques, and native alternatives to exotic flora. The first training date is March 15. The training will lead to certification as a weed warrior, whereby volunteers can work on their own to help control non-native invasives in City parks. There will also be information about organized weed-pull activities throughout the spring and summer.

Meet: 3001 East Drive in Druid Hill Park. Email for detailed directions.

Contact: Janelle Burke, Weed Warrior Program Coordinator, janelle.burke@baltimorecity.gov.



Japanese Spiraea
Spiraea japonica
Pink-flowered invader of
streams and damp woods.

Battling “Botanical Bullies” in the Bear Pen Wildlands, Garrett County

Volunteers are needed to help control an infestation of Japanese *Spiraea* in the Bear Pen Run area of Savage River State Forest in Garrett County. Bear Pen is designated as a Type 1 Wildland according to the Maryland Wildlands Act. Like other natural areas around the state, Bear Pen is threatened by a variety of exotic invasive species. However, Ed Thompson, Maryland Heritage & Wildlife Service ecologist, recommended the removal of *Spiraea japonica* from Bear Pen as a high priority project. First introduced as an ornamental in the late 1800's, this perennial, deciduous shrub is still sold by many nursery centers. Dan Boone, Conservation Chair for the Sierra Club's Maryland Chapter, describes the Japanese *Spiraea* in Bear Pen as a “mess.” It forms dense colonies, displacing and reducing populations of many native plants. Boone thinks that the timing on this removal project couldn't be better. We'll try to reduce the infestation using two mechanical control methods: cutting with loppers and pulling by hand and/or 4-prong spading forks. We'll compare the effectiveness of both techniques. If neither works, we'll consider a chemical control method (pending approval by Md. DNR staff). We'll be working on Friday, April 15 and Friday, July 22 from 9 to 12. Mike Gregory, manager of the Savage River Complex, will provide free camping the night before at New Germany State Park for out-of-town volunteers. We'll provide snacks and drinks. Anyone interested in exploring Bear Pen with us following their volunteer work, should pack a brown bag lunch. For more info or to register, contact Ron Boyer or Liz McDowell at 301-895-3686 or info@elkridgenatureworks.com.

Fort Meade, Anne Arundel County

Dates: Second Saturdays, monthly (Mar 12, April 9, May 14)
Time: Meet at 10:00 am

A partnership between Dept. of the Army, MNPS, Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club, and volunteers. 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 Md. Chapter of the Sierra Club or MNPS in the identification of, removal, and control techniques for non-native invasive plants. You 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.

Directions: Take Rt. 175 east from (I-295) Baltimore Washington Parkway. Take Llewellyn Ave 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, and water. Long sleeves and pants recommended.

Contact: Don Marquardt at 301-677-9185 or marquardt@emh1.ftmeade.army.mil.

Creating an Appalachian Preserve

By Bob DeGroot

Numerous species of plants and animals require mature forests of relatively large acreage to insure their survival. These species include a variety of birds that spend much of their life in the tropics, but fly to the United States or Canada during the summer months to rear their young. Included are warblers, vireos, tanagers, and flycatchers. But migrant birds are not the only species that need mature forests. Many of the less common species of lichens are found only in mature forests. Some are found only in 150 to 200 year old forests where there is a constant supply of substrate material in various stages of decomposition. The richness of herbaceous plants like ferns, especially those associated with springs or wet areas, is consistently found in greater abundance in older age forests. Large mature forests occur infrequently in the east and old-growth forests (usually considered to be forests over 200 years old) are the rarest type of habitat. Scientists have recommended that "diversity maintenance zones" for species adapted to old-growth conditions be preserved in contiguous blocks of at least 50,000 acres or more.

In the east, most forests have been subjected to frequent logging activities. Harvests, on the order of every 20 to 70 years, can remove nutrients from the forest floor faster than natural chemical processes can replace them. Frequent harvests diminish species diversity by depriving the forests of the plants and animals that require a mature forest in which to colonize. Finding contiguous blocks of forests approaching 50,000 acres is very difficult in the east, and re-creating such forests is almost impossible when forest management schemes demand continual harvests.

Many scientists have noted that our current federal and state park and forest systems are highly fragmented, and they have begun to design large bioregions as a safety net for wildlife. Only large bioregions can sustain the largest animals, without which the wildlife kingdom will remain unbalanced and in decline.

Across the country, projects are underway to address fragmented habitat issues, and work is progressing toward providing permanent wildlife connecting corridors between parks and other ecological areas. One of these ambitious projects is designed to provide wildlife connecting corridors from Yellowstone Park in Wyoming all the way to the Yukon. This is the historic range of our largest carnivores like the Grizzly Bear, Gray Wolf, and Cougar. It is now understood these animals need large and connected habitats to insure their survival.

Similarly, an Appalachian Wildlands Preserve has been proposed by several groups to provide wildlife connecting corridors from Georgia up through Pennsylvania. Only by



designing large bioregions can we ever hope to return balance to the animal kingdom, and provide sufficient habitat for all species of plants and animals.

In 1892, New York State permanently protected the Adirondack Forest Preserve. The Preserve now covers about 6 million acres of land almost equally divided between protected public lands and private forests that are logged. We would like to do a similar thing in Maryland for preservation of native plants and animals and to protect complete forest processes. A large forest preserve would also go a long way toward preserving a large portion of the watershed that supplies the Potomac River with its water.

The following words were placed into the New York State Constitution:

"The lands of the state, now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the (forest preserve) as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or be taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed or destroyed."

I recommend naming a specific forest like Green Ridge or Savage River State Forest in lieu of "forest preserve" used in the New York language, and trying to preserve a large area of around 50,000 relatively intact acres. Green Ridge State Forest encompasses 42,000 acres and Savage River State Forest encompasses 53,000 acres. Preserving one of these forests would start us on the goal towards creating an Appalachian Preserve.

If you are interested in helping with this work, please contact Laurel Imlay at the Sierra Club Office at 301-277-7111 or via email at laurel.imlay@sierraclub.org.



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