

Native News

Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

May/June 2005

Volume 5 Number 3

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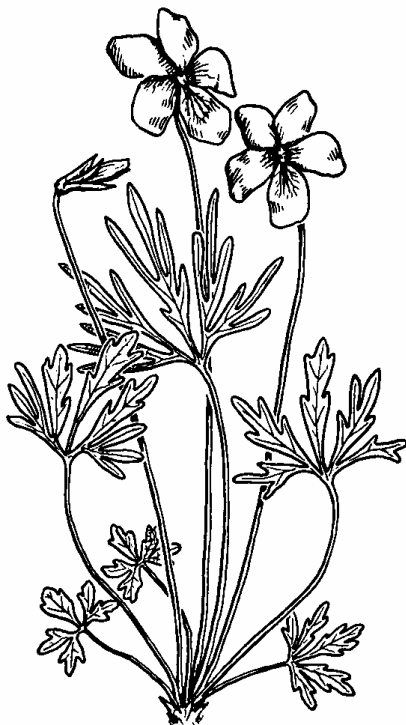
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Birdfoot Violet (*Viola pedata*)

Spring has come with the mist
To honor you with a new cape,
Gray, nameless mountain.
~ Basho ~

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

“The Natural History and Wildflowers of Sugarloaf Mountain”

Tuesday, May 31, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Melanie Choukas-Bradley, MNPS Board member, contributor to the *Washington Post* and *Audubon Naturalist News*, and author of two books about Sugarloaf Mountain, Maryland, will give a slide-lecture on native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees of Sugarloaf, a monadnock 35 miles northwest of Washington. She will also share highlights of Sugarloaf's geology and history and show photos of the mountain through the seasons, including changes in Sugarloaf's flora observed during a ten-year research period and inroads made by invasives and the widespread loss of flowering dogwood and hemlock. In addition, she will describe Sugarloaf's 36-year research project on the American chestnut, a project recently revived by the new Maryland chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation. Learn about the legendary Gordon Strong and the unique non-profit corporation he established in 1946 to maintain the mountain as a privately owned park that is open to the public year-round. Melanie will have books available for signing. [Please note Melanie's field trip to Sugarloaf on page 5]

Directions: Please see below.

“Not Just a Pretty Face: Plants with a Purpose”

Tuesday, June 28, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Christa Partain, MNPS Board member and horticulturist at Brookside Gardens, will talk about native plants as wonderful alternatives to the ornamental invasive exotic plants that are still on the market. Not only are the natives beautiful, they often attract native insects and birds by offering great food and shelter. Chris will discuss many of the most important plants of our region which wildlife depend upon for food and habitat, including specific attractors for butterflies and birds. She will also discuss where the plants would naturally occur in the landscape. Native plants will be available for purchase.

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.

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President's Letter

Greetings to all,

I expect that the overwhelming majority of people who contribute their hard-earned money to back an organization like ours are people who love the outdoors. People who don't necessarily need someone to talk about the value of getting out and about – of taking the time/making the time to explore the woods and floodplains and fields.

(That being the case, I could talk about the financial state of the Maryland Native Plant Society, or about what is going on in Annapolis with environmental issues, or a number of other probably more “presidential topics,” but if you don't mind, I'd rather just spend my few allotted paragraphs on what I think is really a quite important topic...)

We are fast approaching what I call the “thousand shades of GREEN” time of year, and I'd like to say how much just going out, walking around, breathing in the spring “wet earth” scent, and looking for new life can mean to you. It can change your whole attitude for not only that hour, that day, but possibly can change your perspective for months ahead! Getting out and exploring, taking the time to really look at the earth around you. Noticing the subtle color changes and obvious morphological changes as our native plants go from winter to spring, or spring to summer. Getting out and listening to the wood frogs quacking and the spring peepers peeping...

Making a point of getting out on a regular basis and filling your senses with the world around you will:

Ground you
Astound you

Help you sort things out
Clear your head

Give inner peace
Perspective

A general sense of what's real and what matters

We are all so very lucky to live in a beautiful state – an area of the country where we can easily drive to the mountains or the ocean, or spend time in an upland forest or along the bay or in a wetland. We have state and national parks, numerous regional and conservation areas and local parks nearby. But you don't have to drive to great natural areas or beautiful public gardens to be out and about and taking in the seasonal changes. You can just walk around the block, or around your own backyard and OPEN YOUR SENSES.

Just in case you think I am rambling and not following a Presidential letter form, or including anything that really has to do with the Maryland Native Plant Society, let me say, (and I am quoting from the MNPS By-Laws) the Maryland Native Plant Society was incorporated in January, 1992 as a “non-stock, nonprofit corporation to operate exclusively for educational, research and scientific purposes, and more specifically to promote, sponsor and implement education, research and service activities to promote the conservation and propagation of Maryland native plants and their habitats...”

I think that most people need to love, to cherish, to really care about something before they want to spend some of their own precious hours/dollars supporting it, trying to conserve and preserve it for the future.

~ Continued on the next page...

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President's Letter continued...

One of the best ways I can think of for getting people to really know about and love and try to preserve our Maryland native plant resources is by spending time—very happy time—outside on a walk. So why don't you just "TAKE A HIKE!"

~ Carole Bergmann

Spring rain
Everything just grow
More beautiful
~ Chiyo-Ni ~

PS: I also encourage you to take advantage of the walks MNPS offers. These are led by area experts – people who cannot only teach you and open your eyes and further your understanding, but people who love the resource, people who are willing to use their own free time to voluntarily help others to learn. CB

Spring morning marvel...
Lovely nameless little hill
On a sea of mist.
~ Basho ~

Chapter Events

Greater Baltimore Chapter

The Greater Baltimore Chapter will meet on Wednesday, May 18 at 7:30 pm at Irvine Nature Center. Our speaker will be Marion Bedingfield, City Tree Inspector, Baltimore City Forestry Dept. His topic will be "Native Trees in Urban Areas." Marion is rumored to know every tree in the City and is known for his annual bus tour of "Notable Trees" in Baltimore City as well as being, for many years, "the source" for trees for neighborhood groups in the City.

The chapter's Steering Committee meets before the meeting, at 6 pm, for pizza and discussion of coming programs, field trips, and the 2005 Fall Conference. We welcome members interested in contributing to our discussions.

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

Eastern Shore Chapter

The Eastern Shore Chapter is offering a second spring wildflower walk at Nick and Margaret Carter's in Greensboro, MD on Saturday, April 30 [See next column]. The Carter's have beautifully transformed their former farmland into a mature and maturing forest. In late June, we invite everyone to help with a wetland planting on the eastern shore [Page 5]. Please contact Leslie Hunter-Cario in May for information on the exact date, time, and location, lhunter@dmv.com. For more information on the eastern shore chapter contact Sylvan Kaufman, skaufman@adkinsarboretum.org or 410-634-2847 x24.

Spring/Early Summer Field Trips

Spring Ephemeral Walk

Leaders: Nick and Margaret Carter

Date: Saturday, April 30 **Time:** 9:00 – 11:00 am

Visit the woods of Nick and Margaret Carter near Greensboro, Md. They have tended their forest for more than thirty years encouraging the native spring wildflowers to grow in abundance. Nick and Margaret have taught many ecology classes to all ages and are a wealth of information about the local flora and fauna and the history of the land.

Directions: Directions will be provided upon RSVP.

Bring: Boots, mosquito repellent if warm, water.

Contact: Sylvan Kaufman skaufman@adkinsarboretum.org or 410-634-2847 x24. Please contact me if you will be attending.

May Day Plant Exploration Walk

Leader: Lisa Bierer-Garrett

Date: Sunday, May 1 **Time:** 9:00 – 11:00 am

Walk the woodland trail at Dunkirk District Park in search of spring wildflowers. Few botanists have surveyed this wonderful piece of woods. Come out and help locate Coastal Plain flowers and trees as well. A great creekside fossil outcrop will also be explored.

Directions: Take Route 4 south past Upper Marlboro to Dunkirk. Make a right into the park and meet at the last parking lot by the large children's playground.

Bring: Sturdy shoes, binoculars, field guides.

Note: This location is under consideration for future development. This trip is also being led to raise awareness of the value of woodland habitat preservation.

Contact: Lisa at 410-286-9629 or froglipp@chesapeake.net for more info or to RSVP.

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (43rd in the Series)

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

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

We will explore **Fort Mahan** and **Fort Chaplin** for upland terrace-gravel vegetation when the trees are just beginning to leaf so the ground layer is most interesting. Join us for new discoveries and another visit to familiar woods.

Directions: We will meet across from Ft. Mahan on Benning Road NE Washington, D.C. The site is a few blocks east of Minnesota Avenue on Benning Road. Park on Fort Drive across Benning from the entrance to Ft. Mahan. There is a school or recreation center there with a small parking lot or you can park on the street on Fort Drive.

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.

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Shenk's Ferry Wildflower Preserve, Conestoga, PA

Leader: Christa Partain

Date: Saturday, May 7 **Time:** 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

The Preserve encompasses 50 acres in the deep ravine of Grubb Run, which runs into the Susquehanna River. The display of spring wildflowers is spectacular. We will see the white form of the erect trillium, blue phlox, rue anemone, wood anemone, Dutchman's breeches, squirrel corn, and much more.

Directions: Take I-95 north from Baltimore about 24 miles. Take MD-24 north past Bel Air and Rocks State Park, and go east on MD-165, which changes to PA-74, when it crosses the PA line. Continue on PA-74 north to PA-372 east, cross the Susquehanna River, and turn left on River Road. After about 8 miles, turn left on PA-324 and immediately right on River Road again. Turn left on Shenk's Ferry Road and follow signs to the wildflower preserve.

Carpool Information: Contact Chris to set up carpools.

Bring: Water, lunch, field guides, binoculars.

Contact: Chris 301-540-9135 or cpartain@gmail.com.

Gunpowder State Park May Wildflower Hike – Hereford Area

Leader: Dwight Johnson

Date: Saturday, May 14 **Time:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Come see some late spring wildflowers on the Gunpowder. We should see nodding *Trillium*, miterwort, and Greek valerian, along with other spring wildflowers.

Directions: From the Baltimore Beltway, go north on I-83 for 12 miles and take exit 27 onto Mount Carmel Rd. Proceed west for 0.7 miles and make a right at Masemore Rd. and proceed for another 1.5 miles to parking area. The speed limit is posted at 10 miles at the bottom of Masemore Rd. Believe it. There is a very sharp narrow turn at the mill.

Bring: Lunch and water.

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

Native Plant Nursery Tours, Garrett County

Leaders: Ron Boyer and Liz McDowell

Dates: May 14, 15, 28 & 29, and June 25 & 26

Times: Open 9:00 am – 3:00 pm; guided tours at 10 am, 12 noon, and 2 pm or take a self-guided tour at any time.

Ron and Liz of Elk Ridge NatureWorks will be hosting several open house events at their native plant nursery in Garrett County. Tour their wildlife garden to see a variety of conservation landscaping and wildlife habitat practices that homeowners can use to enhance biodiversity in their backyards. Native plants and habitat boxes will be available for purchase. Admission is free.

Directions: From I-68, take exit 22 and follow signs for New Germany State Park. Turn left into the park onto McAndrews Hill Road and travel ~ 2 miles to stop sign at Westernport Road. Turn right and travel .25 mile to Red Hill Road. Turn right and drive ~ .5 mile to Elk Ridge Lane.

Turn left onto Elk Ridge Lane (a private road). Nursery is .4 miles out this gravel lane on the right. **Please note:** Aside from open house events, the wildlife garden and nursery are open by appointment only. Please call in advance to arrange a visit.

Contact: Ron or Liz 301-895-3686 or

info@elkridgenatureworks.com. Visit the website at www.elkridgenatureworks.com.

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 then drive to the Glendening Preserve. Be prepared to hike on unpaved trails.

Directions: From Washington Beltway (495) take the Route 4 (Pennsylvania Ave) Exit South or East toward Upper Marlboro. Travel 10.5 miles and turn right onto Plummer Lane. In ½ mile turn right onto Wrighton Road. In ½ mile turn left onto gravel driveway and continue almost a mile to the Wetlands Center. For directions from Baltimore or Southern Maryland, please go to www.jugbay.org.

Bring: Water, snack or lunch, field guides, hand lens, binoculars. Wear comfortable hiking shoes.

Note: There are no modern restroom facilities at the Preserve. Children should be at least 12 years old and accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration encouraged. Canceled if heavy rain (to protect trails).

Contact: Karyn kmolines@chesapeake.net; or register through the JBWS 410-741-9330.

Plant Survey: Hellen Creek Wildlife and Forest Preserve, Lusby, Calvert County

Leader: Bob Boxwell

Dates: Sundays, May 15/June 12 **Time:** 10:00 am start

This is a new trip location for MNPS. The preserve covers over 50 acres of mixed forest, marsh, and streamside habitats. It is adjacent to TNC's Hemlock Preserve and we do have permission to visit their property as well. The Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust owns this preserve and wishes to begin a biological survey (lists for trees, wildflowers, ferns, mushrooms, and all manner of fauna) to aid in their long term planning.

Directions: Take route 2/4 in Calvert County south from Prince Fredrick or north from Solomons. Meet the leader in the Food Lion parking lot of the shopping center in Lusby on the west side of route 2/4 just south of the fire station and north of the fast food restaurant. The site is a bit hard to find, so from here we will carpool to the Preserve.

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Bring: Water, lunch, boots (hiking or waterproof), field guides, hand lens, binoculars; durable clothes.

Contact: Bob 410-394-1300 or robertjohnboxwell@yahoo.com.

Tremendous Trees

Leader: Karyn Molines

Date: Saturday, May 28 **Time:** 10 am-2 pm

Join us as we discuss the history of trees in the Eastern United States and learn how to identify them for yourself. We'll hike to some large trees found on the Glendening Preserve. We will start at the Wetlands Center then drive to the Glendening Preserve. Wear sturdy shoes and be prepared to walk at a moderate pace (approximately two miles), on natural surface paths, with some short, steep sections.

Directions: From Washington Beltway (495) take the Route 4 (Pennsylvania Ave) Exit South or East toward Upper Marlboro. Travel 10.5 miles and turn right onto Plummer Lane. In ½ mile turn right onto Wrighton Road. In ½ mile turn left onto gravel driveway and continue almost a mile to the Wetlands Center. For directions from Baltimore or Southern Maryland, please go to www.jugbay.org.

Bring: Water, snack or lunch, field guides, hand lens, binoculars.

Note: There are no modern restroom facilities at the Preserve. Children should be at least 10 years old and accompanied by an adult.

Contact: Karyn kmolines@chesapeake.net.

Sugarloaf Mountain Field Trip

Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley, author of two Sugarloaf field guides [See Melanie's May talk on the front cover.]

Date: Saturday June 4 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

We will be hiking on Sugarloaf Mountain, a small monadnock in Frederick County near the Montgomery County line, in rocky upland woods, dipping down to rich woods along a small stream. About 3 miles with moderate elevation change. We should see skullcap species, white avens, whorled and fringed loosestrife, enchanter's nightshade, pasture rose, and wild hydrangea in bloom, among many other flowering plants. Also, many native ferns, shrubs, and trees, including table mountain pine. Exact track of hike to be chosen based on what's blooming. History of mountain discussed during hike.

Directions: Take route 109 south from 270, turn right on Comus Road (west) just past the Comus Inn and drive under 2 ½ miles to the mountain base. Meet at the BASE of Sugarloaf Mountain in the small parking lot near the mountain gate. We probably won't park here so just live park where you can and meet near the large rock to the left of the gate.

Carpool Info: Meet outside the Giant at 5400 Westbard Avenue in the Westwood shopping center (near River Road Whole Foods) at 9:10 for 9:15 departure. Call 301-652-8799 for information.

Bring: Lunch, water, hiking boots, field guides, hand lens,

binoculars.

Contact: Melanie Melanie@ruralmontgomery.org 301-652-8799; cell phone (call only on day of hike after 9) 301-502-7410.

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (44th in the Series) – Fort Dupont

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

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

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

Directions: We will meet at the parking lot of the Ft. Dupont Activity Center off Randall Circle. Randall Circle in 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 Ave SE and turn north onto Minnesota Ave until 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.

Hellen Creek Bioblitz

Date: Sunday, June 12 (Please see the May 15 trip for info.)

Ferns on the Gunpowder – Gunpowder State Park – Kingsville (Perry Hall) Area

Leader: Dwight Johnson

Date: Sunday June 26 **Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Learn about common and some not so common ferns along the Gunpowder River in Kingsville. We will explore two different paths each about one mile long. The path will be flat, easy walking.

Directions: We will meet at the parking lot is on the east side of US Rt. 1 (Belair Rd) at the Gunpowder River, 5.4 miles north of Interstate 695 (Baltimore Beltway) Exit 32.

Bring: Lunch and water.

Contact: Dwight 410-366-7239.

Quail Run Marsh Grass Planting in Queen Anne's County

Date: Late June through July – exact date TBD

Plant emergent marsh grasses in their native setting along a tidal, brackish creek. This is a great opportunity to take part in a restoration planting and get your hands dirty!

Contact: If interested in helping with the planting effort, contact Leslie Hunter-Cario at horticulture@wetland.org or by phone at 410-745-9620. Participants will be notified of the planting date when it is firm and given additional information and directions at that time.

Note: Please remember to be careful not to harm the plants and habitats that we are trying to appreciate and protect.

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Invasive Exotic Plant Removal Workdays

Greenbelt National Park, Prince George's Co.

Dates: First Saturdays, monthly (May 7/June 4/July 2)
Time: Meet at 11:00 am in the Sweetgum Picnic Area. Located just 12 miles from Washington, D.C., Greenbelt Park is a beloved retreat from the city and an important refuge for native plants and animals. Come join us in defending Greenbelt Park from encroachment by alien invasive plant growth. Volunteers will be hand pulling harmful non-native plants such as Japanese honeysuckle, beefsteak mint, mile-a-minute vine and garlic mustard. People of all ages, backgrounds, and interests are invited to spend a fun day outdoors while learning about the differences between native and non-native plants and helping to preserve the health and native wildlife of this local natural area.

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

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

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

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

Woodend Sanctuary, Montgomery County

Dates: Second Saturdays, monthly (May 14/June 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 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

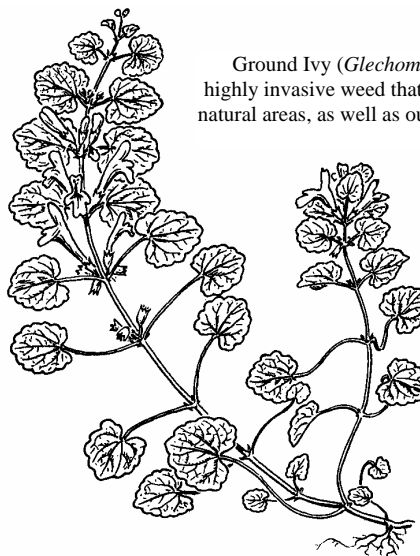
Dates: First Sundays, monthly **Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

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.



Ground Ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*) is a highly invasive weed that carpets some of our natural areas, as well as our lawns and gardens.

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: Third Saturdays, May 21 and June 18

Time: 10:00 am – 1:00

Please join us to enjoy the forest in spring and to remove a variety of invasives from areas along Northwest Branch near Four Corners. Exotics are removed by hand.

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, May 10 **Time:** 5:00 – 7:00 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 species in Baltimore City parks. Training will include weed ID, removal techniques, and an overview of non-native invasives. The training will lead to certification as a weed warrior, whereby volunteers can work on their own to help control non-native invasive species in City parks. There will also be information about organized weed-pull activities throughout the spring and summer.

Location: Carrie Murray Outdoor Education Campus. Email for detailed directions.

Contact: Janelle Burke, Weed Warrior Program Coordinator, janelle.burke@baltimorecity.gov or 410-396-0359. Please call ahead to confirm location and time.

Additional Dates:

Date: Saturday, May 28 **Time:** 10:00 am – noon

Location: Herb Festival, Gwynns Falls Trail Office

Date: Wednesday, June 15 **Time:** 5:30 – 7:30 pm

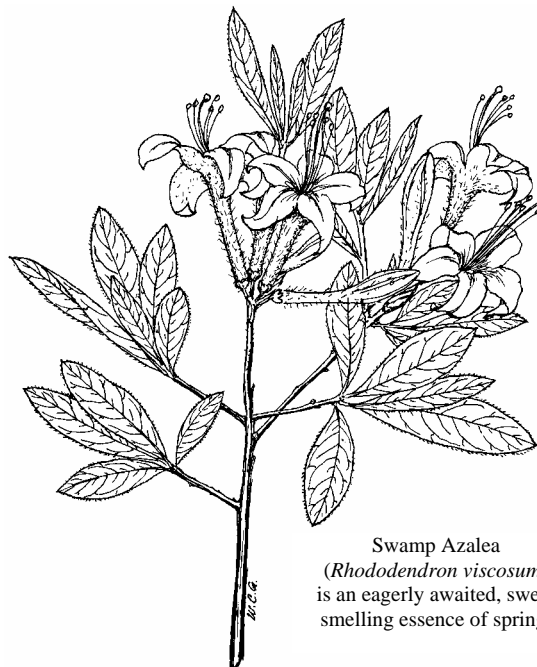
Location: 3001 East Drive, Ralph Jones Administrative Building, Druid Hill Park

Fort Meade, Anne Arundel County

Dates: Second Saturdays, monthly (May 14, June 11)

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



Swamp Azalea
(*Rhododendron viscosum*)
is an eagerly awaited, sweet
smelling essence of spring.

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.

NO Ivy Day 2005

NO Ivy Day is Saturday, May 7th – a de-vine time to save our trees! English ivy is a green, viney villain holding our trees hostage! On May 7th between 9:00 am and 12:00 pm, community members will rise up against this public menace and fight back to restore habitat health! When left unchecked, ivy shrouds trees causing their premature death and the loss of forest canopy. Ivy's biological bullying will backfire on No Ivy Day when Ivy Busters strike a blow in the name of biodiversity. Now in its third year, No Ivy Day has made great strides involving the community in habitat reclamation. In its first year alone over 3,300 trees were freed from ivy. In 2004, 900 Ivy Busters crashed ivy's party on a total of 63 different sites around the region [in Oregon]. Having heard of our phenomenal success, people from the east coast and British Columbia will transform No Ivy Day 2005 into a bicoastal, international punch-out leaving ivy's mat down for the count! Join the fight on NO Ivy Day to stop this threat to our natural beauty and environmental quality. Together we are pulling for the future! For more information on the work party site closest to you visit: www.NoIvyLeague.com.

Announcements

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

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.

Thursday, May 12, 10:00 am – *Conserving Your Water-Rain Gardens and Other Solutions*. On this tour, we’ll learn more about ways to conserve water and reduce pollution in your own backyard. We’ll also examine the cutting edge water management program in the Olmsted Woods. Tour Leader: Joe Luebke, Cathedral Director of Horticulture. Please note a Bird Walk precedes this tour.

Thurs., June 16, 2005, 10 a.m. -- *Invasive Plants*. There is today much concern about “invasive exotics” versus “native plants.” Come and hear about the differences and learn more about the planting philosophy behind the Olmsted Woods Restoration Project. Tour Leader: Nate Heavers, Cathedral Horticulture Manager.

BIRD WALKS

Thursdays, May 5 and May 12, 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.

Adkins Arboretum’s Spring Native Plant Sale, Symposium, and summer programs:

The Spring Native Plant Sale is on Saturday, May 7, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Over 200 varieties of native trees, shrubs, grasses, ferns, and perennials will be available. The Spring Garden Symposium—Creating Native Landscapes by Design, will be on Friday, May 20, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm. This year’s symposium will inspire both the novice and experienced gardener to include native plants in garden design. The morning session will be held at Chesapeake College in Wye Mills, Md. Garden writer, lecturer, and landscape consultant

Nancy Ross Hugo will share her knowledge and experience about an important aspect of garden design: creating stunning plant combinations. Colston Burrell indulges his love of plants as a garden designer, photographer, and author; his presentation will address native plant alternatives to garden thugs—invasive nonnative plants. Connie Toops, popular nature writer, photographer, and contributing editor for *Birder’s World*, will share eye-catching images and first-hand experiences about gardening to invite bluebirds, hummingbirds, butterflies, and other wild creatures into your garden. The afternoon program continues at the Arboretum and will feature a veritable marketplace of native gardening ideas with informal concurrent sessions and demonstrations. Summer adult programs include programs on frogs, ants, dragonflies, nature photography, walking yoga, and summer gardening. This year the Arboretum is also hosting summer camps for children. To request information on events and programs, call the Arboretum at 410-634-2847, extension 0 or send e-mail to info@adkinsarboretum.org. Further information is also available on the Arboretum’s website, www.adkinsarboretum.org.

Environmental Concern, Inc.

Mark your calendar for Environmental Concern’s **Open House and Native Plant Sale**, Saturday, June 18 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Come visit the nation’s first wetland native wholesale nursery, founded in 1972. Environmental Concern is located on the scenic San Domingo Creek in St. Michaels, Maryland. We will be conducting greenhouse tours, serving refreshments, and selling native plants. Visit our new pond, living shoreline, and eight additional greenhouses, just completed this year. For more information and directions check our web site at www.wetland.org or call 410-745-9620. Co-authored by Dr. Edgar Garbisch, founder of the nation’s first wholesale wetland plant nursery in 1972, *The Propagation of Wetland Plants, Herbaceous Plants, Shrubs and Trees* 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 plus \$8.00 S&H) Order online at www.wetland.org or call 410-745-9620.

Upcoming Classes – Contact Bronwyn at 410-745-9620 or dir.educate@wetland.org for more information.

Wetland Botany – Designed for those professionals working with wetlands without a working knowledge of wetland vegetation. This 2-day field course will focus on both tidal and non-tidal wetland plant identification. Emphasizing key field characteristics of a select number of vascular plant families will facilitate quick assessment. While instructor-led keying and group keying will teach the necessary skills for more exacting id requirements. June 10-11; \$375

Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes – Come and learn which sedges have edges, which rushes are round and why in this 2-day

Native News

course designed to train students in the identification of these members of the plant kingdom. Through lecture, the examination of live plant specimens in the lab and the field, and keying exercises, the students will learn the morphological terminology necessary to identify grasses, sedges, and rushes. Students will leave with an understanding of the families, family subdivisions, and genera of the often-difficult species of grasses, sedges, and rushes (wetland and upland). August 15-17; \$600

Wetland Plants: Know'em and Grow'em – A Course for Educators August 10-12; \$30 includes your very own waterbox to take home, a sampling of wetland plants and seeds, course guide, lodging, food, and more...

Day 1: Get up close and personal with native wetland plants. Learn about their unique adaptations, identification techniques and ways to teach about plants in the classroom.

Day 2: Sharpen your plant ID skills in the field: on foot and by canoe

Day 3: Learn the necessary skills to propagate and grow wetland plants

Annual Patuxent Sojourn

Thursday, June 16 through Tuesday, June 21

Fee: \$45 per adult; \$25 for students. **Registration Deadline:** mid-May. The Patuxent River Sojourn is an extended canoeing and kayaking expedition that features educational activities, riverside camping, restoration projects, festive meals, and much more. Join us for one day, three days, or the entire trip. Each evening will feature different events. To register, or for additional information, please contact: Lou Etgen at letgen@acb-online.org or 410-377-6270, or Fred Tutman at fred@paxriverkeeper.org.

Celebrate Rural Montgomery

This spring, a large consortium of civic groups and area businesses launched a website highlighting a year-long celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve, a rural area of more than 90,000 acres crowning the northwestern third of the county. The groups are celebrating and honoring Montgomery County farmers, their historic and productive farms, and the vision of the county planners who brought the Agricultural Reserve to fruition a quarter century ago. The groups also acknowledge the elected officials, county employees, and community leaders who continue to support Montgomery farming and open space.

The year-long effort is officially called, "CELEBRATE RURAL MONTGOMERY on the 25th Anniversary of the Agricultural Reserve." Its new website (www.ruralmontgomery.org) features artistic photographs of Montgomery County farmland through the seasons, a calendar of celebration events which will be held throughout the county during 2005, and information about how the Agricultural Reserve benefits all residents of the region. The Maryland Native Plant Society is one of the partner organizations listed on the website. Board member Melanie

Choukas-Bradley is serving as Programs and Education director for the effort.

The Agricultural Reserve is a nationally acclaimed farmland and open space preservation plan that was established in 1980. Anyone who has visited the Montgomery countryside for peaches in summer, pumpkins in autumn, or a freshly-cut tree at Christmas-time, is familiar with the landscape that makes up the Agricultural Reserve. The towns of Poolesville, Barnesville, Comus, Hyattstown, Damascus, Laytonsville, and Brookeville are all situated within the farmland that makes up the "Ag Reserve," as it is often called. The Ag Reserve stretches from the Potomac to the Patuxent and surrounds the base of Frederick County's Sugarloaf Mountain.

The Agricultural Reserve provides countless benefits for all who live in Montgomery County and the greater Washington area, including protection of air and water resources, stunning rural scenery, native plant and wildlife habitat, numerous recreational opportunities such as horseback riding, hiking, cycling, and canoeing, and a bounty of fresh fruits and vegetables available at pick-your-own orchards, farm stands and urban and suburban farmers markets. Historic sites, preserved throughout the Agricultural Reserve, give residents and visitors to the Reserve a strong sense of our rural past and the region's many contributions to the nation's history.

"Celebrate Rural Montgomery" festivities, and related educational events, will highlight the many ways the "Ag Reserve" enriches the lives of Montgomery County residents and all who live in the greater Washington-Baltimore region.

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 5/1/2005 your membership expires at the end of May. 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.

Welcome New Members!

Stefan Ambs, Matthew Bazar, Elizabeth Fair, Pat Jackson, Paul Kovenock, Susan Mapes, Hayden Mathews, Tom Raque, Michael Surgalla, Dr. L.K. Thomas, Alan Whittemore, and Rhodelia Williams.



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- Individual: \$25.00/year
- Double: \$35.00/year
- Student/limited income: \$15.00/year
- Lifetime: \$250.00
- Organization: \$50.00/year

Additional Donation _____

Total Enclosed _____

Please Check: New Renewal