

Native News

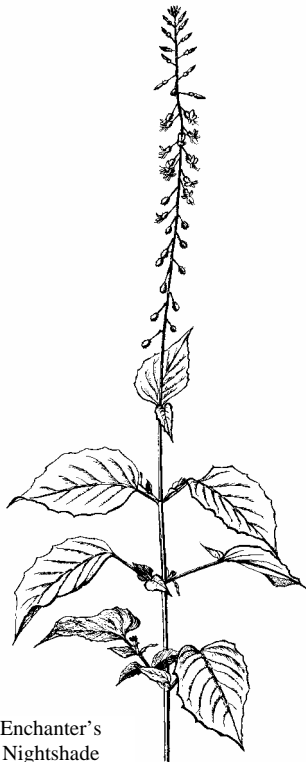
Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

July/August 2005

Volume 5 Number 4

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Enchanter's
Nightshade
Circaea lutetiana

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

“Identification and Restoration of Seepage Wetlands in Maryland and Virginia”

Tuesday, July 26, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Maryland's western shore is home to many interesting seepage wetland communities, including carnivorous plant bogs, Atlantic white cedar swamps, sea-level fens, and remnant pine barrens communities that include pitch pine seepage wetlands. Join Phil Sheridan, botanist and director of Meadowview Biological Research Station, for an in-depth presentation on these globally-rare sites and similar communities on Virginia's coastal plain, including land-use history and preservation and restoration efforts. Phil will also discuss Meadowview's efforts to restore an extensive tract of rare longleaf pine and pitcher plant habitat in Virginia.

Directions: Please see below.

“Diversity of Maryland and Virginia's Plant Life”

Tuesday, August 30, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Maryland and Virginia both contain a wealth of native plants and habitats, including many which are common to both states. For years, folks in Maryland have enjoyed Brown and Brown's excellent *Woody and Herbaceous Plants of Maryland* references, which are also particularly useful in Virginia. Marion Lobstein, a well-known local botany professor and founder and steering director of the *Flora of Virginia* Project, will give a presentation on efforts to produce an illustrated botanical reference of Virginia's flora. This work will be a valuable resource to those of us in Maryland, because it will include many additional species that are not listed in Brown and Brown's taxonomy but that occur in Maryland, including many species at the border of the state that may be present. In this presentation, Marion will talk about reasons for the high floristic diversity in both states, including soils, climate, proximity to glaciation but not being glaciated, “mixing bowl” of northern and southern species, etc., and will have photos showing examples.

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

"Land...They ain't making any more of it."

I expect that many MNPS members reading this column have heard the above paraphrased Will Rogers quote more than once in their time, and wonder why I would decide to start my bi-monthly president's letter with it. Land Conservation/Land Use/Saving Habitat all happen to be extremely important topics for me. After a recent reaffirmation that other "modern" countries (examples: Spain, England) don't necessarily pave-over/divide up/"Mc-Mansion-ize" every square foot of available free space in the countryside surrounding metropolitan centers, I decided to pick this topic for my short harangue...

I have lived in Clarksburg, Maryland for the past 30 years, so the topic is particularly real to me. It is VERY hard for me to see the beautiful farmlands/hills/woodlands/"native plant sanctuaries" that I have come to know, love, and rely on for my peace-of-mind and "sense of the world" turn into literally thousands of houses/townhouses/mini-mansions, roads/parking lots/stores. I may be particularly sensitive to this type of "change." I am definitely a person at the far end of the "needing the natural world around them" spectrum, but I don't think I am alone in wondering about all of this, questioning where this is all going, and honestly just freaking out over it all.

In my work as a Forest Ecologist, I have read statements pointing out that there is more tree canopy cover in many Maryland cities now than there was in the early part of the last century. It may be true that in the past, Native Americans or early pioneers cleared huge areas for hunting, farming, etc. Additionally, Maryland laws do now require the replanting of a certain number of trees in the development process. However, this type of information is very misleading. The rampant development that has been happening across the entire continent during the past 40 to 50 years has fragmented or destroyed habitat on an incredible scale.

Getting back to the example situation in Montgomery County, areas that for hundreds of thousands of years were open, rolling hills have now been leveled and covered with asphalt. What is going on now isn't some temporary clearing of a field or the burning off of a strip of woods. And this isn't just happening in the highly urbanized Washington, D.C. suburbs. I was lucky enough to spend the weekend visiting friends who have a home on the Eastern Shore, and the situation is the same there as well. And though I am focusing on how loss of habitat devastates our native plant heritage, information posted by the Audubon Society in March states that "Almost 30 % of North American birds are in significant decline...These declines are abnormal and not part of the natural cyclical rise and fall in bird populations. Among the threats to birds, the most serious is loss of habitat due to poor land use planning." (Audubon Maryland-DC, March 7, 2006).

As I said in an earlier president's letter, I want to make sure that members understand how what I write has to do with MNPS – how it ties into our mission and goals. Part of our corporate by-laws state that MNPS "...is to operate exclusively for education, 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**, and for no other purposes..."

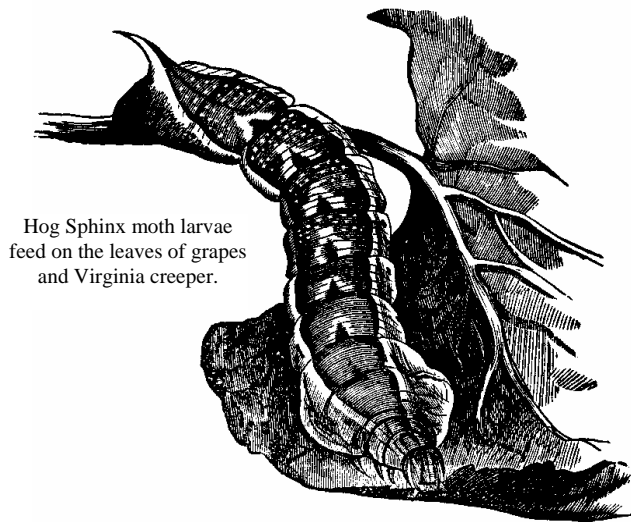
The amount of space I am allotted for my "letter" is luckily limited, and so I will get to the point. While there are many important topics that an organization like ours needs to address, time and money are not limitless, and choices do have to be

President's Letter is continued on the next page.

made. When we need to decide how we want to direct our future efforts—so that there IS a future for our native plants—I think that looking at the situation as it is in Maryland today, figuring out what we can do to save habitat, and directing much effort towards habitat preservation is of the utmost importance.

I think that Stanwyn Shetler, Botanist Emeritus of the Smithsonian Institution, the author of *Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of the Washington Baltimore Area*, (and many other accomplishments) put it very succinctly in an article he wrote in *Marilandica* Vol. 11, No. 1. “There are only three rules for saving species—save habitat, save habitat, save habitat! That reality alone should govern our future agenda.”

~ Carole Bergmann



Hog Sphinx moth larvae feed on the leaves of grapes and Virginia creeper.

MNPS Mission Statement

The Maryland Native Plant Society (MNPS) is a nonprofit organization that uses education, research, and community service to increase the awareness and appreciation of native plants and their habitats, leading to their conservation and restoration. Membership is open to all who are interested in Maryland's native plants and their habitats, preserving Maryland's natural heritage, increasing their knowledge about native plants, and helping to further the Society's mission.

Native News Deadlines:

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
March 25	May/June Late Spring Issue
May 25	July/August Summer Issue

Tentative 2005 Mailing Party Dates (preceding regular Monthly Meetings at White Oak Library):

Tuesdays: August 30, October 25, and December 20

Chapter Events

Eastern Shore Chapter

Explore the natural areas of a private farm in Dorchester County on Saturday, August 13 (see page 6 for more info).

Greater Baltimore Chapter

The Greater Baltimore Chapter of the Maryland Native Plant Society will have a woody plant propagation workshop at its next meeting on July 20. We will meet at Irvine Nature Center at 7:30 pm to learn how to start softwood and semi-hardwood cuttings of native trees and shrubs. Our guide will be Dr. Jeremy Wright, an instructor in plant propagation at Dundalk Community College and volunteer propagator at Cylburn Arboretum. Supplies will be provided and all participants will have cuttings to take home.

Irvine Nature Center is located on the grounds of St. Timothy's School, Greenspring Ave., Stevenson, MD. For directions call 410-484-2413.

Baltimore area members will be interested to note that the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks is seeking volunteers to help with vegetation surveys in several major parks within the city. Anyone interested in helping out should contact Fran Spero at fran.spero@baltimorecity.gov. The City is also training Urban Weed Warriors to remove invasive exotic weeds in city parks. If you are interested in becoming an "Urban Weed Warrior," please contact Janelle Burke at janelle.burke@baltimorecity.gov.

Southern Maryland Chapter

The Southern Maryland Chapter now encompasses nearly 40 members in Charles, St. Mary's, and Calvert Counties. We would particularly welcome your suggestions about programs or field trips you would like to see the chapter sponsor, about what you see happening in the region and what you would like to see the chapter undertake. Are there conservation initiatives the chapter should consider helping with – or are you aware of ecologically sensitive areas being threatened where MNPS could be of help?

Recent Southern Maryland Chapter activities include our participation (by Karyn Molines and Mary Alves) in Leonardtown's Earth Day celebrations and many and varied field trips, including a Woodland Trail Walk (Lisa Bierer-Garrett, Dunkirk), two walks exploring ferns and trees (Karyn Molines, Glendening Nature Preserve), and one to see herbaceous plants that keep some of their green throughout the winter (Marc Imlay, Ruth B. Swann Park). Also, for a recent Volksmarch at Chapman Forest, Karyn created some informational signs about plants. Several of the chapter's members are also actively involved in controlling invasive species at specific sites.

Please contact Karyn Molines 410-286-2928 or kmolines@chesapeake.net (preferred), or Carolyn Fulton 301-855-6384 or cofulton@chesapeake.net (preferred).

MNPS Announcements

MNPS Summer Picnic Invitation

Members, please come to our Summer Picnic! We'll have an afternoon/evening picnic at Chesapeake Native Nursery in Davidsonville, Anne Arundel County following a 3:00 nursery tour on Saturday, July 16. Native plants will be available for sale. Bring something to grill or a prepared dish to share. If it's not too dry, we may have an evening bonfire. Members of the Botanical Society of Washington are also invited to join us for this social event. For more info, please see the Wildflower Farm Tour field trip listed on page 5.

Welcome New Members!

Thanks for joining! We hope you'll join us on the many field trips and meetings we have to offer. Robyn Affron, Karen Anderson, Barbara and George Balog, Leola Ruth Bergmann, Marye Durst, Cynthia Gaver, Jessica Lister, Diane Miller, Kevin Mock, Elizabeth Peterson, Maggy Piranian, Kit Ruseau, Nancy and Joel Shaper, Steve Strano, Joseph Thompson, Teresa Voshell, and Mary Walter recently joined the Society.

Important Information about Memberships

About a year ago, we began sending an email renewal reminder to members. Thank you everyone who responded to these emails—you have saved the Society money! Recently, we have noticed a slight decrease in renewals from these emails. Perhaps these emails are getting blocked by your email service's spam filter? Since we also mail out a monthly email reminder about upcoming meetings and field trips, members will want to make sure that our emails are not getting blocked. Most spam filters allow you to add emails that will not get blocked, if so, please add kmolines@chesapeake.net and memberships@mdflora.org.

We are considering offering the option to receive *Native News* via email instead of postal mail. We have to find volunteers willing to reformat *Native News* for email and send it to current members. If you can help with this project, please contact Karyn Moline at kmolines@chesapeake.net. Two-thirds of our members have emails, so it's a very effective way of getting information out. We have strict policy to reduce the amount of emails members receive from the Society. And we never share your information with anyone!

You may have noticed that we added a new membership category for organizations. Yearly membership dues of \$50 gives an organization the privilege of being listed as an organizational member of the Society, receive our publications, and receive membership discounts for three employees. As an organizational member, the Society will acknowledge your organization at least yearly, and allow you to publicize some of your events that would be of interest to our members in *Native News* (space permitting and if



Highbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)

received in a timely fashion). We'll also provide a link to your organization's website from our website (and we hope you'll link to ours). So consider joining at the organizational level.

To tell when your membership expires, (and what type of membership you have) take a look at your mailing label. For example, if your label reads 7/1/2005 your membership expires at the end of July. 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. Sometimes, membership checks and renewal notices cross in the mail. We apologize if this happens; we do try to update our membership database weekly. If we accidentally receive two renewals for a membership, we have a policy to extend the membership for an additional year. So if you send in your membership dues twice, we treat it as if you renewed for two years. Thanks for your support.

Email Policy

We send messages only to members who wish to receive them, only once a month (with exceptions for special events like the fall conference or renewal notices), and include only relevant MNPS information. At any time you wish to be added or removed to the email list, simply email your request to memberships@mdflora.org, and we'll take care of it.

Membership Information Privacy Policy

The MNPS does not sell, lend, or share the names, addresses, phone numbers, or emails of members. If MNPS agrees to publicize an event sponsored by another group, MNPS will mail such information to our members.

Summer Field Trips

Quail Run Marsh Grass Planting, Queen Anne's County

Date: July dates 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.

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (45th in the Series) ~ Fort Mahan

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

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

We will return again to Fort Mahan to investigate the intricacies of the Terrace-Gravel Forest vegetation.

Directions: We will meet across the street from Ft. Mahan on Benning Road NE, Washington, D.C. Fort Mahan is three blocks east of Minnesota Ave on Benning Road. The Fort is on your left (if going east) but turn right onto the 3rd street on your right (from Minnesota Ave) and park in the parking lot of the recreation center there or on the street.

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.

Wildflower Farm Tour/MNPS-BSW Picnic

Leaders: Dr. Sara Tangren and Jeff White

Date: Saturday, July 16 **Time:** 3:00 pm

Spend an hour touring the wildflower farm and asking an expert questions about incorporating natives into your own yard. ~Over 100 species of flowers, grasses, groundcovers, and shrubs in cultivation.~ The butterfly milkweed will be blooming, and monarch and tiger moth caterpillars will be free to good homes! See and taste the spotted mint and the sweet goldenrods. Have your kids count the different types of butterflies. Jeff White will lead a tour of the woody plants. The Botanical Society of Washington will be joining us!

Following the tour, MNPS will be hosting a summer social. Bring something to grill or a prepared dish or dessert to share and BYOB. There will be grills if you would like to cook something. MNPS will provide bottled water and other non-alcoholic drinks and plates, cups, napkins, forks, etc.

Directions: We are located on Aisquith Farm Road in Davidsonville, MD. Once you are on Aisquith Farm Road, follow the signs for Chesapeake Native Nursery and the large red arrows about a half mile to the far side of the tobacco barn. A map and detailed directions may be requested by emailing to SATangren@ChesapeakeNatives.com or you may visit www.chesapeakenatives.com.

Bring: Questions, camera, binoculars (great location for birding and watching pollinators).

Note: Rain date July 23.

Contact: Call Sara to confirm as trip may be delayed due to weather or other circumstances 301-580-6237.

Wetland Plant Identification

Leader: Karyn Moline

Date: Saturday, July 23 **Time:** 9:30 am – Noon

Turtleheads, cardinal flowers and monkey-flowers – just a few of the sixty-plus wetland species we'll learn to identify. No need for boots since we'll be on boardwalks that traverse the wetlands. Children should be at least 12 years old and accompanied by an adult.

Directions: Ask for them when you make reservations.

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

Note: Reservations required as group size is limited. There are no modern restroom facilities at the Preserve.

Contact: Karyn kmolines@chesapeake.net or Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary 410-741-9330 or programs@jugbay.org.

Plant It & They Will Come!

Native Plant Nursery Tours, Garrett County

Leaders: Ron Boyer and Liz McDowell

Dates: July 30 & 31 and August 27 & 28

Time: Open 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Ron & Liz of Elk Ridge NatureWorks will be hosting these 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 individuals can use to enhance biodiversity around their homes, schools, and businesses. Experience the joys of conservation landscaping – a wildlife garden filled with bees, birds, butterflies, and beautiful plants.

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.

Note: Free guided tours are offered at 10 am, noon, and 2 pm. Native plants and habitat boxes will be available for purchase.

Contact: Ron or Liz 301-895-3686 or info@elkridgenatureworks.com.

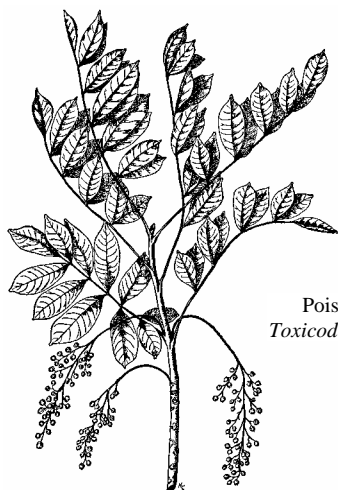
Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (46th in the Series) – Bald Eagle Hill

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

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

We will return again to Bald Eagle Hill, located at the extreme southeastern edge of the District of Columbia. Bald Eagle Hill is not actually a Civil War Fort site but serves as

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Poison Sumac
Toxicodendron vernix

part of the preserved corridor connecting the Fort Circle to Oxon Cove in Maryland. This site includes both upland forest and streamside vegetation.

Directions: From the north, take the Anacostia Freeway (I-295) south to the South Capital Street exit. Take the exit and proceed about 1 mile to First Street, SE and turn right (just after Galveston Street). Soon after, make a right onto Joliet Street. Proceed up the hill about 2 blocks and park opposite the Bald Eagle Recreation Center.

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

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

Eastern Shore Farm, Dorchester County

Leaders: Carol Jelich, Eastern Shore Chapter and Barbara Hale, Owner

Date: Saturday, August 13 **Time:** 10:00 am – Noon

We will tour the forested riparian buffer and restored grass fields on this 240 acre farm in Dorchester County, situated along the banks of the Chicamacomico River near Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. We will see *Magnolia virginiana* and various ferns in the woods; asters, goldenrod, sedges, and grasses in the fields (quail are abundant this year). We will discuss the realities of establishing native plants on a large scale on private land.

Location: 4069 Griffith Neck Road, Cambridge, Maryland.

Directions: Take Route 50 to Cambridge. We will meet for carpooling at Wal-Mart located in the Dorchester Square Shopping Center at the corner of Rt. 50 and Rt.16. Rt. 16 will be on the right at the fourth light after you cross the Choptank River Bridge. Turn onto Rt. 16 to access the parking lot, and park close to the 50/16 corner. From Wal-Mart, we will continue south on Rt. 50 to the next light and turn right on Bucktown Rd. This will be 17 miles from the farm. Just after passing Bucktown United Methodist Church on the right, come to the end of Bucktown Rd at a ninety degree turn in front of an old country store that is being renovated. Keep to the left - or straight - onto Bestpitch Road, which marks the boundary of Blackwater National

Wildlife Refuge and ends at Bestpitch Bridge across the Transquaking River. This is a one lane wooden planked bridge. When you cross the bridge, you will be on Griffith Neck Rd. Drive about 4½ miles and the farm is on the right at #4069. House and outbuildings are white with green roofs.

Bring: Water and insect repellent. Dress appropriately for the terrain. **Note:** Walking at the farm should be easy but may be wet if the grass is wet.

Contact with questions or for alternate directions: Carol 410-827-7759 or Barbara 410-819-3757.

Weather advisory: If weather is in question on the morning of the trip, contact Carol at 410-490-1359.

Wildflower Farm Tour

Leaders: Dr. Sara Tangren and Jeff White

Date: Saturday, August 20 **Time:** 3:00 pm

Spend an hour touring the wildflower farm and asking an expert questions about incorporating natives into your own yard. ~Over 100 species of flowers, grasses, groundcovers, and shrubs in cultivation.~ See the Culver's root, which is pollinated at night by moths. Jeff White will lead a tour of the woody plants. Plant sale to benefit the nonprofit held after the tour.

Directions: See July 16 trip.

Bring: Questions, camera, binoculars (great location for birding and watching pollinators).

Note: Rain date undetermined.

Contact: Call Sara to confirm as trip may be delayed due to weather or other circumstances 301-580-6237.

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C.

Region (47th in the Series) – Oxon Run Bog

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

Date: Sunday, September 11 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

We will visit the Oxon Run Bog for the first time in this series of field trips in Washington, D.C. We have been specifically looking at terrace-gravel sites in most of the Civil War Forts. These upland sites are sometimes associated with Magnolia Bogs. At Oxon Run Bog, we will be able to see a Magnolia Bog and look at the terrace-gravel areas above it.

Directions: We will meet at the entrance to the parking lot for the Southern Avenue Metro Stop. **From the South:** Exit Beltway at South Capitol Street heading toward Washington, D.C. Turn right on Southern Ave at the MD/DC line.

Proceed 1½ miles to the Southern Ave Metro Station (near Greater Southeast Community Hospital). **From the North:** take Suitland Parkway and just prior to entering Washington, D.C., exit right on Naylor Road and very shortly turn left onto Southern Ave; proceed south about 1½ miles to Metro parking lot. You can park in the Metro parking lot and we will meet at the entrance to the parking lot. (Or, you do not need to drive; take Metro for a change!)

Bring: Lunch and water. **Note:** Easy to moderate walk.

Light drizzle is fine but canceled if pouring rain.

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

Invasive Exotic Plant Removal Workdays

Battling Botanical Bullies at the Bear Pen Wildlands, Garrett County

Leaders: Ron Boyer & Liz McDowell

Date: Friday, July 22 **Time:** 9:00 am – Noon

Help control an infestation of Japanese spiraea in this Type 1 Wildland located in the Savage River State Forest in Garrett County. Ed Thompson, Maryland Heritage & Wildlife Service ecologist, recommended the removal of *Spiraea japonica* from Bear Pen as a high priority project. Kerrie Kyde, Invasive Plant Specialist with the Maryland Wildlife & Heritage Service, is providing technical support. Volunteers will try to reduce the infestation using mechanical control methods, including pulling by hand, 4-prong spading fork and/or weed wrench. The effectiveness of these various techniques will be monitored.

Note: Ron Boyer & Liz McDowell, Elk Ridge NatureWorks, are coordinating the project and providing snacks/drinks for volunteers. Mike Gregory, Manager at New Germany State Park will provide free camping the night before for any out-of-town volunteers. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Ron Boyer at 301-895-3686 or info@elkridgenatureworks.com.

Greenbelt National Park, Prince George's Co.

Dates: First Saturdays, monthly

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: 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: Tom Crone 301-864-1959 or tomnjan@erols.com, Kate Odell kateo@wam.umd.edu or 301-474-5395, or Laurel Imlay 301-864-1009(h)/301-277-7111(w).

Ruth Swann Park and Chapman Forest, Charles County

Dates: First Sundays, monthly **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.

Woodend Sanctuary, Montgomery County

Dates: Second Saturdays, monthly

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.

Belt Woods, Prince George's County

Leaders: Robert Burnett and Maureen Fine

Dates: Saturdays, ongoing **Time:** 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Belt Woods is bordered by Central Ave (214) to the south and Church Road to the east, just on the outskirts of Bowie, MD. Meeting place for work groups varies, depending on the focus for that day. Plants to be addressed over the next few months: mile-a-minute, honeysuckle, English ivy, bittersweet, multi-flora rose, Ailanthus, periwinkle, stilt grass, etc.

Bring: Drink and snack. Gloves and tools provided.

Note: Poison ivy is very abundant, as are thorny bushes, so please dress in long pants and long sleeved shirts. Some protection from ticks is also advised.

Contact: Maureen maureenfine@earthlink.net or 301-464-9306 to verify meeting location.

Northwest Branch of the Anacostia, Montgomery County

Dates: Third Saturdays **Time:** 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Please join us for a walk in the forest and to remove invasive plants including garlic mustard and multi-flora rose. Then we'll relax and have a vegetarian lunch. All are welcome.

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. I have extra gloves if you need some. Vegetarian lunch provided.

Contact: Jane Osburn for more info at 301-754-1564.

Native News

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!

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks has started its own Urban Weed Warriors program. Weed warriors can come to learn about the non-native invasive species in Baltimore City parks. Training includes 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 organized weed-pull activities throughout the summer.

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

Fort Meade, Anne Arundel County

Dates: Second Saturdays, monthly **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.

Sligo Creek Park, Montgomery County

Friends of Sligo Creek held garlic mustard pulls in May, and will continue with mile-a-minute in July.

Help is always welcome!

Contact: Lea Bonafiglio, 301-807-4697 for information.

General Announcements

14th Annual Native Plant Seminar and Sale Saturday, August 20 at Irvine Nature Center

Darrell Morrison (Professor of Landscape Architecture and Dean Emeritus of the School of Environmental Design, University of Georgia) "Garden Design with Native Plants," Rick Lewandowski (Director, Mt. Cuba Center) "Native Plants for Diverse Landscapes," Douglas Tallamy (Professor & Chair, Department of Entomology & Wildlife Ecology, University of Delaware) "Restoring Biodiversity to Suburbia Using Natives." To download the 2005 brochure, visit www.explorenature.org. Seminar: 9:30 am to 1:00 pm
Afternoon workshops (optional): 2:00 to 4:30 pm
Plant Sale open to the public: 9:00 am to 2:30 pm
Seminar Fee: \$50 members / \$60 non-members; Workshop Fee: \$25. Seminar sponsored by Biohabitats, Inc. and Ecological Restoration & Management, Inc.

Workshops

Creating a Backyard Bog Garden

Steve Barry's workshop provides hands-on experience in creating a Chesapeake coastal plain bog with native plants unique to our watershed. Plant species include the purple pitcher plant, sundew, and bladderwort. Steve is the Coordinator of Outdoor Environmental Education for the Anne Arundel County School System, where he has been an educator for 33 years.

Fern Identification

Join Dwight Johnson in examining the structure of the fern, emphasizing the parts used in identification. Afterwards, he will lead the group through Irvine's property to find and identify ferns native to the Piedmont. Dwight is a self-taught naturalist and leads botany walks for Irvine Nature Center, Cylburn Arboretum, and the Maryland Native Plant Society.

Sogetsu Flower Arranging Using Native Plants

Jeanne Benson will lead participants through the process of doing a basic Sogetsu flower arrangement using native plant material. Sogetsu is a prominent Ikebana school. Jeanne is the director of Sogetsu Maryland. She has studied with Mary Sugiyama since 1980, and holds the highest degree given (Riji).

About Lunch

Lunch will be provided for an additional \$10.00 over the registration fee. Choose from turkey or vegetarian. The box lunch includes a sandwich, fruit, dessert and beverage. Please enclose an additional \$10.00 with your payment and indicate your lunch preference on your registration form.

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Invasive Plants: Perspectives, Prescriptions and Partnerships – August 16 and 17 at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council
Invasive plants are a major threat to biological diversity. This conference will provide participants with an understanding of the nature and scope of the invasive plant problem and will concentrate on the most current management tools being used to control them. For a complete brochure, contact the Morris Arboretum at 215-247-5777, ext. 156 or 125 or email jlm@pobox.upenn.edu. You can also download a copy of the conference details and registration form from www.ma-eppc.org.

All Hallows Guild at Washington National Cathedral hosts **Woods 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.
Thursday, July 14, 1:30 – 4:00 pm – *Native Plants: In the Woods and in Your Garden*. Join us as we learn more about the native plants growing in the Olmsted Woods and how you can use them in your own garden. Tour Leader: Anne Elsbree, Restoration Project Co-Chair. After our tour, we’ll have tea in the Cathedral Tower, beginning at 3 pm. Fee \$22.00. To make a reservation, call 202.537.8993. Space is limited so reserve early.
Thursday, July 21, 7:00 pm – *Evening in the Olmsted Woods*. Join us for this evening walk through the Olmsted Woods. We’ll examine the plantings, paths, and water features that are part of the Olmsted Woods Restoration and maybe even get a glimpse of the full moon. We will also visit the outdoor amphitheater and discuss our Phase III plans to revitalize this beautiful outdoor space. Tour Leader: Dede Petri, Restoration Project Chair.
Please remember: Trampling harms the restoration effort. Kindly leash all pets.

Environmental Concern, Inc.

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

“Wings of Fancy” Live Butterfly Show

Running daily through Sunday, September 18, 2005 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Brookside Gardens South Conservatory will feature live butterflies. Step inside the “Wings of Fancy” Indoor Butterfly Show and be surrounded by butterflies flying freely among a colorful garden of nectar plants. Observe exotic Central and South American butterflies in addition to our own native Maryland species. Come witness the butterfly life cycle as tiny eggs hatch into crawling, chewing caterpillars which then encase themselves in jewel-like chrysalides and emerge as sipping, flying adult butterflies. Learn about the best plants and shrubs that are used as nectar sources to attract butterflies to your own garden. Show tickets and parking are available at the Visitors Center and Conservatory Gift Shops. Admission is \$4.50 for adults and \$3.50 for ages 3 to 12. No strollers allowed. 1800 Glenallan Avenue, Wheaton, MD 20902. Groups of 10 or more must pre-register by calling 301-962-1408. To volunteer with the exhibit, call the Volunteer Coordinator at 301-962-1429. Call 301-962-1400 for more information or visit us at www.brooksidegardens.org.

“Flusheth the rise with her purple favor,
Gloweth the cleft with her golden ring.
“Twixt the two brown butterflies waver
Lightly settle, and sleepily swing.”

~ Jean Ingelow



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Membership Dues:

- 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 _____

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