

# *Native News*

Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

January/February 2006

Volume 6 Number 1

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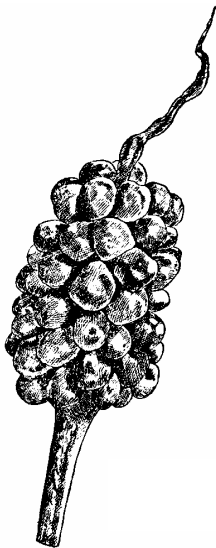
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*Those who dwell, as scientists or laymen,  
among the beauties and mysteries of the  
earth are never alone or weary of life.*

*Whatever the vexations or concerns of  
their personal lives, their thoughts can  
find paths that lead to inner contentment  
and to renewed excitement in living.*

*Those who contemplate the beauty of the  
earth find reserves of strength that will  
endure as long as life lasts.*

~ Rachel Carson ~

## Upcoming Monthly Meetings

### **“Travilah Barrens: Maryland's Last Remaining Serpentinite Forest”**

Tuesday, January 31, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Join Carole Bergmann, Forest Ecologist with the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) and MNPS president, for a presentation on the newly preserved Travilah Serpentine Barrens in Montgomery County, Maryland. Serpentinite communities vary somewhat but are generally characterized by xeric, shallow soils with high amounts of magnesium and iron derived from ultramafic rock (serpentinite, soapstone, talc-schist, etc), a fairly flat to gently rolling topography with numerous rock outcrops, and somewhat stunted, open vegetation dominated by oaks and pines and grassy glades supporting many rare and uncommon species. Serpentinite communities are globally-rare throughout their range, with Maryland containing some of the largest expanses in the eastern U.S. Differing somewhat from the prairie-like serpentine barrens at Soldier's Delight in Baltimore County, the Travilah site is notable as Maryland's largest and best remaining example of an old-age, forested serpentinite community.

### **“Documenting Maryland's Diverse Natural Communities”**

Tuesday, February 28, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Jason Harrison, Vegetation Ecologist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Program, will give a presentation on Maryland's program to identify and classify natural communities throughout the state. Similar to tracking the state's wildlife and flora but on a broader level, documenting vegetation types, both common and rare, helps provide the basis for better understanding the natural landscape of the state and the foundation for natural community protection and management. In addition to describing the program, Jason will discuss different vegetation types in Maryland and how they relate to types in neighboring states. Several newly discovered communities, particularly on the Eastern Shore and in southern Maryland, as well as rare and significant communities will also be discussed.

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.



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### Executive Officers:

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

### Board of Directors:

Nancy Adamson Linda Keenan  
Lou Aronica, Emeritus Ann Lundy  
Matthew Bazar Iris Mars  
Lisa Bierer-Garrett Joe Metzger, Jr.  
Paul Carlson Karyn Molines  
Melanie Choukas-Bradley Chris Partain  
Kirsten Emigholtz Mary Pat Rowan  
Cris Fleming Roderick Simmons  
Jim Gallion

## President's Letter

Dear Members,

Last time I wrote, rather than getting into my usual "teaching mode" about the need to experience (and then to work to preserve) our Maryland natural areas, I spent the entire page talking about the necessity for Volunteer Help in an organization such as ours. This letter will begin in a different voice; this time I want to end 2005 – and start 2006 – by sending a sincere note of THANKS to all of you who have been part of our Maryland Native Plant Society this year.

Each of you has demonstrated your personal interest in and commitment to the conservation of and preservation of native plants and their natural communities in our state by joining the Maryland Native Plant Society. Whether you can find time in your busy schedule to do anything else to show your interest in these issues or not, you have already made an important statement by just becoming a MNPS member. I, and all of the other Executive Officers and Board Members, would like to thank you for your dedication.

Since this is the "President's Letter" and my one chance to publicly thank some of the people who have given much time to this effort, I would like to give a huge, "virtual" round of applause to all of the 2005 Executive Officers (Rod Simmons, John Parrish, Marc Imlay, Carolyn Fulton, Beth Johnson) and Board Members (Lou Aronica, Lisa Bierer-Garrett, Paul Carlson, Melanie Choukas-Bradley, Cris Fleming, Ann Lundy, Iris Mars, Joe Metzger, Karyn Molines, Chris Partain, Mary Pat Rowan, Sara Tangren, Meghan Tice). I want to thank them for a job very well done, and say again that this Society would not function without them.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to all of the field trip leaders. One of the first things that attracted me to the MNPS years ago was the chance to go out on some great field trips with fellow nature fanatics. I still feel this way, and I know that we "convince" a lot of fellow citizens to join our Society because we give people the opportunity to learn more about our natural communities in a relaxed, enjoyable way.

I want to tell those members who try hard to keep the interest in our Chapters alive that we appreciate it. It is not always easy for members who live a distance from Montgomery County to attend our Monthly Meetings and to participate in the large number of activities that are centered in the piedmont. I'd especially like to thank the Baltimore Chapter again for planning and hosting our very successful 2005 Fall Conference.

Still in the thanking mode, I want to express my appreciation to those who take the time to bring treats to our Monthly Meetings – we all enjoy that! And also to those who pitch in and do jobs that need to get done, but which may not be that much fun – like helping get the Native Newsletter or other large mailings finished, sorted, and to the Post Office.

Finally, I am certain that there are many other members I should thank individually, but there is one Board Member who I'd like to especially single out today. I'd like to thank Meghan Tice for the incredible job she has done for the past couple of years producing our *Native News*. Six times a year she basically single-handedly puts this entire publication together and gets it out on time! The *Native News* is one of the most important ways we "communicate" within our Society and with other non-member citizens. Through our *Native News*, people learn about our mission/goals/ plans and also about our upcoming field trips, and about opportunities to do community service with invasive removal projects, etc. Meghan deserves her own virtual round of applause – and sincere thanks – in my book!

I wish all of you the best possible 2006.

~ Carole Bergmann

## MNPS Announcements

### Welcome New Members!

Thanks for joining! We hope you'll join us on the many field trips and meetings we have to offer. Judy Billings-Mapondera, Melissa Brown, Ann Carlson, Cynthia Sally Haggard, Alice Hastings, Mary Lewis, Catherine Nobles, Joyce Anne and Eugene Rall, Karen and Ira Shavel, Marcia Watson-Whitmyre, Roy Weitzell, and Joy Wheeler recently joined the Society.

### Organizational Members

Our newest membership category is for organizations that wish to support MNPS. As of November 17, the following people and organizations have joined at this level: Adkins Arboretum (Ridgely, MD), Cityscapes Landscaping, Inc. (Silver Spring, MD), National Conservation Training Center (Shepherdstown, WV), Nature Conservancy of Maryland (Bethesda, MD), Pogo Sherwood (Olney, MD), St. John's Botanicals, Inc. (Bowie, MD), Thorpewood (Thurmont, MD), Wicklein's Water Gardens (Baltimore, MD), and Woodland Management Services (Pasadena, MD).

Our website will eventually be modified to provide more information about our Organizational members, including links to their websites. Organizational members can send a brief description of the organization and contact information to Iris Mars at [website@mdflora.org](mailto:website@mdflora.org).

### General Membership Information

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 1/1/2006 your membership expires at the end of January. 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.

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.

## Chapter Events

### Eastern Shore Chapter

The fall field trip to Assateague was a great success with more than 20 participants and a gorgeous day. A ranger led the trip across a narrow strip between the ocean and the bay with highlights including sargassum seaweed washed in from the Sargasso Sea, the globally rare sea beach amaranth, *Amaranthus pumilus*, and a maritime forest being swallowed by a sand dune. Please do attend the February Chapter meet:

### “Native Plants on Display: The Fern Valley Native Plant Collection”

Saturday, February 25, 2:00 pm

Talbot Historical Society Auditorium

Joan Feely, Curator of the Native Plant Collection at the U.S. National Arboretum, will give a slide presentation of the many wonderful plants growing in Fern Valley. Fern Valley is a naturalistic landscape that includes five acres of woodland, two acres of meadow, and a spectacular hedgerow-like planting straight out of the coastal plain of the deep south. Her presentation will review a year in the garden, detailing the interesting and beautiful native plants that flourish in this remarkable urban oasis. The Historical Society is located at 25 South Washington Street in Easton.

### Greater Baltimore Chapter

The MNPS Greater Baltimore Chapter will hold its first meeting of the new year on Wednesday, January 18 at Irvine Nature Center at 7:30 pm. Our speaker will be Dr. Sara Tangren of Chesapeake Natives who will talk about identifying native grasses using slides and examples of native grasses. Please join us to learn more about the workhorses of the natural landscape.

We will be putting together a display for the Maryland Home and Garden Show at the State Fairgrounds in Timonium the first two weekends in March. Anyone interested in helping set up or staff the display should contact Ann Lundy at [annlundy@verizon.net](mailto:annlundy@verizon.net) or 410-366-9365.

Depending on interest, winter field trips may be scheduled to Soldiers Delight (serpentine grassland) and/or Leakin Park/Gwynns Falls Trail (high quality Piedmont Forest). Contact [louisagardener@verizon.net](mailto:louisagardener@verizon.net) if you are interested.

The Greater Baltimore chapter would like feedback on member interests regarding field trips. Please send replies to Louisa at the email above.

- 1) Do you prefer Saturdays (typically begin at 10:00) or Sundays (typically begin at 1:00)?
- 2) Are you interested in seeing native plant gardens or restorations? Specifically, should we arrange field trips to:  
- Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, Millersville,

*Continued on page 7...*

## Winter Field Trips

### Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (48<sup>th</sup> in the Series) – Fort De Russey

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

**Date:** Sunday, January 8 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

We will return to **Ft. De Russey** in **Rock Creek Park** and investigate the Terrace-Gravel high ground.

**Directions:** Go to the intersection of Military Road and Oregon Avenue in Northwest Washington, D.C. Take Oregon Ave north to the intersection with Tennyson Street NW. Turn left (East) onto Tennyson St and park on the street there. We will gather there and take park paths to Ft. De Russey.

**Bring:** Water and lunch.

**Note:** Easy to moderate walk. Light drizzle is fine but canceled if pouring rain. Snow is preferred.

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

### Winter Seeds, Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary

**Leader:** Karyn Molines

**Date:** Saturday, January 21 **Time:** 9:30 am – noon

Winter offers us a different perspective on plants. We'll take several short hikes in the meadow and woods to observe the seed heads and branching structure of plants in winter. We'll learn about the different seed types by plant family, seed dispersal, and insect galls. There will be several opportunities to sketch and photograph our findings.

**Directions: From Annapolis:** Route 2 to stoplight at Route 258; go right (west) on Rte 258. Continue on Route 258 for 4.5 miles until this ends near the "Park and Ride" just after crossing over Route 4. At the stop sign, turn onto Wrighton Rd and continue for 1.5 miles to Sanctuary entrance on left.

**From Baltimore at the Baltimore Beltway (Route 695):** From Route 695, take I-97 south to Route 50 West/301 South. Take 301 South when it splits from Route 50. Continue on Rte 301 south to Route 4 at Upper Marlboro. Go east/south on Rte 4 for 3 miles (1.5 miles after crossing over the Patuxent River) to the "Plummer Lane" exit on right. Follow Plummer Lane for ½ mile to Wrighton Road. Go right on Wrighton Rd and continue for ½ mile to Sanctuary entrance on left.

**From Washington, D.C.:** From The Capital Beltway (I-495), take Pennsylvania Ave, Rte 4 east/south for about 10.5 miles to the "Plummer Lane" exit. (Plummer Lane is 3 miles east of Rte 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 Rd and continue for ½ mile to Sanctuary entrance on left.

**From Calvert County:** Take Rte 4 north and exit at the "Bristol-Deale" exit (Rte 258). At stop sign go left, over Rte 4, and continue to stop sign at Wrighton Road (near "Park and Ride"). At the stop sign, turn onto Wrighton Road and continue for 1.5 miles to Sanctuary entrance on left.

**Bring:** Hand lens, sketchbooks, pencil (or other sketching media of your choice), cameras, lunch. Dress for the weather!

**Note:** Reservations required. Children should be at least 10 years old. There is a \$3/adult; \$2/child entrance fee. Program will be canceled in rain or snow.

**Contact:** Karyn Molines kmolines@chesapeake.net (preferred) or 410-286-2928.

### Rock Creek Park

**Leader:** Mary Vogel (Please call Mary if you would like to co-lead this trip.)

**Date:** Saturday, January 28 **Time:** Meet at 10:00 am  
Let's go ID some trees and shrubs and see what else is out this time of year over the course of a 7-mile loop past some of the leader's favorite spots along the creek.

**Directions:** Meet at the southbound bus stop at 16<sup>th</sup> and Madison Streets NW (take S1, S2, or S4 bus from Silver Spring Station to Federal Triangle) or park 1600 block of Madison Street.

**Bring:** Bring your map of the park if you have one. Bring field guides, a name tag, lunch and water, and the 10 essentials for safe hiking. Warm up to hot drinks after the hike at leader's house and see her rain garden.

**Note:** Trips are canceled if there is heavy rain. If it's snowing, bring your XC skis!

**Contact:** Leader prefers phone calls 202-547-7820 to email mevplan-parks@yahoo.com.

### Winter Greens, Charles County

**Leader:** Marc Imlay

**Date:** Sunday, February 5 **Time:** 1:00 – 5:00 pm

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

**Directions:** Meet at the Ruth B. Swann Park-Potomac Branch Library parking lot, 20 miles south of Washington Beltway (I-495) on Rt. 210 (Indian Head Hwy). Give yourself 30 to 40 minutes from the beltway.

**Carpool Info:** Meet at Sierra Club Md. Chapter office at 9:00 am; return 5:00 pm. Call Laurel Imlay at 301-277-7111.

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

### Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (49<sup>th</sup> in the Series) – Fort Dupont

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

**Date:** Sunday, February 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 is on Minnesota Avenue SE at Massachusetts Avenue SE; access

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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 on Minnesota Ave until you get to Randall Circle.

**Bring:** Water and lunch.

**Note:** Easy to moderate walk. Light drizzle is fine but canceled if pouring rain. Snow is preferred.

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

## Rachel Carson Conservation Park

**Leader:** Carole Bergmann

**Date:** Sunday, February 26 **Time:** 10:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Vegetation in the approximately 650 acre Rachel Carson Conservation Park is a patchwork of maturing forests, young woods, and old fields in varying stages of succession. While there are several large areas of young, weedy woods which were logged and/or grazed relatively recently, the majority of the park is dominated by high quality maturing, second-growth, mixed deciduous forest. We will spend our time hiking through upland forests dominated by chestnut oak, mixed oak and hickory, and along the Haulings River where common species include mountain laurel, native azaleas, and viburnums. Since we are hiking in February, we will learn about herbaceous plants through their seed pods and/or dried stalks, etc., and about trees and shrubs through their bark, shape, and leaf remnants.

**Directions:** Please meet in the new Rachel Carson Conservation Park parking lot at 22201 Zion Road, Olney. From the intersection of Rte 97 and Rte 650 at Sunshine, go NW on 650. Turn Left on Sundown Road. Turn left on Zion Rd. The parking lot is a very short distance on your left.

**Bring:** Wear hiking boots/sturdy shoes. Bringing water and a snack is recommended. No pets please.

**Note:** This walk will require climbing on some rocks, hiking on and off trails. We will not be hiking if the weather is questionable (rain, snow) or if there is any ice/snow coverage on the trails.

**Contact:** If there is any question about the weather or trail conditions, please call Carole between 7:30 and 9:00 am at 301-253-6241.

## Blockhouse Point Park

**Leader:** Mary Vogel (Please call Mary if you would like to co-lead this trip.)

**Date:** February 26 **Time:** Meet at 10:00 am

This is a loop trail that includes the woods and high prominences of Blockhouse Point Park through National Park Service land and a return along the C&O Canal towpath. Views from the highpoints are fabulous. We'll cover a little cultural as well as natural history over the course of a 7-mile loop and learn a bit about MoCo's plans for this park.

**Directions:** Meet to carpool 9:15 at Friendship Heights Metro-rail Station at 9:15 am or at 10:00 am at the Pennyfield Lock C&O Canal parking lot.

**Bring:** Field guides, a name tag, lunch and water and the 10 essentials for safe hiking. A thermos with something hot is a great idea.

**Note:** Trips are canceled if there is heavy rain. If it's snowing, bring your XC skis!

**Contact:** Leader prefers phone calls 202-547-7820 to email mevplan-parks@yahoo.com.

## Winter Greens, Charles County

**Leader:** Marc Imlay

**Date:** Sunday, March 5 **Time:** 1:00 – 5:00 pm

Please see the February 5 trip and the Invasive Exotic Plant Removal Workday (next page) for more info.

## Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (50<sup>th</sup> in the Series) – Bald Eagle Hill

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

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

We will return to **Bald Eagle Hill** because we had to cancel this trip last August. Bald Eagle Hill is located at the extreme southeastern edge of the District of Columbia. It is not a Civil War site but serves as part of the preserved corridor connecting the Fort circle to Oxon Cove in Maryland. The site includes both upland forest and streamside environments.

**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 St). Soon after, make a right onto Joliet Street. Proceed up the hill about 2 blocks and park opposite the Bald Eagle Recreation Center.

**Bring:** Water and lunch.

**Note:** Easy to moderate walk. Light drizzle is fine but canceled if pouring rain. Snow is preferred.

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

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## Invasive Exotic Plant Removal Workdays

### 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

**Leader:** Marc Imlay

**Dates:** First Sundays, monthly **Time:** 10:00 am – 1:00 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 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.

### 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.

### Northwest Branch of the Anacostia, Montgomery County

**Leader:** Jane Osburn

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

Please join us for a walk in the forest to remove invasive plants from areas along the Northwest Branch stream. We'll then 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 for more info at 301-754-1564.

### 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, bitter-sweet, 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.

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

# 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.

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

## Anacostia Watershed Society Weed Warriors

Non-native invasive species of plants such as English ivy, Japanese stilt grass, and kudzu are covering the natural areas that we in the conservation movement have worked so hard to protect from habitat destruction, erosion, and water pollution. Just as we are making progress on wetlands, stream bank stabilization, and endangered species, these plants from other parts of the world have covered 30-90% of the surface area of our forests, streams and meadows. Many of us feel demoralized and powerless to combat these invaders that have few natural herbivores or other controls. The Anacostia Watershed Society is establishing a program to provide local friends groups and public and private landowners with several models to draw upon in the Anacostia watershed and in the region. We are assisting in developing a major work effort (three to five years) at each site to remove massive populations of about a dozen species. Regular stewardship projects are conducted in all seasons including winter, early spring, late spring, summer, and late summer. This high-intensity program is followed by a low-intensity annual maintenance program to eliminate plants we have missed, plants emerging from the seed bank, and occasional plants migrating in from neighboring areas.

Several ongoing projects we are presently conducting include Magruder Park, Hyattsville, and Little Paint Branch Park and Cherry Hill Road Community Park in Beltsville. Please contact Marc Imlay, PhD, Conservation biologist, Anacostia Watershed Society 301-699-6204, 301-283-0808 for dates and times.

Brown Creeper



## Greater Baltimore Chapter Events

*Continued from page 3*

- Anne Arundel County (lined bog garden that conveys stormwater away from the building via capillary action - many beautiful bog plants)
- National Aquarium, Inner Harbor, Baltimore (a series of gardens representing different plant communities of Maryland are currently being installed)
- Home gardens for wildlife habitat, near Finksburg, eastern Carroll County
- Font Hill Wetlands Park (25 acre wetland mitigation) in Ellicott City, Howard County
- Mt. Pleasant, Howard County Conservancy farm in Woodstock, northern Howard County (2 small rain gardens, native plant xeriscape gardens, meadow restoration, forest restoration, streambank and riparian buffer plantings, deer management)
- Pot Spring and Minebank Run, Baltimore County? Formerly enclosed within a concrete channel, 8 years ago the county hired Biohabitats to restore Pot Spring's stream and floodplain. Today, both stream and plants look remarkably natural. Last year, the Minebank Run was similarly restored.

### Native News Deadlines:

Jan 25	March/April Early Spring Issue
March 25	May/June Late Spring Issue
May 25	July/August Summer Issue
July 25	September/October Early Autumn Issue
Sept 25	November/December Late Autumn/Holidays Issue
Nov 25	January/February Winter Issue

### Tentative 2006 Mailing Party Dates (preceding regular Monthly Meetings at White Oak Library):

Tuesdays at 6:00 pm: February 28, April 25, and June 27.



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

**Membership Dues:**

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

Additional Donation \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check:  New  Renewal