

Native News

Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

May/June 2006

Volume 6 Number 3

Inside This Issue:

President's Letter

Page 2

~

MNPS Contacts

Page 2

~

Chapter Events and Updates

Page 3

~

MNPS Announcements

Page 3

~

Wildflower in Focus

Page 4

~

Spring Field Trips

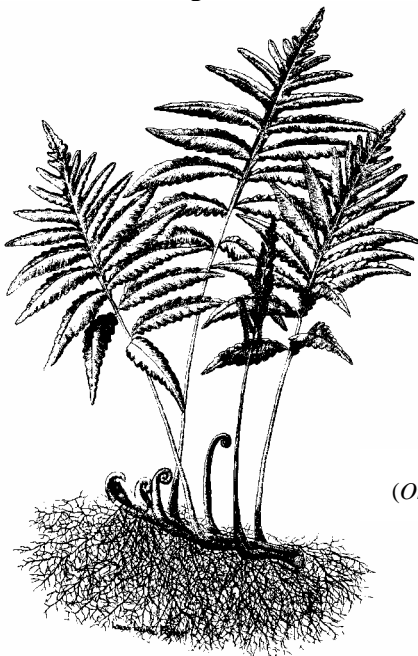
Page 5

~

Invasive Exotic Plant

Removal Workdays

Page 7



Sensitive Fern
(*Onoclea sensibilis* L.)

When the moon has colored half the house,
With the North Star at its height and the South Star setting,
I can feel the first motions of the warm air of spring
In the singing of an insect at my green-silk window.
~ Liu fang P'ing ~

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

“Ferns of Maryland”

Tuesday, May 30, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Joe Metzger, botanist and MNPS member, will give a workshop on the many species of native ferns found in Maryland. Ferns are characteristic plants of many habitats throughout the state, ranging from coastal plain lowlands and bogs to rocky cliffs of the Appalachians. Natural habitats, distribution, and rarity will be discussed, with an emphasis on field identification. Live plant material will be used.

“Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants”

Tuesday, June 27, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Are you looking for ideas using native plants to replace ivy, vinca, pachysandra, and other invasives that may be growing in your garden? Perhaps you don't know what you should plant on slopes or in dry shade or for native groundcovers. Join Laura Beaty, VNPS Potowmack Chapter Propagation Chair, and Marianne Mooney, Chapter President, for a presentation based on the Potowmack Chapter brochure, Native Alternatives to English Ivy. Learn about native groundcovers that are eco-friendly and easy to grow and get tips on how to rid your yard of invasive plants.

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.

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



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

Contacts:

Botany..... Rod Simmons
botcom@mdflora.org
Conservation..... Lou Aronica
cecropia13@msn.com
Field Trips.....Meghan Tice
trips@mdflora.org
301-809-0139
Flora of Maryland.....Joe Metzger
jmetzger50@hotmail.com
Habitat Stewardship.....Marc Imlay
ialm@erols.com
Membership.....Chris Partain
membership@mdflora.org
301-540-9135
Monthly Meetings.....Rod Simmons
monthlymeetings@mdflora.org
Outreach.....Carolyn Fulton
cofulton@chesapeake.net
President.....Carole Bergmann
carolebergmann@hotmail.com
Publications:
Marilandica..... Rod Simmons
marilandicaeditor@mdflora.org
Native News..... Meghan Tice
nativenewseditor@mdflora.org
Website..... Iris Mars
webmanager@mdflora.org

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 Fellow Members,

It is late on a Thursday night in mid April. It's the night of the April full moon: the Egg Moon, the Full Sprouting Grass Moon, the Full Fish Moon, the Full Pink Moon. It is a beautiful soft spring night and the peepers are calling, the American toads are trilling, and that special spring "rich new earth scent" is filling my head. I always need to think for a bit about what to send out in these "President's Letters," but today I have decided that whether I have said this before or not, it needs to be said now, again, because it is so important.

For the past few weeks I have been spending whatever spare hours there are left in the week after work at night and on the weekends outside. I've planted my lettuce, radishes, peas, chard, onions, dill, cress, etc. I've grubbed around in my garden and pulled out perennial weeds and pruned back dead branches. But MOSTLY I've been out walking. Walking and taking pictures, walking and marveling at the unbelievable beauty of spring.

Every year at this time I try to make as many trips to the Potomac River as I can. Beginning with "harbinger of spring" time (I start looking around St. Patrick's Day) until the beginning of May, the floodplains and the lush ravines along the Potomac – both on the Maryland and the Virginia shores – cannot be beat...

We are fast approaching that "thousand shades of GREEN" time of year, and I firmly believe that just going out, walking around, breathing in the spring "wet earth" scent, and looking for the new life that is bursting out all around you can change your entire attitude. And I am not only talking about your feeling for that hour and that day. I think that getting out in the spring, witnessing the changes, being as much a part as possible of the seasonal evolution can change your perspective for months ahead!

Spending some of your own, free time getting out and exploring and taking it all in – this is an important step for you personally, and for the future of the natural areas in our state. I think that most people need to feel part of, 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. I have said this before many times, but 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.

MNPS offers many walks; these are lead 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. Take the opportunity to get out right now. You'll be glad you did.

One final thought today: you've heard this before, and I will probably say it each month, but "we run on Volunteer Power in the Maryland Native Plant Society." We run on volunteer power, and right now our Treasurer (for the past year and a half) has given us fair warning that she will not be able to serve after the end of this year. We REALLY NEED one of our members to step forward and agree to help the Society out. We really need someone who is willing to keep track of the money that comes in and goes out of our relatively uncomplicated Native Plant Society. This potential person does not have to be a botanist extraordinaire. If you are reading this message and feel that you might be able to help the Native Plant Society with this need, I would really appreciate it if you would contact me or any other of the Board members.

Thanks,
Carole

Chapter Events and Updates

Catoctin Chapter News and Events

Catoctin Chapter members met April 5th and have planned to have meetings every other month, the second Wednesdays of even numbered months. For 2006, meetings will take place at the Maryland Cooperative Extension, Frederick from 7-9 pm on June 14 and October 11. In addition, plant walks are scheduled for May 13 and 14, and a fern workshop will be held in August. Suggestions for topics and volunteers for the October meeting and for next year's programs are welcomed. [Please see May field trips on page 5 in this issue.]

“Ferns (& Native Hedgerow, if you come early)”

Wednesday, June 14, 7:00 pm

Md. Cooperative Extension, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick Join members and friends for this year's second meeting. Joe Metzger will give a program on ferns, with perhaps some help from other members (bring your favorite fern photos or specimens). We would like to compile an email list for the Catoctin area members to send out announcements that don't make it into the newsletter, so please contact Nancy Adamson at nladamson@gmail.com if you would like to be added to that list. Come early (6:00 or so) for a tour of the newly planted native hedgerow, a restoration style planting that's part of the Frederick Master Gardener Demonstration Garden. Nancy would also be happy to email a short article about the hedgerow, planted with support from MD DNR and Chesapeake Bay Trust in fall 2005.

Eastern Shore Chapter

Leslie Hunter-Cario will be taking over the chairperson responsibilities for the Eastern Shore Chapter. Please contact Leslie at hunterl@dmv.com. Please see page 5 in this issue for info about an upcoming Eastern Shore field trip.

Greater Baltimore Chapter Meeting

Celebrate the natural history and wildflowers of Sugarloaf, our nearby mountain neighbor!

Melanie Choukas-Bradley, author of two books about Sugarloaf Mountain, Maryland, will give a slide-lecture for the Baltimore Chapter of the Maryland Native Plant Society on Wednesday, May 17th at 7:30 pm at Irvine Nature Center. Melanie will show and describe native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees of Sugarloaf, the only real mountain in Maryland's historic Piedmont, located some 50 miles west of Baltimore. She will also note changes in Sugarloaf's flora observed during a ten-year research period. These include inroads made by invasives and the widespread loss of flowering dogwood and hemlock. She will also 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. Melanie will share highlights of Sugarloaf's geology and history and show scenic photos of the mountain through the seasons.

Western Mountains Chapter Meeting

“Restoring Red Spruce to Appalachian Plateau Natural Areas”

Tuesday, June 20, 7:00 pm

Appalachian Laboratory, Frostburg MD
Speaker - Deborah Barber, Director of Land Management and Volunteer Programs, The Nature Conservancy, Maryland/DC Chapter

Red spruce (*Picea rubens*) was once a dominant tree in the mountain valleys of western Maryland and nearby West Virginia, but logging in the late 19th century reduced forests there by 99 percent, leaving only a few hundred acres intact. In recent years the Maryland Chapter of the Nature Conservancy has reintroduced thousands of red spruce to their historic habitat in Maryland. This work helps restore tree cover that maintains the cool climate essential to the health of the region's open bog peatlands and conifer swamp forests. Find out how The Nature Conservancy chooses sites to protect and which strategies to use there, and how it has gotten 30,000 trees in the ground. Chapter business meeting to follow the program.

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. Teresa Ahmann, Patricia Howell, Nora Carey, Amanda and Randy Clay, Bonnie Coe, David Cohn, Dan Eberly, Alexandra Fairfield, Susanna Feder, E. Hodal, Terry Hume, Ray Mims, Hermina Paczynski, Ron Polniaszek and Robin Kummer, Laura and David Sill, Rebecca Turner, Janet Walker, Carl and Judith Werner, and Lisa Winters recently joined the Society.

New Organizational Members

South Arundel Garden Club, Tracy's Landing, MD; MD Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation, Germantown, MD; Audubon Society of Central Maryland, Mt. Airy, MD.

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 5/1/2006 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. 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.

~ Wildflower in Focus ~



Wild Azalea

Rhododendron periclymenoides

During April and May almost every home garden in our region is ornamented with boldly-hued cultivated azaleas. Yet few Maryland residents realize that beyond the garden gate a native woodland azalea of delicate beauty and subtle fragrance is blooming simultaneously. The pinxter flower opens just as the new leaves emerge in native woods, when the pink lady's slipper adorns the forest floor and the returning wood thrush sings its first flute-like song from the trees. Like many members of the heath family, the pinxter flower favors acidic woodland soils. It is one of several azaleas native to Maryland and the only one common in Washington-Baltimore area woodlands. According to Maryland Native Plant Society President Carole Bergmann, the pinxter is threatened by deer, who devour the young plants.

Specific Characteristics of Pinxter Flower

Flowers: Roundish clusters of several pale to deep pink flowers which are delightfully and subtly fragrant (degree of fragrance varies). Dark pink more or less pubescent corolla tube flares into 5 paler pink lobes. Pink stamens and pistil are long, protruding and upswept. Flowers 1-1 ¾" across, emerging just before or with the new leaves. [Note: Some botanical guides describe this plant as lacking or nearly lacking in fragrance, and the fragrance is not nearly as strong as the swamp azalea (*R. viscosum*) of swamps, bogs and streambanks throughout Maryland or rose azalea (*R. prinophyllum*) of the mountains and piedmont.] **Leaves:** Alternate (but may appear whorled in terminal clusters), simple, with finely hairy entire margins. Oblong, obovate or elliptic, with wedge-shaped base and short petiole (to nearly sessile). 1 ¾-4" long, a pale spring green as they emerge with blossoms. **Height and Growth Habit:** 2-8' shrub; branching toward the top. **Habitat and Range:** Woods, streambanks; New England to South Carolina and Tennessee. **Blooming Time:** April-May. **Similar Species:** Several native azaleas grow in Maryland from the mountains to the coastal plain (see Brown and Brown's *Woody Plants of Maryland* and Fleming, Lobstein and Tufty's *Finding Wildflowers in the Washington-Baltimore Area*.) Mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) has evergreen leaves and smaller, later flowers. Great rhododendron (*R. maximum*) has evergreen leaves and later blooms. **Locations:** Found throughout Maryland, especially in rocky woods. Rock Creek Park, Blockhouse Point Park, Fairland Recreation Park, Rachel Carson Conservation Park, Carderock, Great Falls, Sugarloaf Mountain.

"Wildflower in Focus" text adapted from *An Illustrated Guide to Eastern Woodland Wildflowers and Trees: 350 Plants Observed at Sugarloaf Mountain, Maryland* (Choukas-Bradley and Brown, University of Virginia Press)

Spring Field Trips

Spring Ephemeral Walk, Caroline County

Leaders: Nick and Margaret Carter

Date: Saturday, May 13 **Time:** 10:30am – 12:00 pm

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.

Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary, Frederick County

Joint trip with the Catoctin Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Audubon Society of Central Maryland

Leaders: Chris Hodge, Joe Metzger, and Nancy Adamson

Date: Saturday, May 13 **Time:** 10:00 am

Explore this large sanctuary of woods, meadows, and wetlands with MNPS, Sierra Club, and the Audubon Society. Trip is family friendly. There are a variety of trails for shorter and longer loops, time for hiking and for enjoying and learning plants and, hopefully, birds and other wildlife.

Directions: From the intersection of Routes 70 and 75 at New Market, take 75 north toward Libertytown for about 4 miles. At the first light, Old Annapolis Road, turn right and continue about 3 miles. The sanctuary is on the left, just past Detrick Rd. Enter the 2nd entrance (double farm gate will be open) and pull into field to park. Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary is located at 13030 Old Annapolis Rd, Mt. Airy, MD 21771.

Bring: Wear comfortable shoes that may get muddy. Bring lunch and plenty to drink, as well as field guides and binoculars.

Contact: Nancy Adamson at 301-694-1596 or nladamson@gmail.com or Chris Hodge at ChrisHodge@adelphia.net.

Plant It & They Will Come!

Wildlife Habitat Garden Tour, Garrett County

Leaders: Ron Boyer and Liz McDowell

Dates: May 13, 14, 27 & 28 and June 17 & 18

Ron and Liz of Elk Ridge NatureWorks are hosting several open house events at their native plant nursery. 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 garden filled with bees, birds, butterflies and beautiful plants.

Directions: From I-68 take exit 22 & follow signs for New Germany State Park. Turn left into the park onto McAndrews Hill Rd & travel ~ 2 miles to stop sign at Westernport Rd. Turn right & travel .25 mile to Red Hill Rd. Turn right & drive ~ .5 miles to Elk Ridge Lane. Turn left onto Elk Ridge Lane (private road) & travel .3 miles out gravel lane to site on right.

Note: Free guided tours at 10 am, 12 noon and 2 pm. Native plants and habitat boxes are available for purchase. This is a primitive site with no rest rooms. Pets are not allowed.

Contact: For more info call 301-895-3686 or email info@elkridgenatureworks.com.

Frederick Watershed Spring Walk

Leaders: Nancy Adamson, Joe Metzger, and Lou Aronica.

Date: Sunday, May 14 **Time:** 10:00 am

Bring Mom or her nature-loving spirit for a spring walk in the watershed along hemlock shaded streams, in oak-hickory forest and possibly around a man-made pond. We hope to find at least some of the mountain laurels in full bloom along with azaleas and some spring ephemerals that appear a bit later in these mountain elevations. Managed by the Department of Natural Resources and owned by the city of Frederick, the area is a somewhat unknown treasure since hikers are more familiar with the Appalachian Trail, Gambrill State Park, Catoctin Mountain Park, and Cunningham Falls, all of which are close by. Fisherman, however, have long treasured the area. We'll be compiling a plant (and animal, hopefully) list for MNPS, adding to one started last fall.

Directions: Please contact Nancy for directions.

Bring: Wear comfortable shoes that may get muddy (unlikely unless it's raining or unless you choose to explore the streams or ponds). Bring lunch and plenty to drink, as well as field guides and binoculars.

Contact: Nancy 301-694-1596 or nladamson@gmail.com or Joe jmetzger50@hotmail.com.

Chesapeake Natives Wildflower Farm Tour, Anne Arundel County

Leader: Dr. Sara Tangren

Dates: Saturdays, May 20 (3:00) and June 17 (4:00)
(every third Saturday through November)

Come see the spring bloomers and their pollinators! In June, the milkweed rows are at their most spectacular and covered with pollinators! Learn how to invite wildlife into your own yard and which native shrubs, flowers, and grasses would work in your yard. Ask the experts! Send your kids hunting for caterpillars! Plant sale after tour: all proceeds support the nonprofit.

Directions: From Aisquith Farm Road in Davidsonville, follow the red arrows. Detailed directions at www.ChesapeakeNatives.org.

Bring: Questions, cameras, binoculars.

Rain dates: Saturday, May 27 at 3:00 and June 24 at 4:00.

Contact: Call in the afternoon to confirm, 301-580-6237.

Native News

Native Plants of Four Mile Ridge, Garrett County

Leaders: Ron Boyer and Liz McDowell

Date: Sunday, May 21 **Time:** 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Discover the beautiful spring wildflowers, shrubs, and trees that call this section of the Savage Ravines Wildlands home. During this moderate hike in the Savage River State Forest, you'll gain a deeper appreciation of the value of wild areas for preserving species diversity.

Directions: Available when reservations are made.

Bring: Water, walking shoes, and binoculars.

Note: Since group size is limited, reservations are required. This is a primitive area with no restroom facilities.

Contact: Ron info@elkridgenatureworks.com or 301-895-3686 for reservations and carpooling information.

Gunpowder State Park May Wildflower Hike – Hereford Area

Leader: Dwight Johnson

Date: Sunday May 21 **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
DwightMJohnson@comcast.net.

Sugarloaf Mountain

Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Date: Saturday, June 3 **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 loosestrifes, enchanter's nightshade, pasture rose, and wild hydrangea in bloom, among many other flowering plants. 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: 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. Take route 109 south from 270, turn right on Comus Road (west) just past the Comus Inn and drive under 2½ miles to the mountain base.

Carpool Info: TBD. Call 301-652-8799 for information.

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

Contact: Melanie choukas@erols.com. Cell phone (call only on day of hike after 9): 301-502-7410.

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (53rd in the Series) – Fort Dupont

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

Date: Sunday, June 18 **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. Civil War Fort Field Trips are not planned for July and August but we will resume in September. Look for info in the Summer/Fall newsletter.

Directions: We will meet at the parking lot of the Ft. Dupont Activity Center off Randall Circle. Randall Circle is on Minnesota Ave SE at Massachusetts Ave SE. Access via east Capital Street and go south on Minnesota Ave to Randall Circle. Or, take I-295 from the Beltway north to Penn. Ave SE and turn north on Minnesota Ave until you get to Randall Circle (National Park Service sign on Circle).

Bring: Water and lunch.

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.

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

Leader: Dwight Johnson

Date: Sunday, June 25 **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.

Suburban Native Plant Garden Tour, Finksburg, Carroll County

Leaders: Jim Clark and Cathy Gilleland

Date: Sunday, June 25 **Time:** 1:00 – 4:00 or 5:00 pm

Stop #1: Jim Clark's Wildlife Habitat Garden, 1:00 pm

Stop #2: Home of Cathy Gilleland, 3:00 pm

Directions: will be sent to those who register.

Bring: Water bottle. If you wish to collect seeds, bring zip-lock baggies. Bring plastic grocery bags and paper towels to take home live plants.

Contact: Registration required. Email louisagardener@verizon.net. For more information, go to <http://www.windstar.org/certify/habitat.htm>.

Invasive Exotic Plant Removal Workdays

Belt Woods, Prince George's County

Leaders: Maureen Fine and Robert Burnett

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

For upcoming months we will be removing Japanese honeysuckle, creeping euonymus, Oriental bittersweet, winged euonymus, English ivy, wineberry, and more of the usual suspects from North and Central Woods, and from the Home Farms areas. Belt Woods is bordered by Central Ave (214) to the south and Church Road to the east, just on the outskirts of Bowie.

Bring: Drink and snack, if desired, and plant and bird identification books. Long pants and long-sleeved shirt, and insect repellent recommended. 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.

Chapman Forest, Charles County

Leader: Marc Imlay

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

Directions: Meet at main gate of Chapman Forest, 20 miles south of the Washington Beltway (I-495) on Route 210 (Indian Head Hwy). Give yourself 30 to 40 minutes from the Beltway. For more info about the forest and to see a map, please visit the web at <http://www.chapmanforest.org>.

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.

Northwest Branch at Woodmoor, Montgomery County

Leader: Jane Osburn

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

Please join us for a walk in Northwest Branch to enjoy the beauty of the forest and 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.

Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge, Kent County

Cosponsored by USFWS and DE Chapter of Sierra Club

Leader: Dan Soeder **Date:** Saturday, May 13

Wineberry and garlic mustard are two invasive plant species that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would like help removing from the refuge. Garlic mustard is a newly arrived invasive species, and is a management priority. Wineberry begins to ripen with fruit between June and July.

Bring: A 4-pronged spading fork works best on wineberry.

We have six forks available for volunteers to use, but if you have one please bring it. High boots (for ticks) are recommended, along with bug repellent, a hat and gloves.

We will be grilling burgers of both the veggie and beefy variety in the NWR picnic area. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share. Families are welcome.

Contact: Please RSVP with Dan by May 10 at 410-969-9465 or djsoeder@yahoo.com for information and start time.

Battling Botanical Bullies in Bear Pen Wildland, Garrett County

Leaders: Ron Boyer & Liz McDowell

Date: Friday, June 16 **Time:** 9:00 am – 12:00 noon

Volunteers are needed to continue control efforts of Japanese spiraea in the Bear Pen Run area of Savage River State Forest. We'll be working using both mechanical and chemical control methods. Kerrie Kyde, Invasive Plant Specialist with the Maryland Wildlife & Heritage Service, is providing technical support. Mike Gregory, New Germany State Park manager, is providing free camping the night before for any out-of-town volunteers. Ron and Liz are providing snacks and drinks for volunteers.

Contact: For more details or to register, contact Ron at 301-895-3686 or info@elkridgenatureworks.com.

Friends of Sligo Creek Events, Montgomery County

Leader: Sally Gagne

Dates: Most weekends in June and July

We will hand-pull garlic mustard and mile-a-minute vine.

Bring: Please see <http://www.fosc.org/RIPEventSched.htm> for detailed information.

Contact: RIP@fosc.org or phone Sally at 301-588-2071.

Become an Urban Weed Warrior!

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks has an 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 native alternatives to exotic flora. Training will lead to certification as a weed warrior, whereby volunteers can work on their own to help control non-native invasive plants in City parks.

Contact: Kimberley Mead, Weed Warrior Coordinator at kimberley.mead@baltimorecity.gov or 410-396-0359. Please call to confirm dates, locations, and times or with questions.



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