

Native News

Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

September/October 2006

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Inside This Issue:

President's Letter
Page 2

~

MNPS Contacts
Page 2

~

MNPS Announcements
Page 3

~

Upcoming Chapter Events
Page 3

~

Wildflower in Focus
Page 4

~

Late Summer/Fall Field Trips
Page 5

~

Invasive Exotic Plant
Removal Workdays
Page 6

~

General Announcements
Page 7

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

“Goldenrods, Asters, and Thoroughworts”

Tuesday, September 26, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

The Asteraceae (Aster Family) is a large and diverse family that is especially well-developed in North America. Maryland and the mid-Atlantic region are home to a particularly rich diversity of native plants in the Aster Family. Join botanist Rod Simmons for an in-depth presentation of the many native species of *Solidago*, *Eupatorium*, and *Aster* (formerly) in Maryland. The talk will focus on identification of the common species, but will also include uncommon and rare ones and habitats throughout the state where they may be found. Live plant material will be available for hands-on identification.

“The Importance of Hybridization in the Systematic Evolution of Oaks”

Tuesday, October 24, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

The oaks are one of North America's most widespread and important trees. Nearly 80 native species of oaks occur in North America, not including the numerous natural hybrids and app. 100 species in Mexico. Maryland is one of the most diverse areas in the east for oaks, with 21 of the 41 oak species native to the eastern U.S., not including hybrids. Join Alan Whittemore, research botanist and systematic taxonomist with the USDA and *Flora of North America* contributor, for a presentation on the evolution, diversity, and importance of oak species.

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



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President's Letter

Dear Members,

Well, it has been a hot and muggy, full-force sun and “no rain in sight” kind of week, and most everyone I talk with is either going on a vacation or coming back from some type of “time away.” But by the time this MNPS newsletter reaches members’ homes, it will be September and the main vacation time will be over and the children will be back in school. Whether you have children who are currently of school age or not, however, it seems like a lot of people get that “back to school” feeling in September. Being someone who is a firm believer in the value of life long learning, this is a very good thing in my opinion.

My sampan is as light as a leaf;
The soft breeze is not stirring up angry waves;
I said wherever I wish and anchor by the grassy shore.
All I hear through the night is the sound of autumn.
~ Ts'ui Hao – 8th century ~

I am going to spend my few minutes here encouraging people to take advantage of some of the many opportunities we have to widen our horizons. There are so many groups, organizations, schools, societies, and park systems in our state which offer us the chance to learn something more about our natural world! Most MNPS members have full, busy lives, and taking the time to sign up for a semester long class on a topic we've always been a bit curious about is just beyond the realm of possibility. However, sometimes just attending an evening lecture or going for a weekend hike with a local expert can open your eyes, can make you stop and think, and give you the spark you need to go on and learn so much more.

Our Annual Fall Conference will be held on October 14th and 15th this year. We will explore the “Geology-Botany Connection” in the Botanical Diversity of Montgomery County. This will be one of those good opportunities to expand your natural history horizons, to come and hear lectures, and participate in a number of field trips in chosen county and federal parks. Of course, not everyone will be free to attend the Conference that weekend, but we have a lecture or a lecture/slide show every month at our Tuesday night Monthly Meeting at White Oak Library. And again, not everyone lives in or near Montgomery County, but we have numerous walks/hikes/chances to get out with a person who can teach others something about the natural world listed in every single MNPS newsletter.

I would also remind members that there are many opportunities beyond those offered by MNPS to listen and learn and walk and talk with naturalists and regional botanical experts. The Audubon Naturalist Society offers an amazing array of classes, walks, and talks. The Virginia Native Plant Society is an active group sponsoring botanical outings. Federal, state, and county parks also often have nature centers which help the visitor understand in a new way the reasons why a particular park was created – tidbits about geology, botany, and history. And if you can dedicate more than an evening or weekend to further your natural history education, the USDA Grad School has a Natural History Series which gives a student the chance to spend several weeks learning a topic in the classroom and on field trips.

A chestnut falls:
The insects cease their crying
Among the grasses.
~ Basho, 17th century ~

Carole Bergmann

MNPS Announcements

Maryland Native Plant Society Efforts to Stop ICC

The Maryland Native Plant Society is participating, along with other interested parties, in efforts to block construction of the Intercounty Connector (ICC). Although no lawsuit has yet been filed, the Society expects a legal action challenging the ICC to be filed sometime this fall. If built, the ICC highway would fragment and devastate 8 parks in the upper Rock Creek and upper Anacostia River watersheds within Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. The parks under threat (from west to east) include Mill Creek Stream Valley Park, Rock Creek Regional Park, North Branch Stream Valley Park, Layhill Local Park, Northwest Branch Recreational Park, Northwest Branch Stream Valley Park, Paint Branch Stream Valley Park, and Little Paint Branch Stream Valley Park. Over 700 acres of forest (most of which occurs within parklands) would be clear-cut to accommodate the highway. Many uncommon and rare plant species grow in harm's way, including species listed as state threatened and state endangered. Several county champion trees could be lost as well. The Society depends heavily on access to public parklands to carry out our education, conservation, and restoration missions. If the ICC is built, loss of public parklands would occur, especially parklands containing mature forest habitats and exceptional species diversity. Regardless of the outcome of a legal challenge, with political support for the ICC waning, the upcoming elections could spell doom for the project. Contrary to what you hear in the press, **the ICC is not a done deal!** For further information, please contact MNPS Vice-President John Parrish at lifeonearth@juno.com.

General Membership Information

To tell when your membership expires, take a look at your mailing label. For example, if your label reads 9/1/2006 your membership expires at the end of September. 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 receive two renewals for a membership, we have a policy to extend the membership for an additional year. Thanks for your support.

Native News Deadlines:

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
July 25	September/October Early Autumn Issue

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

Tuesdays at 6:00 pm: October 24 and December 19.

Upcoming Chapter Events

Catoctin Chapter

The Catoctin Chapter of MNPS will hold a meeting in October, probably the first or second Monday or Thursday. The tentative topic is Experiments in Winter Propagation (several types of cuttings, divisions, seeds, etc.) Everyone who attends can take one or more item home and in the spring report on how it grows. Meeting location: Maryland Cooperative Extension, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick. Please contact Jim Gallion at JIMBO21793@aol.com or 301-898-0678 or Joe Metzger at jmetzger50@hotmail.com.

Greater Baltimore Chapter

The Greater Baltimore Chapter will meet at Irvine Nature Center at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, September 20 for a propagation workshop of *Ilex opaca* (American Holly) and *Ilex glabra* (Inkberry Holly) from cuttings and *Magnolia virginiana* (Sweetbay Magnolia) and *Quercus rubra* (Red Oak) from seed. Please bring a small seed starting tray for the cuttings. For more information contact Ann Lundy at 410-366-9365 or aplundy@attglobal.net.

Our July meeting at the National Aquarium was such a success that we have been invited back for a look at the green roof and growing facility at the Aquarium. Watch the MNPS website for the announcement of this field trip in September or early October.

Western Mountains Chapter

The Western Mountains Chapter will hold its regular meeting at the Appalachian Laboratory in Frostburg on Tuesday, October 17 at 7:00 pm. The guest speaker will be Katia Engelhardt, Assistant Professor at the Appalachian Lab. She received her PhD in ecology from Utah State University in Logan in 2000. Dr. Engelhardt's research interests have been focused on the areas of community ecology, invasion ecology, wetland ecology, and restoration ecology. Katia will give a presentation entitled *Warm Season Grassland Restoration in the Mid-Atlantic Region: Principles & Practices*. "With native biodiversity declining and invasions increasing in many ecosystems, the need to effectively and efficiently restore degraded ecosystems has never been as important as it is today. My research is often motivated and funded by this need. I am working predominantly with the National Park Service to identify the feasibility of restoring a tidal freshwater marsh near Alexandria, Virginia, and to explore grassland restoration principles and practices for National Parks in the Chesapeake Bay region."

The public is welcome to attend. The Chapter business meeting will follow the program. **Directions:** From I-68 take exit 33 (Braddock Rd & Midlothian Rd exit). Follow Braddock Road approximately .2 miles to the entrance to the Appalachian Lab on the left side of the road (301 Braddock Road). There is plenty of parking in front of the building.

~ Wildflower in Focus ~



Eupatorium fistulosum Joe Pye Tina Thieme Brown © 2001

Joe-Pye-Weed

Eupatorium spp. L.

Hollow Joe-Pye-Weed ~ *Eupatorium fistulosum* Barratt

Sweet Joe-Pye-Weed ~ *E. purpureum* L.

Three-Nerved Joe-Pye-Weed ~ *E. dubium* Willd. ex Poir.

Aster or Daisy Family (Asteraceae)

By Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Artwork by Tina Thieme Brown

Several species of Joe-Pye-Weed are among the many members of the aster or daisy family to bloom in the mid-Atlantic region during summer and fall. Named for Joe Pye, a man who used the plants medicinally in the 19th century, they provide late-season nectar for butterflies. Look for these tall plants with more or less purplish stalks, whorled leaves, and large terminal clusters of pale to deep purplish-pink flowers blooming along Maryland's rivers, streams and roadsides during the coming weeks.

Specific Characteristics of Maryland's Species of Joe-Pye-Weed

Joe-Pye-weeds served as important medicinals for American Indians and early European settlers (see "Herbal Lore," below). At least three species of Joe-Pye-weed are found in Maryland. Hollow Joe-Pye-weed (*E. fistulosum*) is the most common species, especially west of the Chesapeake Bay, and it is found in moist and upland open fields and meadows; sweet Joe-Pye-weed (*E. purpureum*) is less common and is more often found in moist woodlands, usually along rivers and streams. Three-nerved Joe-Pye-weed (*E. dubium*) is primarily a Coastal Plain species, with limited distribution in the Piedmont. Because the plants are so similar, they are treated together here. See "Species Descriptions" for distinguishing characteristics. **Flower Heads:** Tiny, pale to deep purplish-pink disk flowers in heads of 4-10; the heads form large, domed or rounded terminal clusters which are very striking, even from afar, due in part to the plants' considerable height. **Leaves:** Opposite, simple, in whorls (*E. fistulosum* usually in whorls of 4-7; *E. purpureum* and *E. dubium*: 2-5, but most often 3 or 4.) Lanceolate, ovate or elliptic, toothed, 2-8" long, on short petioles. **Height:** Extremely tall: 3-10'. **Habitat and Range:** Moist woods (often bottomlands), thickets, marshes (*E. fistulosum* and *E. dubium* favor the slightly wetter habitats); eastern North America. **Herbal Lore:** Joe-Pye-weed species have been used herbally and homeopathically to treat urinary tract and gall bladder problems, rheumatism and a number of other medical conditions. In their Peterson Field Guides' *Eastern/Central Medicinal Plants*, Steven Foster and James A. Duke say the plants' common name is "derived from 'Joe Pye,' a 19th century Caucasian 'Indian theme promoter' who used the root to induce sweating in typhus fever." **Blooming Time:** July-October. **Species Descriptions:** Hollow Joe-Pye-weed (*E. fistulosum*) has a purplish, glaucous plant stalk that is hollow or tubed in cross section (but please do not break the plant to look for this feature). Sweet Joe-Pye-weed (*E. purpureum*) usually has a solid or mostly solid plant stalk that is slightly glaucous, but usually purple only at the leaf nodes. Sweet Joe-Pye-weed leaves or stalks may exude a vanilla scent when crushed (but don't crush stalk). Its flower heads are very pale pink, purple or cream. Three-nerved Joe-Pye-weed has a purple-speckled stalk and deep purple flower clusters which are smaller and less domed than the previous two species. A fourth species, which is common farther north and grows in higher elevations to the west and southwest, is spotted Joe-Pye-weed (*E. maculatum*). It has a more flat-topped (less domed) flower cluster and a purple or purple-spotted stalk that is rarely glaucous. According to botanists Cris Fleming and John Parrish, spotted Joe-Pye-weed may no longer grow in Maryland and is officially listed as extirpated from the state. **Locations for Hollow, Sweet, and Three-Nerved Joe-Pye-Weed:** Statewide including Adkins Arboretum; Jug Bay (visible while canoeing the marsh channels, along with New York ironweed and swamp milkweed); Sugarloaf Mountain wetlands near western slopes; Rock Creek Regional Park; Little Bennett Regional Park; Gunpowder Falls State Park. See *Finding Wildflowers in the Washington-Baltimore Area* (Fleming, Lobstein and Tufty) and *Herbaceous Plants of Maryland* (Brown and Brown) for more information.

Joe-pye-weed 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). MNPS board members Cris Fleming, Beth Johnson, Karyn Molines, John Parrish, and Rod Simmons contributed to this write-up.

Late Summer/Fall Field Trips

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (54th in the Series)

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica
Date: Sunday, September 10 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
We will visit two Civil War Forts, both in NE D.C. We will start at **Ft. Bunker Hill** which is quite small and then move on to **Ft. Slemmer** on the campus of Catholic University.
Directions: Get yourself to Rhode Island Avenue NE and turn to the north onto 14th Street NE. Travel north about 10 blocks until you get to Otis Street NE and the Fort is on your left. It is exactly one city block. Park on either Otis or 14th.
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.

Chesapeake Natives Wildflower Farm Tour, Anne Arundel County

Leader: Dr. Sara Tangren
Date: Saturday, September 16 **Time:** 4:00 pm
(Every third Saturday through November)
Native asters and goldenrods abound and grasses are in their full glory. Butterflies are everywhere. Plant sale after tour: all proceeds support the nonprofit.
Directions: From Aisquith Farm Road in Davidsonville, follow the red arrows. Printable directions and map can be found at www.ChesapeakeNatives.org.
Bring: Questions, cameras, binoculars, water; kids welcome.
Note: Rain date is Saturday, September 23 at 4:00 pm.
Contact: Call in the afternoon to confirm, 301-580-6237.

Plant It & They Will Come!

Wildlife Habitat Garden Tour, Garrett County

Leaders: Ron Boyer and Liz McDowell
Dates: Saturday and Sunday, September 16 & 17
Times: Guided tours at 10:00 am, 12:00 noon and 2:00 pm
Tour the wildlife garden to see a variety of conservation landscaping and wildlife habitat practices that individuals can use to enhance biodiversity around their homes: a garden filled with bees, birds, butterflies, and beautiful plants. Native plants and habitat boxes are available for purchase.
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 (private road) and travel .3 miles out gravel lane to site on right.
Note: This is a primitive site with no restrooms. Pets are not allowed. Tours are free.
Contact: 301-895-3686 or info@elkridgenatureworks.com.

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (55th in the Series)

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica
Date: Sunday, October 1 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
We will explore the forest just south of St. Elizabeth's Hospital in the SE Quadrant of Washington, D.C. in the vicinity of **Fort Carroll**.
Directions: Access from Washington or Maryland: From the north, take 295 south past Suitland Parkway to exit #2, Bolling Air Force Base/Malcolm X (formerly Portland St). Drive up hill about 3 blocks and park on Malcolm X Street near Newcomb Street. From the south, take 295 from the Beltway, proceed past South Capitol Street (no exit) to Malcolm X, then exit on right and proceed as above.
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.

Chesapeake Natives Wildflower Farm Tour, Anne Arundel County

Leader: Dr. Sara Tangren
Date: Saturday, October 21 **Time:** 3:00 pm
(Every third Saturday through November)
Native asters and goldenrods abound, winterberries are ripening, and grasses are in their full glory. How can you add fall and winter interest to your yard? Ask the experts! Plant sale after tour: all proceeds support the nonprofit.
Directions: From Aisquith Farm Road in Davidsonville, follow the red arrows. Printable directions and map can be found at www.ChesapeakeNatives.org.
Bring: Questions, cameras, binoculars, water; kids welcome.
Note: Rain date is Saturday, October 28 at 3:00 pm.
Contact: Call in the afternoon to confirm, 301-580-6237.

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (56th in the Series)

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica
Date: Sunday, November 5 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Fort Totten is one of the most interesting Terrace Gravel sites in Washington. The upland part of the site is virtually devoid of invasive plants and it has one of the most interesting stands of native azaleas and huckleberries with some lowbush blueberry mixed in.
Directions: Meet at Fort Totten Drive near Crittenden Street NE. Park on the street and gather on the meadow near the signed entrance to the Fort Park.
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.

Invasive Exotic Plant Removal Workdays

Prince George's County Weed Warriors

Adult volunteers and groups are needed to help address a growing problem with non-native invasive plants that are crowding out native plants found in our parks and forests. Come learn to identify and remove selected non-native plants found within the park system. Participation in this program will help improve the overall health of our forests and allow our native plants to flourish. Attend a two-hour training conducted by the M-NCPPC Park Rangers which will consist of a short classroom lesson followed by working outdoors within the park. You can make a positive difference in our forests by participating in this new Weed Warriors program. **Training Date:** Wednesday, Sept 20 **Time:** 1:00 – 3:00 pm **Location:** Watkins Nature Center **Project Date:** Sunday, September 24 **Time:** 9:00 – 11:00 am **Location:** Lake Artemesia in College Park **Bring:** Dress appropriately and bring plenty of water. Gloves and other supplies will be provided. **Contact:** If you have any questions, please contact the Park Ranger office at 310-627-7755. **Web:** <http://www.pgparcs.com/things/partnersnparcs.html>

Hellen Creek Forest and Wildlife Preserve, Calvert County

Dates: Saturday, September 23
Time: 9:00 am – noon
Hellen Creek Forest and Wildlife Preserve is located in the Patuxent watershed in Lusby. Together with the adjacent TNC Hemlock Preserve, nearly 120 acres of the upper Hellen Creek watershed is preserved. Mostly forested, the two preserves have over 350 American hemlocks and twenty-five other species of trees. The Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust is in the second year of its invasive plant removal plan. The targets for this year are wineberry, tree of heaven, and multiflora rose. The Trust's office is located on property and will be available for use by volunteers. **Directions:** Take route 2/4 to the turn for Mill Bridge and Coster Road in Lusby. This is a few miles north of Solomons. There is a left turn light if you are coming north from Solomons. Otherwise, look for the light and make a right. You will immediately turn left to get onto Coster. Follow this past the two right hand turns for Bafford Road. Look for a white sign MACHINE SHOP on the left and look immediately right for a blue chip road with a brown mailbox, Clifton (marked but not well marked) Drive. Follow Clifton to the first left 11785. This driveway will take you to the Trust property. If you see Hilltop Rd you have gone too far. **Bring:** Gloves, water, lunch, wear sturdy clothes and shoes. **Contact:** Bob Boxwell 410-394-1300 or robertjohnboxwell@yahoo.com.

Belt Woods, Prince George's County

Dates: Saturdays, ongoing **Time:** 9:00 am – 12:00 noon
For upcoming months we will be removing multiflora rose, Japanese honeysuckle, *Euonymus fortunei* and *alatus*, mile-a-minute, garlic mustard, Japanese stiltgrass, and more. 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. **Contact:** Pam Cooper, Western Shore Conservancy, 301-390-0797 for times and dates of outings.

Sligo Creek Invasive Shrub Removal, Montgomery County

Leader: Sally Gagne, RIP Director
Dates: Weekend mornings in October and November
We will be hand-pulling bush honeysuckle and some multiflora rose. **Times/Directions:** For detailed information, please see <http://www.fosc.org/RIPEventSched.htm>. **Note:** We will provide gloves, tools, and water. **Contact:** Sally sgagne@erols.com or 301-588-2071.

Chapman Forest, Charles County

Leader: Marc Imlay
Dates: First Sundays, monthly **Time:** 9:00 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 8:00 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.

Purple Loosestrife Removal in Maryland

MD DNR and its partners are launching an effort to locate and remove the invasive plant purple loosestrife from Maryland's marshes. Purple loosestrife out-competes native plants, eliminates feeding opportunities for native animals and, left unchecked, can permanently alter the function and composition of a wetland ecosystem. A central component of our effort to control this invader is educating and empowering the public to function as loosestrife scouts in the state's wetlands and waterways. Please attend a training session at one of our already scheduled events, or request a training session of your own. Interested citizens can visit our website to learn more about our efforts: www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/PurpleLoosestrife/purplels.asp

General Announcements

Adkins Arboretum Native Plant Sale Plus other Events

Adkins Arboretum's spectacular fall plant sale will be held Saturday, September 9 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Fall classes start in September featuring an autumn leaf watercolor workshop, tree care, plant propagation, planting buffers for shorelines, and a bentwood trellis workshop. Children's pre-school programs are also offered in the fall. Arboretum docents lead guided walks every Saturday at 11:00 am and hold a Soup 'n Walk one Saturday a month that includes a delicious, nutritious lunch. Guided walks will also be offered the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm from September – December. For more information on the plant sale and Adkins Arboretum's fall programs, visit www.adkinsarboretum.org or call 410-634-2847 x0.

Maryland Entomological Society Field Trip to Hart-Miller Island

Date: Saturday, September 9 **Time:** Depart from the dock at Back River at 9:30 am and return at 4:00 pm
Hart-Miller Island is approximately a 10 to 15 minute boat ride from the dock where we will meet. The arrangements for the Maryland Environmental Service Boat have been made by member Gene Scarpulla, who has been conducting extensive bird surveys on the island. More recently he has done butterfly surveys which yielded some surprising records that were shared at the last regular MES meeting in May. Please join us to enjoy a day outdoors on the Bay for collecting or observing and possibly help contribute more species records for the island. There is no cost for the trip!
Directions: From the Baltimore Beltway (I-695) take Exit 36 (MD-702) South. After 4.1 miles, MD-702 merges with Back River Neck Road. Continue on Back River Neck Road for 2.2 miles and turn right on Wildwood Beach Road. After 0.7 mile turn left on Riverview Road. Go 0.1 mile and turn right at the entrance gate with the sign stating "WARNING/NO TRESPASSING/NOT OPEN FOR PUBLIC USE." The parking area is at the water's edge 0.1 mile from the gate. Be at the boat dock at ~9:15 am. The Md. Environmental Service boat leaves the mainland at 9:30.
Note: For an accurate headcount please RSVP to Fred Paras by replying to the email address at your earliest convenience (bugandrockman@msn.com). The boat limit is ~21 passengers (so first come, first served). The only shelter is at the administration building, where there are rest rooms and water available. There is a mostly level walking circuit, beginning and ending at the island boat dock that covers up to 6 - 8 miles depending on the route taken. A shorter (~2 mile) walk will arrive at the park area. All food, water, clothing, and belongings must be carried.
Bring: Wear a hat and long pants, and carry sun block and insect repellent during warm weather. Tennis shoes are adequate. Conditions in the summer can be hot and humid.

BSW Field Trip to Piscataway Park

Date: Saturday, October 28 **Time:** Meet at 10:00 am
Directions: The site is west of Maryland 210 between Ft. Washington and Indian Head; further details can be found at the BSW website (<http://botsoc.org>).

The Botanical Society of Washington will hold an easy-going, family-oriented fall field trip to freshwater estuarine tidal marsh, tidal swamp, and riparian shore at the Accokeek unit of Piscataway Park, along the Maryland side of the tidal Potomac. We plan to be there a few hours, starting with an easy-paced tour on a boardwalk crossing the marsh and swamp, followed by a bring-your-own lunch at a picnic site at the end of the boardwalk, with the option of exploring additional swamp woods further upriver in the early afternoon. Local floristic expert Brent Steury of the National Park Service has offered to lead the trip for us.

Just in time for Halloween, we will be particularly looking for the pumpkin ash, an uncommon, primarily southern species that grows in the swamp crossed by the boardwalk at Accokeek. By late October, this should be dispersing fruit, which is needed for definite identification of this red ash look-alike. We should also see an abundance of hot-dog plants, as they were named by the kids along on a kids-and-families trip that I took to this site last fall.

The morning portion of this trip, mostly on a boardwalk, is appropriate for families with young children and old-timers or others with mobility limitations, as well as the usual more vigorous folk, who may want to stay for the longer swamp hike in the afternoon. Lunch will be in an area of picnic tables in a mowed farm field at the end of the boardwalk; beach blankets are also OK there if the grass is not wet. I'll plan to bring some of my usual nature-related puppets and other toys for the younger participants, and others are invited to bring similar items to share.

Spaces still available – Register Today

Environmental Concern Inc. presents *Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes*. A solid understanding of grasses, sedges, and rushes is necessary for anyone working with wetlands. During this 3-day, highly intensive and field oriented course that incorporates lecture, the examination of live plant specimens in the lab and the field, and keying exercises, students will learn the morphological terminology necessary to identify grasses, sedges, and rushes, and 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). Instructor: Bill Sipple; Date: September 19-21, 2006; Location: Environmental Concern Campus, St. Michaels, MD; Cost: \$600. Full course descriptions, instructor bios, and registration information can be found at www.wetland.org. Call 410-745-8620 or email dir.educate@wetland.org. (Also: Mitigation Design October 3-4; Hydric Soils November 14-16)



Maryland Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 4877
Silver Spring, MD 20914

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Membership Dues:

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

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