

Native News

Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

May/June 2009

Volume 9 Number 3

Inside This Issue:

President's Letter
Page 2

~

MNPS Contacts
Page 2

~

In Memoriam
Page 3

~

MNPS Announcements
Page 3

~

Chapter Events and Updates
Page 4

~

Spring/Summer Field Trips
Page 4

~

Wildflower in Focus
Page 7

~

The Effort to Keep Biodiversity
Out of Crisis
Page 8

~

General Announcements
Page 9

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

“Whither Potomac Wildness?”

Tuesday, May 26, 7:30 pm
White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Proximal to both the Coastal Plain and Piedmont provinces, the tidal-Potomac watershed below the fall line retains remnants of an impressive biodiversity once sustained by extensive forestlands. Even as we commemorate lingering examples bequeathed us by history, such as tidal-freshwater marshes, regionally endemic Magnolia Bogs, and pockets of shell-marl forest, the need for conservation looms lest we pass along little in the face of spreading urbanization.

Join Jim Long, MNPS member, research scientist, and coordinator of the Mattawoman Watershed Society, for a presentation on the amazing wealth of natural areas and biodiversity that occur in the Potomac River watershed near the Nation's Capital, and how these lands and wildlife characterize the natural landscape. Jim will also discuss some of the key challenges in preserving this biodiversity including the lands and waterways.

“The Secret to Maintaining a Productive Butterfly Garden”

Tuesday, June 30, 7:30 pm
White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Our June program will feature Jim Gallion, owner of Jim's Wildlife Gardening Adventures in Walkersville, MD. This presentation will reveal the secrets to establishing and maintaining a productive butterfly garden. Topics include: design ideas, plant choices for nectar and larva, life cycle, and many proven tips for a beautiful and sustainable garden. Jim provides consulting services for those who want to enhance or create a wildlife-friendly property and encourage the use of native plants in the plan. Jim has been featured in national and local publications as well as public television. Jim is a trained Wildlife Habitat Steward and is on the Board of Directors of the Maryland Native Plant Society.

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.

Photo of *Viola hirsutula* by Gary Fleming





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

Contacts:

Botany..... Rod Simmons
cecropia13@msn.com

Conservation.....
info@mdflora.org

Field Trips.....Brady Hartley
brady.hartley@mncppc-mc.org

Flora of Maryland.....Joe Metzger
jmetzger50@hotmail.com

Habitat Stewardship.....Marc Imlay
ialm@erols.com

Membership.....Karyn Molines
kmolines@chesapeake.net
410-286-2928

Monthly Meetings.....Rod Simmons
cecropia13@msn.com

Outreach.....Carolyn Fulton
cofulton@chesapeake.net

President.....Kirsten Johnson
info@mdflora.org

Publications:
Marilandica..... Rod Simmons
cecropia13@msn.com

Native News..... Meghan Tice
cecropia13@msn.com

Website.....Iris Mars
info@mdflora.org

Executive Officers:

Kirsten Johnson, President
Melanie Choukas-Bradley, Vice President
Marc Imlay, Vice President
Linda Keenan, Vice President
Carolyn Fulton, Secretary
Gary Steele, Treasurer

Board of Directors:

Lou Aronica, Emeritus	Beth Johnson
Matthew Bazar	Robert Mardiney
Carole Bergmann	Joe Metzger, Emeritus
Marney Bruce	Karyn Molines
Matthew Cohen	Glenn Rice
Cris Fleming	Mary Pat Rowan
Jim Gallion	Roderick Simmons
Albert Hartley	Ginny Yacovissi
Brady Hartley	

President's Letter

Dear Members,

A member wrote recently that he and some other members with whom he had spoken "perceive MNPS to be uninvolved in the fight to save Maryland's rapidly dwindling natural areas." He said he knew MNPS had fought against the ICC, but other than that, he said, "I haven't heard much about any efforts to actively lobby or otherwise fight for the environment."

I'd like to respond to this thoughtful comment. Since I've been on the Board, MNPS has done a good bit of conservation advocacy, some of which has been reported in *Native News*. Should we try to be more visible? Perhaps so.

But beyond the public relations question, where are our limited resources best used? This goes right to the heart of what distinguishes MNPS from other so-called 'environmental' organizations. MNPS members are drawn together by our interest in plants, specifically the field botany of Maryland. This seems so obvious it hardly needs to be stated. That's the passion which sends us out into the woods with our field guides; which impels us to create plant lists for the locations we've explored; which makes us notice plant and animal communities; which brings us together monthly to listen and learn at a library meeting room; which awakens us to a deep appreciation of the beauty and complexity of natural systems. And finally, which impels us to try and protect those natural areas from destruction. In other words, our conservation activities are grounded in our exploration and education activities.

Let's take an ongoing example. At our March meeting the Board heard a presentation from Jamie Pleune of the Georgetown Law School's Institute for Public Representation, which is representing MNPS in a dispute over a portion of Ft. Dupont Park in D.C. (See March/April 2009 *Native News* for details.) The Board had to decide how committed we are to pursuing this matter. The consensus was that we are quite committed. Why this particular 15 acre parcel? Because over a period of years, MNPS members have explored and surveyed Ft. Dupont Park on the D.C. Chapter's Civil War Fort walks. We know and love Ft. Dupont Park, I can confidently say, better than any other group. We're in a unique position to defend its preservation.

Maryland and D.C. are rife with worthy conservation causes. We try to pick the ones where we can make a substantial contribution based on our particular expertise and interest. Could we do more? Maybe we could. We're an all-volunteer organization with no employees, not even an office. But we do have lots of members. If you've been critical of MNPS's conservation efforts, please let the Board know your views. You can send email to info@mdflora.org. Yes, those messages do get read!

Kirsten Johnson

The Maryland Native Plant Society's mission is to promote awareness, appreciation, and conservation of Maryland's native plants and their habitats. We pursue our mission through education, research, advocacy, and service activities.

In Memoriam

“May There Be Orchids, Shale Barrens &
Lots of Flowers In Heaven”

[Excerpt reprinted from the April 2008 issue of *Native Notes*, newsletter of the West Virginia Native Plant Society]

Melvin Brown loved his birthplace at Elk Garden in Mineral County and the well-known shale barren named Larenim (Mineral spelled backwards). He established arboreta in both locations.

[*Native Notes*] editor's favorite memory of Melvin: The Flora of WV Committee was discussing several changes in scientific (Latin) names. In Melvin's mindset, this change by a modern day taxonomic guru was ridiculous and more than he could take. In a fit of rage and frustration, he hit the table top with his fist and proclaimed, "If Linnaeus put a name on a plant, and it was good enough for Asa Gray, and was used by P.D. Strausbaugh and Earl Core, it is *&\$% @^ good enough for me!" With that, we kept the old "tried and true" name and moved on to other issues. With that scenario, Melvin Brown became a botanical hero to me.

Dr. Melvin Brown of Cumberland, Maryland was another longtime member of WVNPS. He died on December 7, 2007.

MNPS Announcements

MNPS Comments on Proposed Reorganization in Montgomery County

In February, we learned that Montgomery County Council was considering a proposal to reorganize the Parks Department and the Recreation Department, which could have gone so far as to completely merge Parks under Recreation. MNPS sent a letter to each of the Council members and the County Executive, expressing our view that the Parks Department, under M-NCPPC, has been an effective steward of the County's 34,000 acres of public land. We were concerned that this stewardship, as well as nature education, would be jeopardized by falling under a management with no experience in these areas. Cris Fleming then attended a County Council committee meeting, along with many other citizens, most of whom opposed the reorganization. Since then we've signed on to letters prepared by Audubon Naturalist Society, urging the Council, among other things, to defer a decision until it receives more public input.

In another Montgomery County situation, MNPS joined ANS's written testimony to the Council concerning plans to expand Montgomery College's Germantown Campus. The plan would have destroyed a 50 acre mature hardwood forest. This testimony appears to have made a difference. We

learned from ANS that at the hearing some Council members said they were not aware of the forest. Others said they wanted assurances from the College and Council staff that approving the supplemental appropriation would not mean destruction of the forest. They were assured that the Council would have a say over the final plans. The College had previously been unwilling to consider any alternatives recommended by the Environmental Planning staff at the Planning Board. It appears they will be more inclined to do so now.

Native News Would Love to Hear From You!

Have you had a memorable time on a MNPS field trip recently? Discovered a new book about native wildflowers? Enjoyed a woodland walk? We invite MNPS members to submit short articles and photographs to the *Native News* for publication. Essays about field trip experiences and book reviews are welcome! Please send your submissions to Melanie Choukas-Bradley at choukas@erols.com or 7100 Oakridge Ave, Chevy Chase, MD 20815 and put "Native News" in the subject heading of your email. Be sure to give us your name, phone number, and mailing address. Articles may need to be edited for space. We hope to hear from you!

Not receiving our monthly emails?

Lately, member emails have been bounced back from the monthly email, especially Yahoo, Comcast, and Verizon accounts. Check your spam folders and make sure that mnps@chesapeake.net is in your address book or list of approved emails. You can also send an email to mnps@chesapeake.net to verify that we have your correct email address.

Do you know when your membership expires?

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 5/1/2009 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, PO Box 4877, Silver Spring, MD 20914.

Native Plant Professionals

One of the Society's many services is providing a list, available on the website, of our current members who have told us that they are native plant professionals. This list is different than the list of nurseries found on the website, since it includes professional gardeners and landscapers as well as native plant propagators and suppliers. If you wish to receive a copy of this list, or if you wish to be included on the list, please contact Karyn Molines, kmolines@chesapeake.net or 410-286-2928.

LOOKING FOR A FIELD TRIP? Check the MNPS website (mdflora.org) for field trips and chapter events that didn't make the *Native News* publication deadline.

Chapter Events and Updates

Greater Baltimore Area Chapter

The Greater Baltimore Area Chapter will meet at 7:00 pm on May 20th at the Irvine Nature Center, 11201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Our speaker will be Rod Simmons, plant ecologist with the City of Alexandria, Virginia and MNPS board member. He will be talking about globally-rare Fall Line Terrace Gravel Magnolia Bogs, which were once greatly concentrated and fairly numerous in the greater Laurel, Maryland area. Their characteristic flora, geohydrology, distribution, and conservation will be discussed. Conservation efforts have been extremely challenging for these bogs, since development pressure is rapidly destroying and/or reducing the quality of these rare bogs and their surrounding woodlands. A related field trip will be to two Magnolia Bogs in the Laurel area - Bear Branch Bog and Ammendale Bog on Saturday, May 23 – see listing in the **Spring/Summer Field Trips** section of this newsletter.

Prince George's/Anne Arundel Chapter

Contact information is: Matt T. Salo, 5607 Greenleaf Rd, Cheverly, MD 20785; telephone 301-341-1261; email mtsalo1@excite.com or mtsalo1@gmail.com.

Western Mountains Chapter

The Western Mountains Chapter was formed to expand the efforts of MNPS on the Allegheny Plateau and Ridge and Valley physiographic provinces of the central-Appalachians. Residents of western Maryland, nearby Pennsylvania and West Virginia, and anyone else interested in learning more about and conserving the native plants of this region are invited to join. For more information contact Liz McDowell, Chapter Coordinator, at boyerandmcdowell@earthlink.net or 301-895-3686. Events follow in the next column.



Photo by Gary Fleming

SRWA Garden Tour and Native Plant Sale

Elk Ridge Native Plant Preserve

Date: Saturday, May 23 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Tour this wildlife habitat garden to see a variety of conservation landscaping and wildlife habitat practices you can use to enhance biodiversity around your home, school, or office. Experience the joys of conservation landscaping: a garden filled with bees, birds, butterflies, and beautiful plants. Free guided tours at 10:00 am and noon. A variety of native plants (grasses, sedges, wildflowers, shrubs, and trees) will be available for purchase. All proceeds benefit the Savage River Watershed Association. For more information, email SRWAcoordinator@gmail.com or call Liz McDowell, SRWA native plant sale coordinator, at 301-895-3686.

Western Mountains Chapter Meeting

Date: Tuesday, June 16 **Time:** 7:00 pm

Appalachian Laboratory **Topic:** TBA

Speaker: Becky Wilson, Urban Forester, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Program will begin immediately following a brief MNPS chapter business meeting.

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.

Spring/Summer Field Trips

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (82nd in the Series) – Fort Chaplin

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

Date: Sunday, May 3 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

We will return to Ft. Chaplin – always a very special trip in May. We see wild flowers which only appear in May and each year at Fort Chaplin we seem to see more than ever.

Directions: Meet on East Capital St at 41st St NE. Traveling east on Benning Rd from Minnesota Ave NE go all the way to where Benning curves to the right and intersects with East Capital St. Take a right on East Capital and head west a few blocks until you get to 41st St NE on your right. Take a right and park on 41st or park on East Capital.

Bring: Water and lunch. **Note:** Easy to moderate walk.

Light drizzle or snow is fine but cancelled if pouring rain.

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

Gunpowder State Park May Wildflower Hike – Hereford Area

Leader: Dwight Johnson

Date: Saturday, May 16 **Time:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Come see some late spring wildflowers on the Gunpowder in Hereford, Md. We should see Nodding Trillium, Miterwort,

Greek Valerian, and Whorled Pogonia 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. **Note:** You can buy lunch at Graul's Supermarket located in the shopping center on Mt. Carmel Road just east of the exit from Interstate 83.

Contact: Dwight Johnson 410-366-7239 or dwrightmjohanson@comcast.net.

Field Trip Leader Training at Jug Bay

Date: Saturday, May 16 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Leading a field trip can be intimidating: Do you know enough? What if we get lost? A good field trip leader does not need to be an expert; all that is needed is excitement, enthusiasm, and curiosity. This indoor/outdoor workshop will go over the basics of leading field trips, tips and tricks to encourage group interactions, and suggestions for avoiding the "Ask and Tell" field trip. This will be co-sponsored with the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary and will focus on adult-oriented field trips.

Bring: Lunch, notebook, pen/pencil. Dress comfortably for both indoor and outdoor conditions. Optional: field guides, hand lens, binoculars, camera.

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

Magnolia Bogs: Bear Branch and Ammendale Bogs in Prince George's County

Leader: Rod Simmons

Date: Saturday, May 23 **Time:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

The field trip will concentrate on Bear Branch Bog, a fairly large, mostly undisturbed example of the globally-rare Fall Line Terrace Gravel Magnolia Bogs. The entire site comprises a mosaic of open bogs and surrounding acidic seeps in high-quality woodlands on a gently sloping, gravelly hillside above the stream. Gravel terrace springs and streams, sweetbay magnolia and swamp azalea possibly in bloom, Canada mayflower and wintergreen, many distinctive bog plants, and extensive fern belts all characterize this site. Hike will meander approximately 2-3 miles along an unmarked trail that more or less follows the stream. The field trip will continue to the nearby Ammendale Bog, which is quite similar in composition but contains the state-rare rough aster (*Eurybia radula*) and historically other northern, boreal remnants like goldthread (*Coptis groenlandica*). This field trip is in conjunction with *Fall Line Terrace Gravel Magnolia Bogs* lecture on May 20th – see listing under the **Greater Baltimore Area Chapter Update** in this issue.

Directions: Take Route 95 to Laurel, exit at Route 198 (Sandy Spring Road) east. Take first right to Van Dusen Road. Travel past light at Cherry Lane and turn right on

Olive Branch Way. Park near intersection of Olive Branch Way and Van Dusen Road.

Bring: Water, boots, and snack. **Note:** Moderate walk, some easy climbing, possibly muddy. Light rain is fine but cancelled if pouring rain.

Contacts: Rod Simmons at cecropia13@msn.com or Bill Morgante at billmorgante@verizon.net or 443-864-2124.

Buck Lodge Park and Bog

Leader: Linda Keenan

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

Buck Lodge Park is a wooded park in the Paint Branch watershed that harbors many rare and uncommon plants, a diversity of habitats of the coastal plain, and high quality forest. The park is an old-age terrace gravel forest and under the Pepco powerline, grasslands and sand and gravel barrens adjoin the Buck Lodge Magnolia Bog. Buck Lodge is one of the last remnants in the area of pristine oak-chestnut-heath forest and low-lying seepage forest, dominated by scarlet oak, chestnut oak, American holly, American chestnut, pines, mountain laurel, and evergreen groundcovers. Part of the park is a forested swamp with pin oak, sweetgum, and pitch pines. The bog contains *Alnus serrulata*, alder; *Cypripedium acaule*, pink lady's slipper orchid; and *Saccharum giganteum*, the sugarcane plumegrass.

Bring: Lunch for a picnic afterwards. Wear long pants and insect repellent. **Note:** Easy walking.

Contact: Linda linda_s_keenan@yahoo.com for directions.

Jug Bay Bio-Blitz, Prince George's County

Dates/Time: Saturday, May 30 (noon) – Sunday, May 31 (noon) **Location:** Patuxent River Park, Jug Bay Natural Area, Upper Marlboro

Join experts and novices alike throughout this 24-hour biological inventory of plants, birds, reptiles, amphibians, snails, earthworms, and any other organism we encounter. Volunteers are needed as expert leaders as well as team participants.

Directions: From Route 301 and Route 4 in Upper Marlboro, take 301 south. Turn left at light for Croom Road. Turn left (at park sign) onto Croom Airport Road, continue to the Park entrance. Turn left and continue to the end.

Contact: Erica Hahn erica.hahn@pgparks.com or 301-203-6079.

Field Trip to Central Pennsylvania

May 29-31, we will visit central Pennsylvania on a field excursion to some of the best botanizing the state has to offer. Likely destinations include Fisherman's Paradise, Alan Seeger Natural Area, and Bear Meadow Natural Area. We will be joined by members of the Pennsylvania Native Plant Society and the Botanical Society of Washington. Check the website for details, or call Kirsten Johnson at 410-366-7239.

Native News

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (83rd in Series) – Fort Dupont Connector

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

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

We will return to a familiar spot on the FORT DUPONT CONNECTOR but investigate the area east of Branch Avenue which we have never visited before. This spot is located south of Fort Dupont. It will be an exercise in plant identification as well as geology guesswork.

Directions: Take Pennsylvania Ave SE to Branch Ave SE and turn south (right turn from the city) on Branch. The first street on your right is Park Dr. Turn right on Park and park on the street there about where 32nd Pl comes into Park Dr.

Bring: Water and lunch. **Note:** Easy to moderate walk. If rain threatens, call by 7:30 am for confirmation of walk.

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

Please Note:

No Civil War Fort Field Trips are scheduled for July or August but they will resume in September.

Summer Solstice Walk at Chapman Forest South, Charles County

(Jointly sponsored by MNPS, VNPS, and the Botanical Society of Washington)

Leaders: Rod Simmons and Jim Long

Date: Saturday June 20 **Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm or later

The south tributary of Chapman Forest South is a pristine, spring-fed stream that begins as a series of Magnolia Bogs and seeps and flows through steep, forested ravines to Mattawoman Creek. We will walk along the floodplain of this stream from near its convergence with Mattawoman Creek upstream to a large series of wet meadows formed by beaver dams. This is a wild and pristine area with a great diversity of wildlife (migratory fish spawn in the stream and evidence of bobcat has been observed, among many others).

In addition to discovering new things, we should see the state-rare Deciduous Holly (*Ilex decidua*) and Camphorweed (*Pluchea camphorata*); extensive fern belts and clubmoss colonies and many species of ferns, including Adder's Tongue; numerous wildflowers and species of *Carex*; and a diversity of trees and shrubs. Most of the vegetation here is typical of the Coastal Plain, but some of the stream passes through beds of calcareous marine sands and marl, which give rise to a distinctive flora with montane elements.

Directions: From the Capital Beltway (495), take Indian Head Highway (Rte 210) south approximately 22 miles to the Rt. 227 intersection at Bryans Road (at the intersection and not surprisingly, a McDonald's and Burger King will be on your right and a builders supply will be on left – don't take PG County versions of Livingston Road many miles before this intersection!). Turn left at Rte 227 and proceed south for approximately 3-4 miles. Slow down as road begins to descend down big hill to Mattawoman Creek (Lamont's will

be on left about here) and be prepared to turn right just after stream crossing at Buteaux Crossing and before abandoned railroad tracks. Parking area will be on right at railroad tracks. We'll meet in parking lot.

Bring: Lunch, water, and good shoes. **Note:** Moderate though lengthy walk on fairly level ground. Some wet ground or occasional very shallow stream crossing may be encountered. Afterwards, a group of us will meet at Chinese restaurant in Bryans Road shopping center for dinner.

Contact: Rod cecropia13@msn.com.

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

Leader: Dwight Johnson

Date: Sunday, June 21 **Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Learn about common and some less than common ferns along the Gunpowder River between Kingsville and Perry Hall. We should see more than twenty species. We will explore two different paths, each about one mile long. Both paths will be flat easy walking.

Directions: We will meet at the large parking lot on the east side of US Rte 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 or dwightjohnson@comcast.net.

Native Plants & Pollinators at Brookside Nature Center

Leader: Brady Hartley

Date: Sunday, June 28 **Time:** 11:00 am – 12:00 noon

Celebrate Pollinator Week (June 22-28) all summer long in this series. Each month, we'll see what native flowers are in bloom in the meadow, woods and gardens around the nature center, and learn about the insects that depend on them. The program is also offered on July 23 (6:00 – 7:00 pm) and August 23 (10:30 am – 11:30 am). This series is open to all ages, and children are encouraged to attend!

Directions: From Georgia Ave heading north, take a right on to Randolph Road. Go to the second stoplight and turn right on Glenallan Ave. Pass the gated entrances to the gardens and look for the ungated entrance to the nature center on the right at 1400 Glenallan Ave, Wheaton, MD 20902. Turn right into the parking lot where the group will meet.

Bring: The nature center has a picnic area if you would like to bring lunch. **Note:** The center is open to the public from 1:00 – 5:00 pm. Restrooms will be available for program participants.

Contact: Register for this free program at www.parkpass.org (starting May 15), or call Brookside Nature Center at 301-946-9071. For more information, contact Brady Hartley at brady.hartley@montgomeryparks.org or 301-625-7207.

~ Wildflower in Focus ~

Wild Blue Phlox

Phlox divaricata L.

Phlox Family (Polemoniaceae)

Written by
Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Illustration by
Tina Thieme Brown



Phlox divaricata
Wild Blue Phlox

Tina Thieme Brown © 2009

Wild blue phlox blooms along rivers and streams throughout Maryland, including the Potomac River, where it can be found growing in concert with golden ragwort. These medium-tall wildflowers form a springtime display rivaling that of the more famous Virginia bluebells. **Wild Blue Phlox Flowers:** Violet or blue (rarely white), $\frac{3}{4}$ - 2" across, 5-lobed with lobes united to form a narrow tube at the back. Lobes bluntly rounded at the tip and often shallowly notched. In artist Tina Thieme Brown's words, "the flower buds are a blue-violet spiral dance." Flowers grow in showy terminal clusters. **Leaves:** Opposite, simple, sessile, entire, ovate-lanceolate to oblong, 1 - 3" long. **Height:** 8 - 20 inches. **Habitat and Range:** Moist woods, bottomland woods, floodplains; eastern U.S. and southeastern Canada. **Similar Species:** Wild sweet William (*P. maculata*) has purple or pink (rarely white) flowers and blooms in late spring and summer. This plant is 1 - 3' tall and grows in wet meadows, seeps and on streambanks. The familiar garden phlox (*P. paniculata*) blooms later still (from July through October). It is a very tall plant (2 - 6') with deep pink flowers in the wild (other colors in cultivation). Moss phlox or moss pink (*P. subulata*) is a creeping species of rocky habitats. It has rose-pink to white flowers and small, linear or awl-shaped leaves. Creeping phlox (*P. stolonifera*), with violet or reddish-purple (rarely white) flowers, grows in the mountains. Consult Brown and Brown's *Herbaceous Plants of Maryland* for descriptions and illustrations of other species found in the state. **Blooming Time:** Wild blue phlox blooms from April to June. **Locations:** Potomac River, Rock Creek, Cabin John Creek, Furnace Branch, and Monocacy River (on and near Sugarloaf Mountain), Cylburn Arboretum (Baltimore), Oregon Ridge Park-Ivy Hill, Susquehanna State Park, Antietam Creek, Turkey Run Park (Virginia). Consult Fleming, Lobstein and Tufty's *Finding Wildflowers in the Washington-Baltimore Area* for additional locations of wild blue phlox and other phlox species.

"Wildflower in Focus" is 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, 2008). MNPS president Kirsten Johnson and board member and former president Cris Fleming contributed to this article.

The Effort to Keep Biodiversity Out of Crisis Environmental Dedication Drives Research of Biologist Edd Barrows

Tracking arthropod and plant populations in nature preserves and on Georgetown University campuses, biology professor Edd Barrows is intimately familiar with the landscape on the Hilltop.

While sitting on a bench among the lush green plants and flowers of Heyden Memorial Garden, Barrows looks around and explains, "I have a life-long interest in biodiversity, in everything around us related to life." He then points out a butterfly, a Dancing White, and explains that the large wooded area just next to the garden, located near the Yates Field House and Heyden Observatory, is actually Glover Archbold Park, a part of the National Park System.

In the Heyden Garden alone, Barrows speculates there are more than 100 species of plants and more than 1,000 species of arthropods. The latter includes insects, spiders and crustaceans. Throughout the world, arthropods perform many invaluable ecosystem services such as aerating soil, aiding in organic decomposition and nutrient recycling, filling crucial roles in food chain and pollinating crops and other plants. The majority of crop plant species depend on insects for pollination. The earth would soon face major food shortages and possibly starvation if this important ecosystem service ceased to exist.

Unfortunately because of global warming, many arthropods are in great jeopardy.

"Earth is undergoing a major anthropogenic biodiversity crisis," explains Barrows. "We are inadvertently causing beneficial species to go extinct daily and killing untold numbers of them by destroying their habitats."

In view of the major importance of arthropods, Barrows' Laboratory of Entomology and Biodiversity is performing research on arthropods in local national parks, as well as in Wisconsin. The local national parks are the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, George Washington Memorial Parkway and Glover Archbold Park. Each of these parks faces many harsh assaults in air, soil and water pollution; overuse by people; and devastation by hundreds of species of alien, invasive organisms.

To help rescue and preserve the habitats and species in danger, Barrows and his students go where they are needed, receiving grants from a variety of sources to collect and analyze information. On the Virginia side of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, Barrows and the students in his lab, including biology graduate student Aaron Howard (G'13), work with the National Park Service to determine why three plant species are rare in the area. This research focuses on the importance of pollination in the conservation of the plants.

With the view of managing the biota of the parks -- a mission mandated by federal law -- Barrows' lab is helping the National Park Service to learn which arthropods live in its parks, their numbers and which habitats they occupy. Some of the lab's work is explained in the 2006 environmental film "On the Edge: The Potomac River's Dyke Marsh," which premiered to a standing-room-only crowd at the Kennedy Center.

In Wisconsin, Barrows' lab is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Air National Guard to learn how to use adaptive management for the federally endangered Karner Blue Butterfly. Adaptive management is a process that involves learning about the biology of a species and how it reacts to existing management practices. By gathering and analyzing information, practices can be modified and improved. A small butterfly with beautifully patterned blue wings, the Karner Blue has a rich biological and cultural history. It was named *Lycaeides melissa samuelis* by the renowned Russian novelist Vladimir Nabokov, who was an amateur lepidopterist.

Barrows, who received his bachelor's in biology from the University of Michigan and his Ph.D. in entomology from the University of Kansas teaches forest ecology to undergraduates. He became increasingly interested in the natural history of Georgetown's Main and Medical Center campuses as he and students studied organisms on Georgetown grounds.

Over time, humans have transformed the area from forest to pasture land and then into a vibrant university, making the land into an artificial savanna with many new tree species, buttes, cliffs and other features. He describes this transformation process in his most recent book, "Nature, Gardens, and Georgetown" (Xylocopa Press, 2006). Filled with original and historic photos of areas in Georgetown, Barrows' book shows the university in its early years surrounded by farmland, describes the historic College walkways -- now long gone -- and identifies many of the insects, plants and other organisms that may be found locally.

His lab also provides educational information online with the [Biodiversity Database of the Washington, D.C., Area](#). Primarily a creation of Barrows and Dan Kjar, a graduate student who received his master's in biology in 2002 and Ph.D. in 2005, the Web site includes information on local organisms, as well as reports by Georgetown undergraduates and photos of the biology seniors at their annual Senior Thesis Symposium.

Another Web site focusing on arthropods in the D.C. area was created with the help of four undergraduates jointly interning at the National Park Service and Georgetown.

Barrows' lab also includes two joint Washington Biologists' Field Club and GU interns who are working on four taxonomic families of flies of Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve.

Another significant focus of Barrows' work is scientific communication. Written for both the scientific and nonscientific communities, his book "Animal Behavior Desk Reference: A Dictionary of Animal Behavior, Ecology and Evolution" (CRC Press, 2000) concerns terminology and concepts of biology with a focus on organismal biology. As in other scientific areas, this terminology is vast and often puzzling, even to some biologists in the field. Barrows is currently working on a third edition of this best-selling scientific text.

In addition to his teaching, research, and writing, he serves as the director of the Georgetown [Center for the Environment](#), chair of the Committee on Science Buildings and a member of the Graduate School Executive Committee. He also supervises the student-produced Georgetown University Journal of the Environment, works to promote environmental awareness on campus and assists undergraduate and graduate students with their thesis and nonthesis research. His recent courses include forest ecology and Foundations in Ecology, Evolution and Behavior.

"I like to see students learn about basic ecology and forest biodiversity -- the conservation challenges and all," Barrows says. "When they recognize forest health can be linked to human health, they have a new appreciation for the environment."

This story was contributed by [Research News](#), an online publication for Georgetown College. Source: [Blue & Gray](#)

General Announcements

Ongoing Moss Study Group

We're a mix of beginners and advanced beginners, and we take our time looking closely at a moss or two each meeting.

Leaders: Charlie and Linda Davis

Sponsor: Natural History Society of Maryland

Dates: Last Saturday of the month: May 30, June 27

Time: 10:00 am – noon

Directions: Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum, 300 Oella Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21128

For a map: <http://tinyurl.com/6h6dvh>

Bring: Any moss books, hand lenses, and microscopes that you can. If you have a local specimen you'd like the class to look at, bring that, too.

Contact: Linda lm.davis@verizon.net or 410-252-4154.

Dear Friends of Doyle Farm Nursery,

Doyle Farm Nursery www.doylefarm.com is pleased to announce our upcoming Open Houses and Garden Talk dates for the 2009 season. This year we will be hosting 3 Open Houses, attending two off-site native plant sales and, as always, shipping our strong and healthy native plants through Mail Order. Please see the Plant List on our website for further information and plant availability. DFN is located in Southern York County, on the west side of the Susquehanna River, near Delta, PA. Doyle Farm Nursery specializes in Mid-Atlantic, herbaceous, native plants and is a Mail Order business. We use no chemical sprays and grow all our plants outside, not in greenhouses. Last year, DFN celebrated our 10th year in business. Jacquelin Doyle, owner and main laborer of the nursery, would like to invite everyone to our yearly Open Houses. This is an opportunity to see the type of plants the nursery grows and ships as well as to see the ten acres of farmland that is slowly becoming a habitat for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. Our knowledgeable staff will be on hand to answer questions and offer helpful tips.

For more info, please see doylefarm.com or contact us at jld@doylefarm.com. We also provide Gift Certificates which make wonderful birthday or Mother's Day gifts. Please email us to request a 2009 catalog. All garden talks and workshop are free. Chairs and canopies are provided.

2009 Native Plants in the Landscape Conference

Mark your calendars... Conference dates: June 4 – 6
On the campus of Millersville University in scenic Lancaster County, this conference provides essential information and networking for gardeners, teachers, and students, as well as landscape, nursery, botanic garden, and environmental professionals. NEW for 2009 - We will offer ON-LINE registration. Please help us conserve resources and be as sustainable as possible by registering online.

Highlighted Speakers include: Landscape Architect W. Gary Smith; University of Delaware professors Doug

Tallamy and Dr. John Frett; Rick Lewandowski of The Mt. Cuba Center ; Roger Tia Koide, of Penn State University
Topics include: Native plant explorers, tiarellas, native roses, native vines, native lilies, native shrub ID, native small flowering trees ID, design with natives, home composting, invasive plant ID, make your own bog garden, and sustainable hardscaping. Optional Early Riser field trips will also be offered for the first time.

Native Plant Sale: An outstanding variety of native plants from well-known vendors, plus books and merchandise, are on sale for attendees during the conference and during selected hours to the general public.

All Hallows Guild at Washington National Cathedral has announced an Olmsted Woods Walk and two Bird Walks for May.

New on the schedule is a May 13 Lunch Break Walk with Cathedral Horticulture Manager Maureen Alonzo. Participants will bring lunch, meet at the George Washington statue and then begin the tour in the beautifully restored Amphitheater. The Guild completed the 10-year Olmsted Woods Restoration Project in 2007. All Hallows Guild was founded in 1916 to be responsible "for the care and beautification of the Cathedral gardens and grounds."

WOODS WALK

Wednesday, May 13 at 11:30 am – NEW – LUNCH BREAK – THE NATIVE PLANT CONNECTION. Leader: Cathedral Horticulture Manager Maureen Alonzo. Have lunch in the newly-restored, beautiful amphitheater followed by the native plant Woods Walk.

BIRD WALKS

In the restored Woods a guiding principle is the inclusion of groundcovers, shrubs, and trees for birds and other wildlife. Bring your binoculars and catch the spring migration with experienced birder Sheila Cochran. Dates: Wednesdays, May 6 and May 13 at 8:30 am

For the tours: Participants meet at the George Washington Statue on Pilgrim Road, which is on the south side of the Cathedral. Visitor parking is available in the Cathedral garage accessible off Wisconsin Ave. No reservations are required and all programs are free. Programs will be cancelled in the event of heavy rain. Woodlands Info Line: 202-537-2319. Please wear sturdy waterproof shoes.
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Care of the Olmsted Woods is an ongoing effort. If you would like to help, please call Maureen Alonzo, Cathedral Horticulture Manager: 202-537-2203.

Native News Deadlines:

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
Jan 25	March/April Early Spring Issue
March 25	May/June Late Spring Issue

Next Mailing Party Date (White Oak Library):

Tuesday, June 30 at 7:00 pm



Maryland Native Plant Society

P.O. Box 4877
Silver Spring, MD 20914

Dated Material:
Please Deliver Promptly

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

Membership is for 12 months.
We thank you for your support!

Name 1 _____
Name 2 _____
Street Address _____
City _____
State _____ **Zip Code** _____
(Your county is the basis of your local chapter affiliation. Please include.)
County _____
Home Phone _____
Work Phone _____
E-Mail _____

Please do not list me in your membership directory.
 Please do not send me monthly Society announcements by e-mail in addition to post.

If you are a business you can be included on the MNPS providers list.
Please indicate the name of your business and what type of business it is:

Business's name _____
 Native plant propagator or grower
 Native plant supplier
 Native plant landscape professional

Please make checks payable to the Maryland Native Plant Society and mail to:
Maryland Native Plant Society; P.O. Box 4877; Silver Spring, MD 20914

The Maryland Native Plant Society is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible. V9N3M/J09

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