

Marilandica

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A Publication of the Maryland Native Plant Society

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A Publication of the
Maryland Native Plant Society



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Our Mission

Promote awareness, appreciation and conservation of Maryland's native plants and their habitats. We pursue our mission through education, research, advocacy, and service activities.

Letter from our Recent President, Marney Bruce

Dear Members,

As you probably know, in January I felt I had to resign as president in order to pay attention to my health. I appreciate all the emails, notes and calls and I hope I haven't alarmed you. I am fine and I want to stay that way. Two years ago I had an unsettling diagnosis and I know I must make my health and well being my paramount concern. I will continue on the MNPS Board for now, and I will be assisting in planning our fall conference at the University of Maryland in College Park. We are putting the finishing touches on a booklet about landscaping with native plants, which has been a pet project of mine for quite a while. And I will continue to work with Ginny, Karyn and others to organize our monthly programs in Montgomery County. But I also plan to spend a lot more time on field trips and in my garden!

I know I will be seeing many of you at our upcoming programs, field trips and at the conference. As this historic snow melts away and I see the buds swelling on many trees and shrubs, I envision spring right around the corner.

Best to all of you.

- Marney

On January 18, the Board voted to install Vice-presidents Liz Jones and Kirsten Johnson as Co-presidents for the remainder of 2016.

Research Grants Awarded

Brett McMillan, Chair, Research Grant Committee

We were gratified to receive over a dozen worthy applications for research grants in 2015, and even more gratified that we were able to provide funds for four of them. Here are the recipients. This is the first year that we have funded a project to be undertaken by high school students and their teacher. Information about applications for 2016 research grants will be posted on the MNPS website later this spring.

Drs. Laurie Taylor-Mitchell and Vanessa Beauchamp (Towson University):

Wavyleaf Basketgrass Removal and Site Restoration at Cromwell Valley Park

Wavyleaf basketgrass is a serious threat to woodlands in Maryland. This project will determine if hand-pulling by volunteers is an effective way to control a new invasion and if simultaneously controlling other invasive species decreases wavyleaf reinvasion and increases the success of planted native species.

Adam B Mitchell (University of Delaware)

Predicting the Impact of Non-Native Plants on Native Plant Diversity and Insect Food Webs

Non-native invasive plants often displace native plants and disrupt native food webs, which usually have insects as the primary consumers of plants. This project will explore the problem of restoring native and natural food webs by examining the interplay of native plants, non-native plants, and insects.

John Howard and John McKenney (Allegany County Public Schools)

The Impact of Native Companions on the Growth of Hybridized American Chestnuts

This ambitious multiyear study conducted by high school students will examine the effects of non-native versus native plant communities on the success of introducing hybridized American chestnut back into eastern forests.

Christopher Hoess (Delaware Technical Community College)

Soil Preferences in the Adiantum pedatum Complex

Northern maidenhair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*) is of interest to plant taxonomists and ecologists because it is unclear whether maidenhair fern is actually a single species with an impressive capacity to adapt, or several related and hard to distinguish species that are highly specialized for particular environments and soil types. This study will focus on the genetics and environmental tolerances of maidenhair ferns growing in particular environments, such as the unusual soil chemistry of serpentine barrens or the demands of growing on rock faces.

Your membership dues and donations help support projects like these. With government funding for botanical research at a historical low, funding from plant societies is especially important. Your contributions make a real difference to botanical and ecological research.

2016 The Year of the Conifer

WHAT IS A CONIFER? AN EVERGREEN? A GYMNOSPERM?



Let's clear up the matter of "evergreen" first. Not all conifers retain their leaves in winter. Some, such as the American larch, *Larix laricina*, and the bald cypress, *Taxodium distichum*, are deciduous; they lose their needles in the fall. All conifers are gymnosperms, but the reverse is not true. A gymnosperm is a seed-bearing plant with seeds that are "naked," meaning not enclosed in an ovary. Interestingly, the ginkgo is a gymnosperm, but it is not a conifer. As the name implies, conifers are the cone-bearing plants, and they are the largest group of gymnosperms. They comprise the Coniferophyta, one of the five divisions of the seed plants. The exact taxonomic and evolutionary relationship among these groups is still being debated, and many significant members are known only from the fossil record. The conifers and the other gymnosperms have an ancient evolutionary history; they existed many millions of years before the flowering plants.

All of the existing native North American conifers have either needle-like leaves (the Pine and Yew Families) or scale-like leaves (the Cypress Family). But there are Asian and South American species with flat leaves, a well-known example being the Monkey-puzzle tree, *Araucaria araucana*. Talking of exotic species: owing to the popularity of evergreens in planted landscapes, the landscape trade carries a huge variety of different exotic conifers as well as hundreds of varieties and cultivars of natives. This means that trying to identify a planted conifer beyond the genus level is often a bootless exercise.

I have trouble distinguishing even the native conifers. I attribute my problem to having missed the conifer class when I took Cris Fleming's Winter Tree class at USDA. If only I had been there that Wednesday, I could confidently impress my friends by knowing how many needles are in the packet of each of the pines. But I wasn't and I can't.

Cover photos: *Pinus rigida* Mill., pitch pine

In my mind, pitch pine is inextricably connected with Mary Pat Rowan, leader of the Fort Circle walks in Washington, DC. At Fort Totten, the high point of the day is to scamper down hill, searching for the tell-tale sign of a pitch pine—needles sprouting directly out from the bark. Mary Pat's infectious enthusiasm makes the find feel especially enchanting.

There aren't many pitch pines at Fort Totten, but since the retreat of the last glacier, this species has dominated the New Jersey pine barrens and until recently, large portions of Long Island and Cape

Cod. The secret to this persistent domination is pitch pine's adaptation to fire. Even when all of the needles on a pitch pine are burned, the crown can recover in just a few years. If the leader is killed, a new one may grow, and if most of the tree is killed, new sprouts will emerge from the trunk. Dormant buds deep in the thick bark of a pitch pine come to life after a fire. Pitch pines are always prepared for fire. They begin to produce cones when very young, and they hang on to them year after year. Some of a pitch pine's cones are serotinous, meaning they remain



Ancient Pinus rigida in sphagnum seepage bogs at BARC.



Pitch pine cone, showing characteristic downcurved prickles on the scales.

closed until the heat of a fire melts the resinous glue that holds the scales of the cone together. Only then are the seeds of those cones released.

Pitch pine is not confined to almost pure stands like the New Jersey pine barrens. Throughout its range—from southern New England south to northern Georgia—small patches can compete successfully on rocky, dry, wet, or shallow soils that other species find challenging.

Pitch pine can hybridize with loblolly pine, *Pinus taeda*. The cones and needles of this fertile hybrid are characteristic and provide accurate identification of parentage. The cones are distinctly longer than broad, as no pitch pine cone would be, but they are not as large or long as the loblolly cones. The needles (3 per bundle like both parents) are more like pitch pine, which is to say, much shorter than those of loblolly.

~ Kirsten Johnson

2016 The Year of the Conifer

Conifers Native to Maryland



	Scientific Name	Common Name	State Rank/Status
Cupressaceae (Cypress Family)	<i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i>	Atlantic white-cedar,	S3
	<i>Juniperis communis</i> , <i>var. depressa</i>	Common juniper	SH Extirpated
	<i>Juniperis virginiana</i>	Eastern redcedar	
	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Bald cypress	
	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	Northern white-cedar, Arborvitae	S1 Threatened
Pinaceae (Pine Family)	<i>Abies balsamea</i>	Balsam fir	S1
	<i>Larix laricina</i>	American larch	S1 Endangered
	<i>Picea rubens</i>	Red spruce	S3
	<i>Pinus echinata</i>	Short-leaf pine	
	<i>Pinus rigida</i>	Pitch pine	
	<i>Pinus pungens</i>	Table mountain pine	
	<i>Pinus serotina</i>	Pond pine	
	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	White pine	
	<i>Pinus taeda</i>	Loblolly pine	
	<i>Pinus virginiana</i>	Virginia pine	
	<i>Pinus x rigitaeda</i> (<i>P. rigida</i> / <i>P. taeda</i> hybrid)	Pitlolly pine	
	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	Eastern hemlock	
Taxaceae (Yew Family)	<i>Taxus canadensis</i>	American yew	S2 Threatened



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Are you a member who would like to be more involved with MNPS?
- Would you like to serve on the Board?
- Would you enjoy representing MNPS at nature and gardening events around the state?
- Would you like to contribute articles, book reviews or photos to Marilandica?

Please send an email to info@mdflora.org, and someone will contact you.

What is Meant by State Rank and Status?

You probably noticed that we show a state rank or status designation for about one-third of the Maryland native conifers. For example, *Thuja occidentalis* (arborvitae) is S1 Threatened. This is consistent with the fact that about 28% of Maryland's native plant species are "listed" as rare, threatened or endangered. But what does this mean? For the *T. occidentalis* example, S1 is its RANK, under a system used by NatureServe and widely adopted throughout the world. This

species also has a state STATUS, namely "threatened." This designation is pursuant to the statutory scheme laid out in Maryland's Nongame and Conservation Species Act. The Wildlife & Heritage Service of the Department of Natural Resources is responsible for these designations. The complete list of rare, threatened and endangered plant species can be found at http://dnr2.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/plants_wildlife/rte/rteplants.aspx

State conservation rank and status for rare, threatened and endangered species.

State Rank	Definition (Global ranks are similar and are preceded by the letter "G.")
SX	Presumed Extirpated—Species believed to be extirpated from the jurisdiction. Not located despite intensive searches of historical sites and other appropriate habitat.
SH	Possibly Extirpated—Known from only historical records but still some hope of rediscovery.
S1	Highly Rare and Critically Imperiled—At very high risk of extinction or elimination due to very restricted range, very few populations or occurrences, very steep declines, very severe threats, or other factors. Typically occurring in fewer than 5 populations.
S2	Rare and Imperiled—At high risk of extinction or elimination. Typically occurring in 6 to 20 populations.
S3	Rare to Uncommon and Vulnerable—At moderate risk of extinction or elimination. Typically occurring in 21-80 populations.

State Status	Definition
Endangered (E)	A species whose continued existence as a viable component of the State's flora is determined to be in jeopardy.
Threatened (T)	A species that appears likely within the foreseeable future to become endangered in the State.
Endangered-Extirpated (X)	A species that was once a viable component of the flora of the State, but for which no naturally occurring populations are known to exist.

Easy Plant Identification Quiz – Getting ready for spring!

Can you identify these common spring blooming flowers? Answers on page 6.

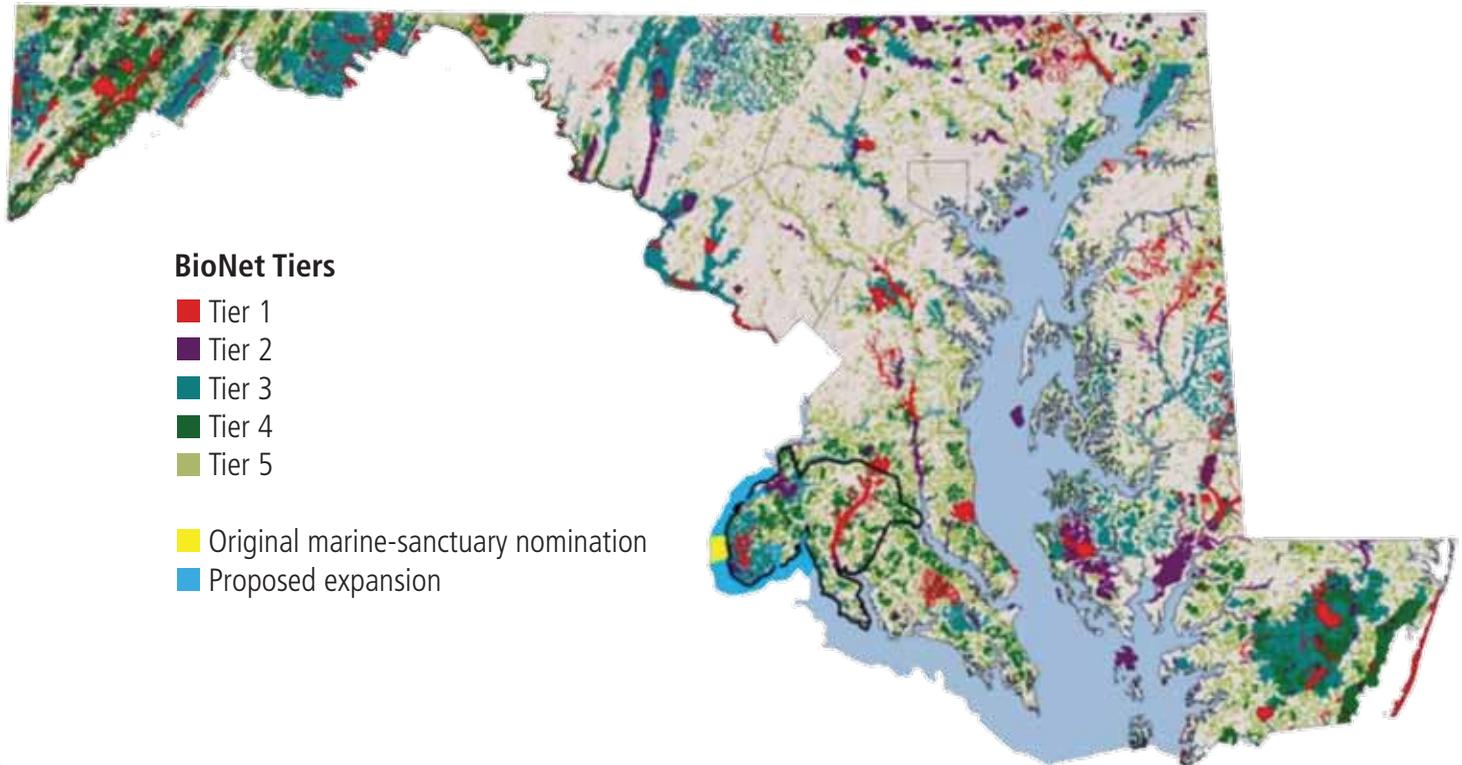


Conservation and Threats in Mattawoman Creek

Glance at a map of Maryland's biodiversity, and one is struck by how few are the sizable areas with high rank. Outline Charles County, and the ability of its comprehensive land-use plan to protect—or destroy—remnants of ecological integrity becomes manifest. After Garrett, Charles has the 2nd highest acreage in the state of Targeted Ecological Area, the “best of the best” for ecological value. The value is heightened by its location within the inner coastal plain, whose history has been successively decimated with tobacco booms, seaports pressed against the fall line, and ensuing sprawl.

concepts similarly see-sawed. Today's draft plan is effectively unchanged, and it would still kill Mattawoman Creek.

There is hope. A new state law grants final say over the details of comprehensive plans to elected officials, instead of appointed Planning Commissions as in the past. Will a board of county commissioners inclined to listen to the people make the needed improvements? Please stay tuned, and plan to participate in the final hearing some months hence.



BioNet Tiers

- Tier 1
- Tier 2
- Tier 3
- Tier 4
- Tier 5

- Original marine-sanctuary nomination
- Proposed expansion

Map ranking biodiversity, with Charles County and the Mattawoman watershed outlined. Also shown are proposals for a National Marine Sanctuary on the Potomac River.

Contributing assets are the diverse forested watersheds of Zekiah Swamp, Nanjemoy Creek and—the most threatened—Mattawoman Creek. A quarter-century ago, land speculators wanting to profit by proximity to Washington DC, and hoping to exploit the outer beltway, manipulated a county comprehensive plan to convert Mattawoman's watershed into a “development district.” Since then, fishery biologists have seen the tidal-freshwater estuary go from “the best in the Bay” to a “tipping point” dangerously close to “irreversible resource deterioration” from excessive impervious surface.

In 2011, an epic battle began over a revision to the county comprehensive plan. The citizenry, prompted by the first-ever open process, attempted to wrest control of their future from the grip of developers. A well-financed lobby of speculators successfully counterattacked, only to see their power curtailed when citizens—tired of high property taxes, commute times, school crowding, and environmental degradation—elected a smarter-growth majority of county commissioners. During this five year period, comprehensive plan

An example of a destructively outdated comprehensive plan is the Guilford subdivision that threatens the Bryans Road Magnolia Bog. The recent approval of Guilford is particularly senseless because it lies in a growth area that “requires” the Cross County Connector, a highway denied permits in 2012 for being “contrary to the public interest.” (Among these interests are populations of the state-endangered Potato Dandelion, *Krigia dandelion*). If a court challenge fails, Guilford would increase by 60% the traffic on a rural road noted for its safety issues. Charles County took aim over a decade ago at its only other Fall-line Terrace-gravel Magnolia Bog when it approved leapfrog-subdivisions surrounding Araby Bog. Hence two more of these critically imperiled (G1) associations, both in the Mattawoman watershed, are now slated to wink out.

For the first time in 20 years, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is considering the designation of two new National Marine Sanctuaries. One is Mallows Bay-Potomac River off the shores of Charles County. The sanctuary would protect the Ghost Fleet of Mallows Bay, a collection of almost 200 shipwrecks



Left to right: A diverse tidal-freshwater marsh of Mattawoman Creek including submerged aquatic vegetation breaking the surface; American Lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*); Sweetbay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*, photo by Rod Simmons). Though taxonomically distant, the lotus and magnolia both come from ancient lineages and are reported to employ thermoregulation that invites pollinating beetles to spend the night among thick petal-like tepals.

comprised mostly of unfinished steamships aimed at the WWI effort. Importantly, the sanctuary also promotes recreation, fishing, education, research, and tourism.

As part of the sanctuary’s scoping process, MNPS wrote a letter of support that recommended expanding the original nomination (yellow in the map). Expansion to the area in bright blue, as many commenters also urged, would create only the 4th smallest of all 16 present and nominated sanctuaries. By viewing education and

tourism through a botanical lens, we see that Mattawoman Creek strengthens the designation by adding (i) some of the finest tidal-freshwater marshes in the region—including the only native beds of American Lotus (S2) on Maryland’s western shore, and (ii) large and diverse beds of submerged aquatic vegetation. This is one reason a blue-ribbon Task Force, assembled to recommend improvements to Charles County’s comprehensive plan, called Mattawoman “what a restored Chesapeake Bay would look like.”

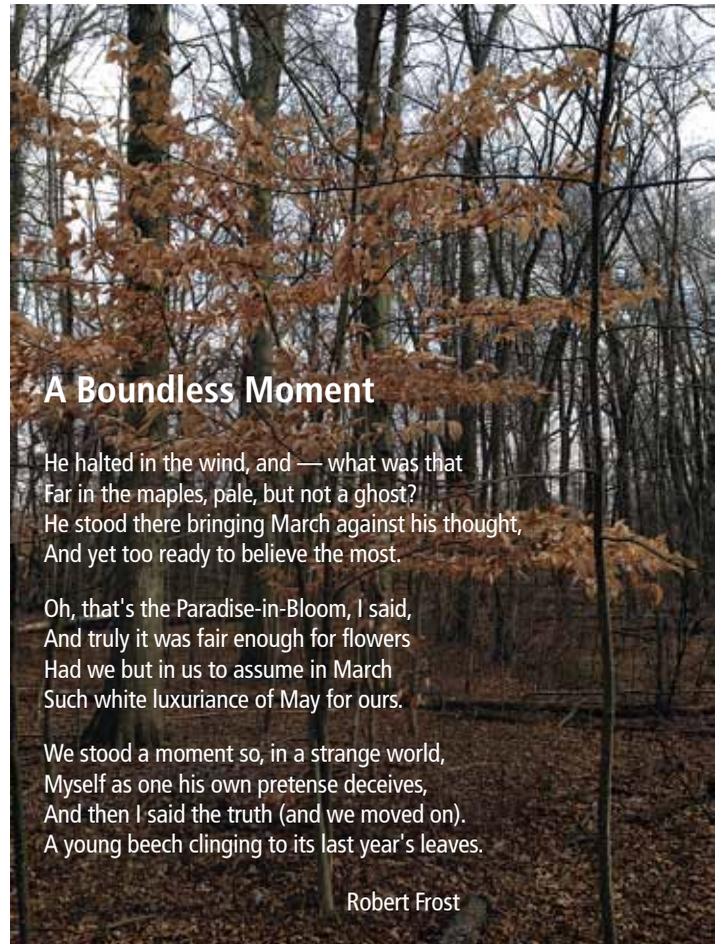
~ Jim Long

Think About Maryland’s Unique Geography

MARYLAND’S FLORISTIC COMPLEXITY IS FAR GREATER THAN ITS SMALL SIZE WOULD SUGGEST.

Our state—located in the middle of the east coast—contains plant communities with elements of both southern and northern floras. For example, Maryland is at the southern edge of the range of *Larix laricina* (American larch), and at the northernmost edge of the range of *Taxodium distichum* (Bald Cypress). And, traveling east to west, Maryland intersects six different ecological regions from the barrier islands to the Allegheny Plateau. Thus Maryland’s flora is as broad and diverse as that of its much larger neighbors, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Climate changes over geological time have contributed additional complexity to Maryland’s flora. Maryland was just beyond the southern limit of the Pleistocene glaciers (ending 11,700 years ago), and served as a refuge for migrating species. More recently, about 3200 years ago, Maryland was warmer and drier than it is today, thus welcoming species from the midwestern prairies. In addition, active management by native Americans, such as with fire, undoubtedly influenced our flora, although to what extent is a matter of debate.



A Boundless Moment

He halted in the wind, and — what was that
Far in the maples, pale, but not a ghost?
He stood there bringing March against his thought,
And yet too ready to believe the most.

Oh, that’s the Paradise-in-Bloom, I said,
And truly it was fair enough for flowers
Had we but in us to assume in March
Such white luxuriance of May for ours.

We stood a moment so, in a strange world,
Myself as one his own pretense deceives,
And then I said the truth (and we moved on).
A young beech clinging to its last year’s leaves.

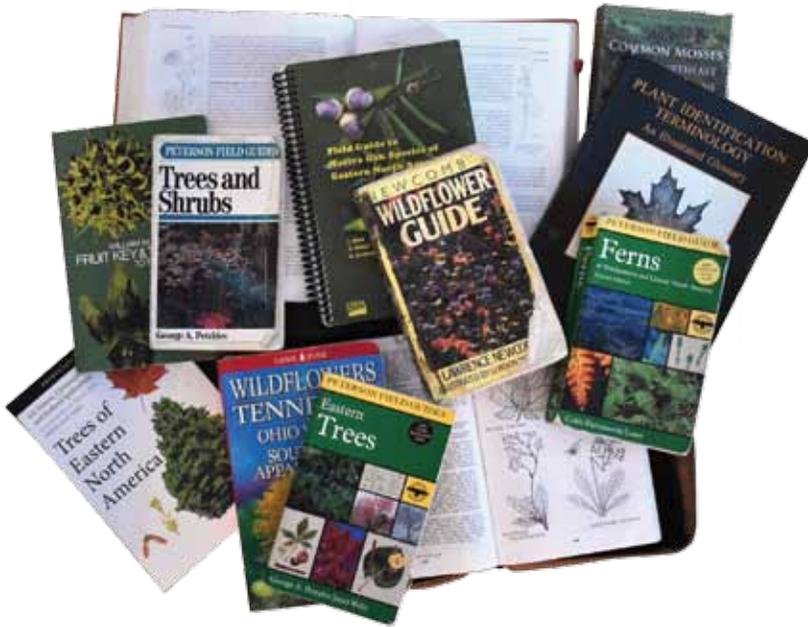
Robert Frost

Answers to Quiz: 1. *Cardamine laciniata*, cutleaf toothwort 2. *Claytonia virginiana*, spring beauty 3. *Saxifraga virginica*, early saxifrage

PERSONAL FAVORITE PLANT BOOKS, PAST AND PRESENT

These are the books I have used and learned from the most. Some I rarely consult anymore, others I could not have comprehended as a beginner. All these books are available for purchase, and some are in your public library. Those that are small enough to carry are designated BACKPACK. Others (BOX) will have to live in a box in your trunk, for consultation at the end of the field trip.

~ Dwight Johnson



Do you have favorites to add to the list?
Write to the editor. kh.johnson@gmail.com.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Petrides, George A. *Peterson Field Guide to Eastern Trees*. 1998. Houghton Mifflin.

Little, E.L. *National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Trees*. 1980. Knopf.

The Audubon book relies on photos and is organized by leaf type. It is an excellent learning tool for the beginner; in fact, I think it's the only Audubon field guide worth buying. The Peterson Guide is also fine for beginners, especially if you already know the genus. At that point it's better than the Audubon because it offers handy illustrated charts and check lists of identifying characteristics. BACKPACK.

Nelson, Gil, C.J. Earle and R. Spellenberg. *Trees of Eastern North America*. 2014. Princeton Univ. Press.

An excellent up-to-date guide to trees, with useful and attractive maps and illustrations. BOX or BACKPACK. It's compact, but weighs almost 3 lbs.

Stein, J., D. Binion and R. Acciavatti. *Field Guide to Native Oak Species of Eastern North America*. FHTET-2003-01. USDA. Available in pdf from USDA or in print from on-line booksellers.

Oaks can be hard to tell apart. This book has a great key, distribution maps, plus both drawings and photos of leaves and acorns. BACKPACK.

Petrides, George A. *Peterson Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs*. 1986. Houghton Mifflin.

This is a handy and comprehensive book once you have some familiarity with trees and shrubs, but not the best choice for a beginner. I often carry it. The illustrations are rather unattractive basic drawings. BACKPACK.

Harlow, William H. *Fruit Key & Twig Key to Trees and Shrubs*. 1959. Dover.

This crazy little book can be really annoying the way it's organized, but in winter, its detailed illustrated key is handy for identifying trees in the absence of leaves. BACKPACK.

Symonds, George W.D. *The Shrub Identification Book*. 1963. M. Barrows.

There are a lot of tree books, but not many devoted to shrubs. This book's life-size photos of leaves, twigs, flowers and fruit make it a great learning book. And it isn't just for beginners. BOX.

WILDFLOWERS

Newcomb, Lawrence. *Newcomb's Wildflower Field Guide*. 1977. Little Brown.

Hands down, the best field guide ever. Once you get the hang of the key system, identification is easy even if you are an absolute first timer. And let's face it, all of us occasionally confront a flower that has us baffled, we can't even guess at the family. This book will usually take you to the right page in minutes. The scientific names are out of date, but you can get the latest from Flora of Virginia or the USDA database. BACKPACK.

Horn, Dennis and T. Cathcart. *Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley and the Southern Appalachians*. 2005. Lone Pine.

When traveling, it's a good idea to buy a field guide devoted to the flowers of your new locale. The Lone Pine field guides serve that purpose well. This one is an excellent wildflower guide for trips south and west, such as to the Smoky Mountains. Illustrated with photos. BACKPACK.

FERNS

Cobb, Boughton, E. Farnsworth and C. Lowe. *Peterson Field Guide to Ferns and Their Related Families*. 2005. Houghton Mifflin.

If you want to learn ferns, clubmosses, horsetails and quillworts, this is pretty much your only choice, but it's a good choice, with a useable key and excellent line drawings. Buy this thoroughly updated edition, not the older one. BACKPACK.

MOSESSES

McKnight, K.B., J.R. Rohrer, K. M. Ward, and W.J. Perdrizet. *Common Mosses of the Northeast and Appalachians*. 2013. Princeton Univ. Press.

Mosses are tough, but if you want to learn them, this is the only available field guide. BACKPACK.

FLORAS

Weakley, Alan S., J.C. Ludwig, and J.F. Townsend. *Flora of Virginia*. 2012. Britt Press.

Once you reach the point of needing something beyond a field guide, you must go to a flora. These books are not written for beginners, but beginners should not be intimidated. You can master the terminology! (See the last book on my list.) We Marylanders are lucky to have this comprehensive, up-to-date flora from an adjacent state that closely matches the plants of our state. A fun book to browse for those who enjoy Alan Weakley's inimitable style, this book supplants *Brown & Brown's Herbaceous Plants of Maryland*, which is out of date and out of print. It also serves Maryland better than Rhoads and Block's *The Plants of Pennsylvania*, which does not include the coastal plain. BOX. (There is a phone app in development that will allow us to carry a simplified version of this Flora.)

Strausbough, P.D. and Earl L. Core. *Flora of West Virginia*, 2d ed. Seneca Books.

This book is old and out of date, and it won't help you on the coastal plain. But from the piedmont west, it's a paperback flora you can carry that will work under most circumstances. Plus, it translates the scientific names to English, making them easier to remember. Unlike *Flora of Virginia*, all the plants are illustrated. BOX or BACKPACK. Weighs over 2 lbs.

Harris, J. G. and M.W. Harris. *Plant Identification Terminology, An Illustrated Glossary*. 1994. Spring Lake.

Once you graduate to a flora, you may still find its glossary confusing. This book, with its detailed drawings, will help clear up the confusion. BOX.

SHIFTING SANDS ~ 2015 CONFERENCE AT SALISBURY UNIVERSITY

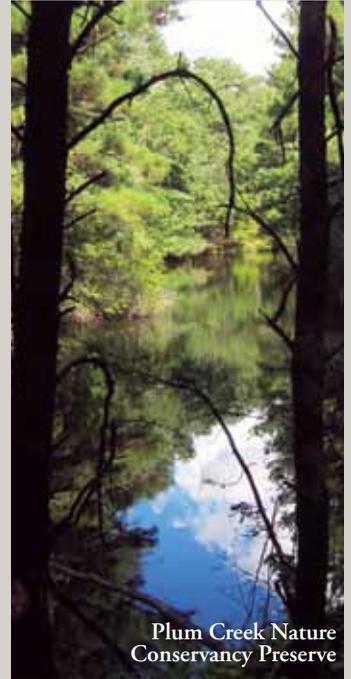
Over 100 plant enthusiasts enjoyed a beautiful weekend on the Eastern Shore at our conference last September. Here are a few field trip highlights. The 2016 conference will take place September 17–18 at the University of Maryland at College Park. Watch for details later this spring.



Assateague Island National Seashore



Hickory Point Cypress Swamp



Plum Creek Nature Conservancy Preserve



Assateague Island National Seashore



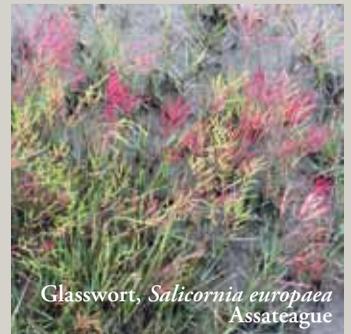
Muscadine grape, *Vitis rotundifolia*
Assateague



Orange milkwort, *Polygala lutea*
Wicomico State Forest



Eupatorium capillifolium with beetle, Wicomico St Forest



Glasswort, *Salicornia europaea*
Assateague

Photos: R.H. Simmons and K. Johnson

Winter Solstice Walk at Travilah Serpentine Barrens Conservation Park



One day in late December Rod Simmons guided over 100 of his close friends deep into the serpentine barrens, where we enjoyed a holiday celebration with beverages provided by MNPS and Virginia Native Plant Society. The Winter Solstice Walk has been a tradition for many years, but 2015 broke the record for attendance.

Monthly Programs

All MNPS programs are free and open to the public. For details and up to date listings, see mdflora.org.

March 29, Tuesday – 7:30^{PM}, doors open at 7:00

Year of the Conifer – An Introduction

Silver Spring, Silver Spring Civic Center

Speaker: Karyn Molines, Division Chief, Calvert County Natural Resources Division

April 19, Tuesday – Western Mountains Chapter, 7:00^{PM}

Frostburg State University, Compton Science Center, Room 327

Speaker: Sunshine Brosi, Professor, Department of Biology, Frostburg State University

April 26, Tuesday – 7:30^{PM}, doors open at 7:00

Signs of Deer in Montgomery County

Kensington Library

Speaker: Sally Gagne

May 31, Tuesday – 7:30^{PM}, doors open at 7:00

Wavy Leaf Basketgrass Update

Kensington Library

Speaker: Vanessa Beauchamp, Associate Professor, Biology, Towson University

June 28, Tuesday – 7:30^{PM}, doors open at 7:00

Conifer Identification

Kensington Library

Speaker: Rod Simmons, Plant Ecologist and Natural Resource Manager, City of Alexandria

July 26, Tuesday – 7:30^{PM}, doors open at 7:00

Creating Beautiful Landscapes for Pollinator and Wildlife Habitat

Location TBA

Speaker: James Gagliardi, Horticulturist with Smithsonian Gardens

August 30, Tuesday – 7:30^{PM}, doors open at 7:00

Native Plant Production Utilizing Seeds of Local Ecotype

Location TBA

Speaker: Leslie Hunter-Cario, Certified Professional Horticulturist

HOLD THE DATE

September 17 and 18, Saturday & Sunday

MNPS Annual Fall Conference

University of Maryland, College Park

FIELD TRIPS

MNPS field trips are free and open to the public. Pre-registration is required for some, and early registration may be offered to members. For up to date listings and details, and to register, see mdflora.org. Unless otherwise indicated, MNPS field trips are generally geared to adults.

March 6, Sunday, 10:00AM – 2:00PM

Fort Totten, Washington, DC — Wild Washington Walk #140

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and David Culp

March 12, Saturday, 10:00AM – 1:00PM

Goldmine Tract, Montgomery County

Leader: Marney Bruce

March 13, Sunday 1:30PM – 3:00PM

Dickerson Conservation Park, Montgomery County

Leader: Ralph Buglass

Come see Maryland's largest known tree—an American sycamore—and two Montgomery Co champions: cottonwood and silver maple.

March 20, Sunday, 10:00AM – noon

Cabin John Stream Valley Park, Montgomery County

Leader: Ken Bawer

March 23, Wednesday, 5:00PM – 7:00PM

Spring Equinox at Little Bennett Regional Park, Montgomery County

Leader: Carole Bergmann

April 3, Sunday, 10:00AM – 2:00PM

Connector Park between Fort Dupont and Fort Stanton, Washington, DC — Wild Washington Walk #141

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and David Culp

April 8, Friday, 10:00AM – 1:00PM

Wildflower ID for Beginners at Kings Landing Park, Huntingtown, Calvert County

Cosponsored by the Calvert Nature Society and Calvert County Natural Resources Division

Leader: Karyn Molines

April 10, Sunday, 9:00AM – 1:00PM

Carderock, Montgomery County

Leader: Cris Fleming

April 16, Saturday, 10:00AM – 2:00PM

Spring Wildflowers at Governor Bridge Natural Area, Prince George's County

Cosponsored by Patuxent River Park (MNCPPC-PG)

Leaders: Karyn Molines and Lisa Bierer-Garrett

April 17, Sunday, 10:00AM – noon

Blockhouse Point, Montgomery County

Leaders: Ken Bawer and Tenley Wurglitz

April 17, Sunday, 9:00AM – 2:00PM

Lake Roland (formerly Robert E. Lee Park), Baltimore

Leaders: Dwight and Kirsten Johnson

Work has started on a plant survey of the entire park, including the rare serpentine area. We hope to complete it through a series of walks in different seasons to the various regions in the park. This will be the first.

April 30, Saturday, 9:30AM – 1:30PM

Carderock, Montgomery County

Leader: Marney Bruce

May 1, Sunday, 10:00AM – 2:00PM

Fort Chaplin, Washington, DC — Wild Washington Walk #142

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and David Culp

May 7, Saturday, 10:00AM – 1:00PM

Rachel Carson Park Pinxters, Montgomery County

Leader: Steve Parks

If we are lucky, Rachel Carson's famous wild azaleas will be in full bloom. We'll check inside some deer enclosures and walk along the Hawlings River.

May 13, Friday, 10:00AM – 2:00PM

Hellen Creek Hemlock Preserve, Lusby, Calvert County

Cosponsored by Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust, Calvert Nature Society and Calvert County Div of Natural Resources

Leaders: Karyn Molines and Bob Boxwell

May 14, Saturday, 10:00AM – 1:30PM

Kingman and Heritage Islands, Northeast Washington, DC

Leader: Vincent Verweij

These islands in the Anacostia River are human-made, built from dredged material from the Anacostia. Despite this history, the islands provide habitat opportunities, and even harbor the rare and endangered Mallow (*Sida hermaphrodita*).

May 21, Saturday, 10:00AM – 12:30PM

Northwest Branch, Montgomery County

Leaders: Marney Bruce and Tenley Wurglitz

May 22, Sunday, 10:00AM – noon

Lake Frank/Meadowside Nature Center, Montgomery County

Leader: Ken Bawer

June 23, Thursday, 5:00PM – 7:00PM

Summer Solstice, Little Bennett Regional Park, Montgomery County

Leader: Carole Bergmann

July 24 – Sunday, 9:00AM – noon

Exploring Elk Ridge in Summer

Leaders: Liz McDowell and Ron Boyer, Western Mountains Chapter
Conifers and wildflowers will be the focus during this easy to moderate walk.



Become a member. Join online: www.mdflora.org.

Marilandica

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Maryland Native Plant Society
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In this Issue

Letter from the President	pg 1
Research Grants Awarded	1
Year of the Conifer	2
Native Conifers	3
State Status and Rank	4
Plant Quiz	4
Mattawoman Creek	5
Favorite Books	7
2015 Conference	8
Travilah	9
Programs	9
Field Trips	10

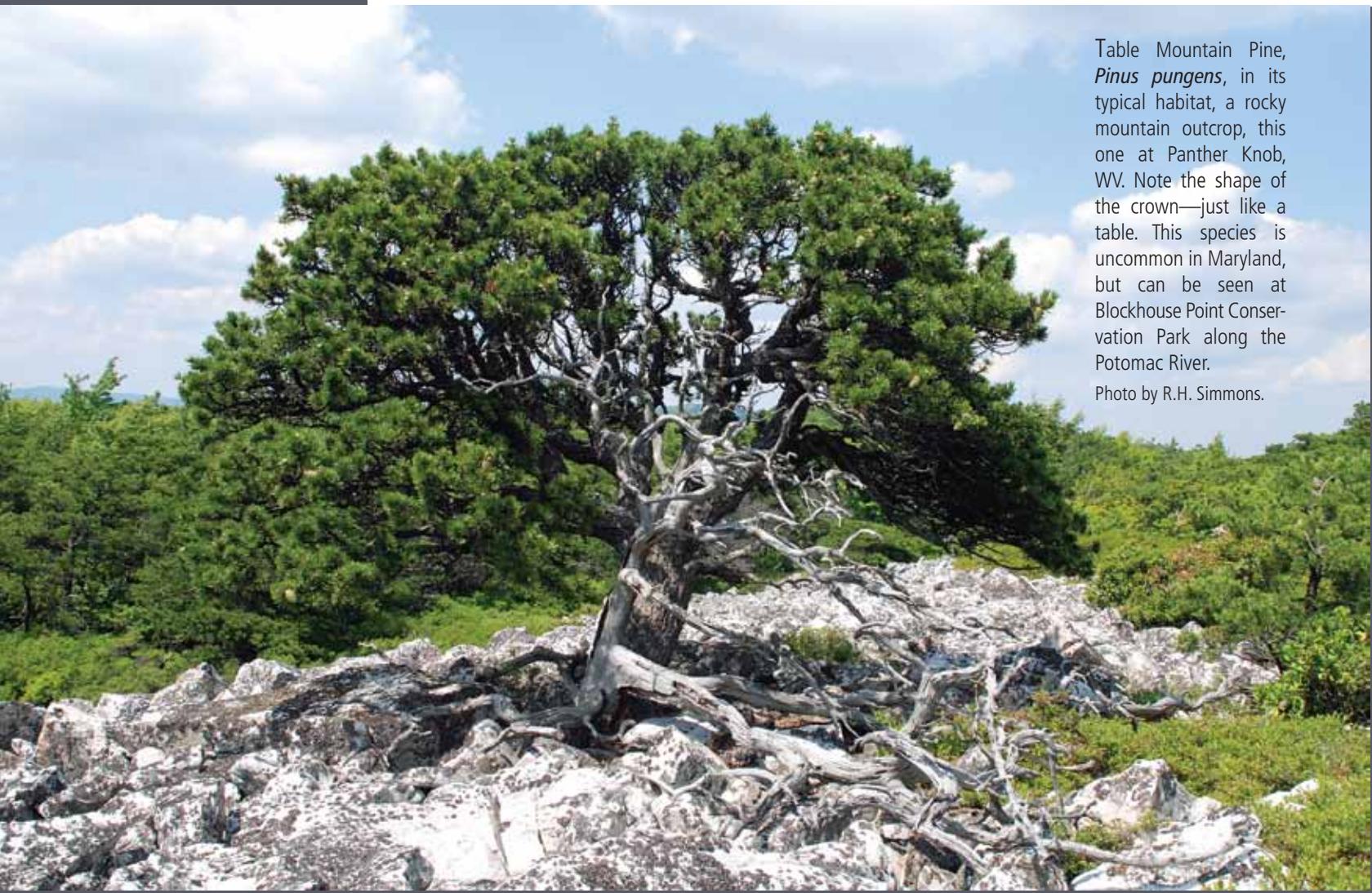


Table Mountain Pine, *Pinus pungens*, in its typical habitat, a rocky mountain outcrop, this one at Panther Knob, WV. Note the shape of the crown—just like a table. This species is uncommon in Maryland, but can be seen at Blockhouse Point Conservation Park along the Potomac River.

Photo by R.H. Simmons.