

~ 2003 Multi-state Fall Conference Info – For Immediate Release ~

The Blue Ridge Mountains and Potomac Valley in Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia

Native Plants and Geology of the Blue Ridge Province

Saturday, October 4 - Sunday, October 5, 2003

Location: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV

Theme: Native plant populations and natural communities don't conform to political boundaries. This conference will focus on how the Potomac River connects three states, rather than divides them. Speakers will discuss flora, natural communities, and geology common to all three states as well as conservation issues within each.

Sponsoring Organizations: Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia Native Plant Societies and National Park Service

General Info: The 2003 multi-state fall conference will feature lectures, Saturday and Sunday field trips, workshops, poster sessions, a Saturday evening social, and time to network with people who have similar interests and concerns. Registration also includes Saturday breakfast and lunch. Conference brochures including more information will be distributed at a later date.

Directions: Directions to the conference site and campus maps are available upon request. They will be provided to early registering attendees and will be made generally available at a later date.

Lodging: To reserve a room at the conference site, please contact the conference chair and try to register early. Rooms at the National Conservation Training Center are @\$84.00 per night. (We are responsible for reserving rooms at this site.) There is a list of local motels available at the NCTC website (<http://training.fws.gov/hotel.html>). *Room rental and payment is the responsibility of attendees.*

Saturday Evening Social: Hilltop House in Harpers Ferry, WV (\$16.50 per person). Cost includes a 4-entree buffet (including a vegetarian selection), salad bar, bread, coffee, tea, other non-alcoholic beverages, and dessert. They have a full bar and orders will be taken at your table. *Alcoholic beverages are an additional, personal expense.* Harpers Ferry is only @10 miles from Shepherdstown. This historic hotel is very lovely and has beautiful scenic views of the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers. Some may wish to reserve rooms there. Phone 304-535-2132.

Registration and Fee Info: *Register by July 1st to receive a special early bird registration discount!*

Early Bird Fee: \$35.00 per person (+\$16.50 per person for Saturday Social reservations)

Members Fee (Members of MNPS, VNPS, WV/EPNPS, PATC, BSW, and DOI employees registering after July 1):

\$45.00 per person (+\$16.50 per person for Saturday Social reservations)

Non-member Fee: \$55.00 per person (+\$16.50 per person for Saturday Social reservations)

Contact Info: To register early, please send a check (payable to Maryland Native Plant Society) to:

Meghan Tice
P.O. Box 25
Bowie, MD 20719

For more information, please contact:
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