

Native News

Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

March/April 2007

Volume 7 Number 2

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Upcoming Monthly Meetings

“Spring Flowering Native Plants of Maryland”

Tuesday, March 27, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

MNPS offers this lecture each year in spring, as a celebration of the season but also to give new members an introduction to spring-flowering native plants and places to see them in the wild. Join botanist Rod Simmons for a presentation on many of the common and rare, spring-flowering native plants of Maryland. Spring ephemerals – plants of early spring which bloom and largely disappear before the forest canopy substantially leafs out – will be the main focus, although other spring wildflowers will be included as well. Plant identification, habitats and natural communities, and places in Maryland to see them will also be discussed.

“Preparing a Natural Resources Management Plan for Arlington County, Virginia”

Tuesday, April 24, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Owing to a great diversity of geologic conditions and habitats, the greater Washington, D.C. area is perhaps the most floristically diverse region in the eastern U.S. Despite much urbanization, many counties and cities in the metro area still support many globally-rare natural communities, impressive scenic resources, old-age forests, wetlands, rare plants and animals, open space, and numerous ancient trees. Greg Zell, Natural Resource Specialist with Arlington County, Virginia, will give a presentation on documenting and assessing Arlington's surprising diversity of natural resources, including old-age forest remnants, wetlands and springs, champion and old-age trees, Magnolia Bog remnants, geologic features, and flora and fauna. He will also discuss the challenges and successes of protecting these resources.

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.



Spring Dwarf Iris
(*Iris verna*)



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President's Letter

As I write this column in early February on an extremely cold, windy morning in the Washington area, I think back only a few weeks when I was concerned that there would be no winter at all this year. Hopefully the plants that were coming up and even flowering in the unseasonably warm weather will be able to adapt to this sudden cold spell.

One of my goals as president of MNPS is to keep members informed of board decisions and actions. Therefore, I will often use this page to discuss results of board meetings, emails, and other activities. The January board meeting, held on the Monday holiday for Martin Luther King's birthday, is longer and different than other MNPS board meetings. It is an all-day meeting combining a regular board meeting in the morning with a "retreat" type session in the afternoon for planning and setting goals for the coming year. During the regular board meeting, several committee chairs gave reports of their activities during the year.

We heard from Conservation Committee Chair John Parrish of nine different projects that members of the committee had pursued. John was instrumental in submitting extensive comments on the inadequacies and inaccuracies of the environmental impact statement on the Intercounty Connector (ICC) through Montgomery and Prince George's County. MNPS also joined the Audubon Naturalist Society and a family in a lawsuit to overturn the decision to proceed with construction of this environmentally destructive and un-needed highway. Linda Keenan is monitoring the proposed University of Maryland Connector Road in Prince George's County and Marc Imlay is monitoring the proposed Waldorf Bypass in Charles County. John also reported the complete acquisition of 258 acres of parkland for the new Serpentine Barrens Conservation Park in Montgomery County. Many who attended the October 2006 Fall Conference had an opportunity to visit this park with John.

Marc Imlay, Chair of the Habitat Stewardship Committee, reported that regular monthly invasive removal projects were now occurring at over 40 sites in Maryland, all of which were initially started as a result of workshops conducted by MNPS members in Charles County and Montgomery County. Currently, MNPS sponsors or co-sponsors six monthly projects in Charles and Prince George's Counties and provides considerable assistance to many other projects.

Botany Chair Rod Simmons stated that members of the committee had completed an inventory and report on important natural areas of the upper Anacostia watershed. This report will be featured in the upcoming issue of *Marilandica*.

Business items at the meeting included voting to help support a brochure on *Native PlantScaping* sponsored by ThorpeWood, an environmental center in Frederick County. Jim Gallion of Catoctin Chapter has been working on this project for several months. The exact amount donated will depend on clarification of the needs and one of the provisions. MNPS will be listed as a benefactor on the brochure. The board also voted to donate \$250 to Brookside Gardens to support their Greenmatters Tree Releaf Symposium. As well as being listed as a co-sponsor, MNPS can send one member free to the symposium.

Other business matters included voting to offer co-sponsorship of one monthly meeting a year with the Georgetown University Center for the Environment. The board also voted to give approval to John Parrish to represent MNPS on the Montgomery County Open Space Advisory Board.

This was an exceptionally busy board meeting, so I will save my report on the annual planning session for the next newsletter. By the time you read this column, spring beauty, harbinger-of-spring, and bloodroot will likely be blooming in some areas of Maryland.

Cris Fleming

Chapter Events and Updates

Eastern Shore Chapter

We have an exciting schedule of events for the spring! In early May, Nick and Margaret Carter will host us for a spring ephemeral walk at their property in Greensboro (see page 7). Additionally, we hope to organize a large plant rescue effort in Caroline County, and are seeking members who are interested in taking part, as well as those who can share their successful plant rescue experiences with us. Please contact Sylvan Kaufman at skaufman@adkinsarboretum.org regarding the plant rescue, or Leslie Hunter-Cario for other info at eschapter@mdflora.org or horticulture@wetland.org.

On Friday, March 16 from 12:00 – 2:00 pm, Zora Lathan, Director of the Chesapeake Ecology Center, will conduct a **Rain Garden Mini-Workshop** at the Kent Island Branch of the Queen Anne's County Free Library located at 200 Library Circle, Stevensville, Maryland, 21666. If you are interested in creating a rain garden but are seeking more information to get started, this is the workshop for you! Zora will cover the basics of rain garden design and installation. Bring your rain garden questions for Zora, an expert who has been actively working with twenty native plant demonstration gardens at the Chesapeake Ecology Center. Participants will receive a complimentary copy of *Ecoscaping Back to the Future... Restoring Chesapeake Landscapes* by Zora Lathan and Thistle A. Cone. **Directions:** From Annapolis: Travel on US-301 N/US-50 E over the Bay Bridge. Take the MD-8 N exit (Exit 37) toward Stevensville. Turn LEFT onto Business Pkwy/MD-8 N. Turn RIGHT onto Main St/MD-18. Follow 0.7 miles to Library Circle (approx. 15 miles total). From Centreville: Travel on MD-213 S. Merge onto US-301 S toward Bay Bridge, and travel 13.9 miles. Take the Duke Street exit (Exit 38A). Stay STRAIGHT to go onto Duke St. Turn RIGHT onto Main St/MD-18 (approx. 16.5 miles total). **Bring:** Bring a bag lunch if you wish. **Note:** Space is limited, so please RSVP to Leslie Hunter-Cario (see above).

Greater Baltimore Area Chapter

Douglas H. Boucher, Associate Professor of Biology, Hood College will present "**Isabel, Ivan, and Katrina: Three Hurricanes and the Forests of Central Maryland**" on Wednesday, March 21 at 7:30 pm at Irvine. The nature center is located at 8400 Greenspring Ave, Stevenson, MD, 21093, in Baltimore County. The phone number for Irvine is 410-484-2413. **Directions:** From the Baltimore Beltway (I-695) take the Greenspring Avenue exit north (turn right at end of ramp). Irvine Nature Center is about 1 mile on the left, on the grounds of St. Timothy's School. Turn right beyond the gatehouse. The Nature Center is the first main building you come to, behind the stone wall. Park within the stone wall or at the rear of the building. Please do check the MNPS website for more info about upcoming chapter field trips and other events.

Western Mountains Chapter

The Western Mountains Chapter of Maryland Native Plant Society will hold its regular meeting at the New Germany State Park lake house on Tuesday, April 17 at 7:00 pm. The guest speaker will be Pat Durkin, founder and director of the Baltimore Checkerspot Restoration Project. Ms. Durkin will give a PowerPoint presentation called "**Saving Maryland's Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly.**" Her program will begin immediately following the regular business meeting. The public is welcome to attend.

The mission of the Baltimore Checkerspot Restoration Project is to conserve this dwindling butterfly species, the official insect of the State of Maryland. According to Ms. Durkin, "When the beautiful orange-and-black checkered Baltimore checkerspot was named Maryland's official state insect in 1973, the butterfly was common in much of Maryland in its upland, wet meadow habitat. Since then, however, the species has dwindled precipitously through the mid-Atlantic, the consequences of development pressures, deer over-population, gypsy moth control, and other factors. Once known in 15 Maryland counties, the butterfly has recently been found in only five." Pat Durkin will discuss the Baltimore checkerspot's fascinating natural history and what is being done to improve its outlook in Maryland and the region.

Pat Durkin conducts comprehensive baseline surveys of butterflies and their habitats for the National Park Service and teaches courses in butterflies for the USDA Graduate School, Audubon Naturalist Society of the Mid-Atlantic States and other organizations. Her field research includes the first systematic observation by boat of the strategic flight tactics of monarch butterflies migrating over large bodies of water. She has led annual July 4th butterfly counts in the District of Columbia for eight years and at Harper's Ferry National Historical Park for four years. She co-founded the Washington Area Butterfly Club in 1997 and has served in all of its leadership positions. **Directions:** From I-68 take exit 22 and follow signs for New Germany State Park. Turn left into the park onto McAndrews Hill Road. The meeting will be held in the lake house. Parking is available in Lots #4 or 5; there are also handicap accessible parking spaces at the lake house. For more information, contact Liz McDowell (301-895-3686 or info@elkridgenatureworks.com) or Cheryl Lough (301-616-7983 or cklough3@yahoo.com).

Native News Deadlines:

March 25	May/June Late Spring Issue
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

Tentative 2007 Mailing Party Dates (preceding regular Monthly Meetings at White Oak Library):
Tuesdays at 6:00 pm: April 24 and June 26.

MNPS Announcements

ICC Update

Summary of Complaint - Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States, Inc., et al. v. United States Department of Transportation, et al.

Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States, Inc., Maryland Native Plant Society, and Roger Metcalf and Eve Burton filed suit on December 20, 2006 against the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) in the Federal District Court for the District of Maryland to block the Intercounty Connector (ICC). As these Plaintiffs allege in their complaint, the ICC highway project in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties would be a toll road costing billions to connect I-95 and I-270 while doing little or nothing to alleviate traffic congestion on existing roads, including the Capital Beltway, I-95, and I-270. Besides its enormous financial cost to Maryland taxpayers, the ICC would severely damage or destroy high quality natural resources, promote needless suburban sprawl, and ensure continued governmental inattention to truly significant transportation problems in suburban Maryland which continue to plague millions for lack of funding.

This suit seeks to enforce Defendants' legal duties under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act, the Administrative Procedure Act, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), and those statutes' implementing regulations. Unless and until the Defendants comply with those duties, Plaintiffs seek injunctive relief prohibiting Defendants and their state counterparts from condemning homes, breaking ground, or awarding contracts under the proposed ICC.

This suit raises claims that Defendants FHWA and USDOT...

- so narrowly defined the scope, purpose, and need of the project during the NEPA process that the outcome of the project was predetermined and anything other than the six-lane, east-west toll highway between two specified points was not considered.
- failed to consider reasonable alternatives, instead dismissing them without an intelligible explanation, based on outdated information, or on pretextual grounds. For example, despite assertions that no dismissed alternative would effectively reduce traffic by at least 10%, the Defendants' own Environmental Impact Statement reveals that the ICC itself actually would increase traffic on many roadways.

- failed to consider all feasible and prudent alternatives to destroying or impairing the park lands and other resources, as the ICC project would do, in violation of USDOT Act § 4(f).
- failed to meet NEPA's mandate to properly identify and assess the project's reasonably anticipated environmental impacts. For example, Defendants failed to consistently or completely evaluate the impacts to water and air resources from the secondary development that Defendants' own experts predicted would occur.
- violated federal regulations by failing to consider whether the project would turn its back on Maryland laws protecting rare, threatened, and endangered species and habitat.
- failed to fully consider constructive use impacts – such as increased noise – to park land and other resources along or in the vicinity of the proposed roadway.
- failed to consider adequate mitigation of the project's expected environmental harms, as required by both NEPA and USDOT Act § 4(f). For example, Defendants propose mitigating the project's destruction of mature forest wildlife habitat through the provision of presently unforested land and land located miles from the road and miles outside the project study area.

In addition, this suit raises claims that Defendant ACOE violated regulations implementing CWA § 404 in issuing a permit allowing Maryland agencies to fill in wetlands and other water bodies for the construction of the ICC. Plaintiffs allege that ACOE's permit approval...

- failed to consider any reasonable alternatives to filling in the wetlands, aside from the two alternative highway alignments considered in the deficient Environmental Impact Statement (EIS);
- relied on the EIS's legally inadequate analysis when approving the selected alternative as the least environmentally damaging alternative among the two highways considered; and
- relied on the EIS's deficient environmental and other analyses when concluding that the anticipated public benefits of the ICC project outweigh the project's anticipated damage to wetlands and other resources.

Welcome New Members!

The following have recently joined the Society: Dori Binsted, John Dodge, Ms. Geoff. Ewenson, Robert Fireovid, Charlotte Friend, Lois Giovinetto, Dr. Jim Howell, Mrs. Charles Iliff, Ms. Charles Iliff, Wayne Longbottom, Joe Malandrucolo, Brad Otterson, Lolli Sherry, Lee-Ann Taylor and Peter Wieczorowski. Welcome to our two newest Organization Members: Matthew Cohen, Matt's Habitats, Silver Spring, MD and Serena Fossi, Gardening & Gentle Redesign, Chevy Chase, MD. Thank you for your support.

Native News

Celebrating 15 Years of Membership

Of our current 609 members we have 72 who initially joined between 1992 and 1994.

1992: Mary Alves, Lou Aronica, Kathy Bilton, Gordon Brown and Kathy McCarthy, Mark Burchick, Mary and Joe Howard, Karyn Molines and Gary Pendleton, The Nature Conservancy's Science and Stewardship Program, Mary Pat Rowan and Phil Blair, Sara Tangren, Patricia Tice, Charmane Truesdell, Mary Lou and John Winder, Jean Worthley, and Ann Zahn

1993: Steve and Ginny Bergen, Carole Bergmann, Gale Burwell, Janet Crampton, Charlie and Linda Davis, Daryl Dutrow, Grace Evans, Richard Falcone, Joan Feely, Cris Fleming, Rosemary Ford, Denise and Rob Gibbs, Signe Hanson, Jessie Harris, Barbara Knapp, Joe Metzger, Kathleen Michels, Gretchen Minners, Judith Modlin, Larry Morse, Doug and Arlene Ripley, Carol Robertson, Brenda Skarphol, Robert Solem, Mary Stevenson, Jil Swearingen, Harriett Tinker, Will and Robin Tress, Chuck and Betsy Weinkam, and Virginia (nee Provenzano) Winston

1994: Russell Balge, Michelle Borodinsky, Ralph Dashner, Marion DeGroff, John Gutting, James Hall, Chris Lea, Joan Lorr, Ann Lundy, Elizabeth McWethy, Lee Miller, Elizabeth Morley, Bob Pickett, and Deborah Schultz

MNPS History 1992-1994

The year 2007 marks the 15th anniversary of the Maryland Native Plant Society. There were several attempts prior to 1992 to start a plant society, but none were able to sustain interest, and leadership, as long as the current incarnation. Over the next year, we'll be presenting some of the Society's highlights. One important aspect of the Society's development was to have our mission focus not only on the beautiful wildflowers and showy plants, but all of Maryland's native plants. In addition, we established the foundation of our conservation mission that to preserve our native flora, we must protect native habitats. Since 1992, this overarching principle has been the secret to the long-lasting impacts of our efforts, as well as the dedication of many active volunteers and long-standing members. There are many more items that could be included. If you have memories you would like to share, please send them to Meghan Tice, *Native News* Editor, Karyn Molines at kmolines@chesapeake.net, or to MNPS, P.O. Box 4877, Silver Spring, MD 20914.

1992

- Barbara Medina, Karyn Molines, and Jil Swearingen approve articles of incorporation and by-laws
- First Fall Conference "Restoring Their Habitats Beautifying our Yard" held at the Agricultural Farm Park, Montgomery County, chaired by Barbara Medina and Kathy McCarthy

1993

- Board of Directors: Carol Allen, Nancy Ancel, Lou Aronica, John Galli, Barbara Medina (President), Karyn Molines (Secretary), Yvette Ogle, Wilbur Rittenhouse

(Vice President), Jil Swearingen, and Patricia Tice (Treasurer)

- Jil Swearingen chairs the second fall conference, held at Greenridge State Forest
- Evening lectures: John Hench "Biological Diversity of Montgomery County Parklands;" Dr. James Reveal "Early Botanical Explorations of Maryland;" Dr. James Duke "Medicinal and Useful Plants of Maryland"
- Field trips to Piscataway National Park on "Chestnuts, Past and Present" and Adkins Arboretum on grasses and sedges

1994

- Board of Directors: Nancy Ancel, Lou Aronica (Treasurer), Ed Carlson, Richard Falcone, Don MacLean, Sue McIninch, Barbara Medina (President), Karyn Molines (Secretary), Wilbur Rittenhouse (Vice President), Rod Simmons, Jil Swearingen, Patricia Tice, and Charmane Truesdell (Treasurer)
- Third annual Fall Conference held at Green Briar State Forest, Chaired by Wilbur Rittenhouse and Jil Swearingen
- Adkins Arboretum hosted our Spring Field Meeting, chaired by Wilbur Rittenhouse
- Field Trips to Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, Smallwood State Park, Soldiers Delight, Germantown Bog, National Arboretum's Fern Valley,
- Workshops on Woody Plant ID, Plant propagation, Indian uses of native plants, "confusing composites" identification;
- Evening lectures on Prince George's County's tree conservation law and "Making Green Space a Natural Area."

Website Gallery Wants to Expand

We're working on expanding our gallery of photos, and one possible way you can help is by sending us scans of photos of using native plants in the landscape. These can help give our gardening visitors ideas on how to use native plants in their landscapes, too. A picture is worth a thousand words and more interesting than plant lists! Please send them to webmanager@mdflora.org. Include your name, and it would be great if you would include a list of those native plants in that photo, in case I don't recognize them. Also, if you have seen any "horror sites" – locations that have been taken over by invasives – and you have taken pictures of the invasion, please feel free to send them to me also. There is nothing like seeing a green scourge taking over a site to convince people that something must be done. If they are public parks, feel free to identify the location – maybe this will be the impetus to start a stewardship program in that location. Please include the date taken, also. Again, please send the photos to webmanager@mdflora.org, and let me know which plant is the one invading. Each photo should be in JPEG format, and please, no gigantic file sizes (each photo should be less than 100 KB in size). Thank you! ~ Iris Mars

~ Wildflower in Focus ~



SANGUINARIA CANADENSIS • BLOODROOT

TINA THIEME BROWN © 2006

BLOODROOT

Sanguinaria canadensis L.

Poppy Family (*Papaveraceae*)

By Melanie Choukas-Bradley
Artwork by Tina Thieme Brown

One of Maryland's most beautiful wildflowers, bloodroot is among our earliest blooming spring ephemerals. The plant gets its name from the orange-red juice exuded by the root, juice which has been used as everything from a wart remedy to a love charm! **Flowers:** White flowers, each with 8 or more thinnish petals. One bloom per stem; at first cup-shaped but later opening flat or nearly so, 1 - 2" wide. Flowers spring as if by magic from winter woodland carpets of fallen leaves. **Leaves:** A large single basal leaf, 3-8" across, often partially wrapped around the flower stalk. The leaf is circular in outline, but it is deeply lobed and bluntly toothed. **Height and Growth Habit:** 3 - 12"; Upright or slightly leaning. **Habitat and Range:** Rich woods; Eastern Canada south to Florida and Oklahoma. **Herbal Lore:** Although toxic, the root enjoyed wide-spread use among American Indians for a variety of illnesses, including asthma, bronchitis, and rheumatism. The root juice was popular as a dye, and Steven Foster and James A. Duke report in Peterson Field Guides' *Field Guide to Medicinal Plants: Eastern and Central North America*: "A bachelor of the Ponca tribe would rub a piece of the root as a love charm on the palm of his hand, then scheme to shake hands with the woman he desired to marry. After shaking hands, the girl would be found willing to marry him in 5 - 6 days." Foster and Duke note that in the modern world "the alkaloid sanguinarine" found in bloodroot "has shown antiseptic, anesthetic, and anticancer activity. It is used commercially as a plaque-inhibiting agent in toothpaste, mouthwashes, and rinses." However, their book contains the warning: "Do not ingest. Jim Duke has experienced tunnel vision from nibbling the root." Please do not attempt to examine the root of this or any other native wildflower. Help preserve this increasingly scarce woodland plant. **Similar Species:** Could be confused with other early spring wildflowers. The uncommon twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*) has basal leaves deeply cleft or divided into two large segments. Rue anemone (*Anemonella thalictroides*) has smaller flowers, often more than one per stem, and stem leaves. The hepaticas (*Hepatica* spp.) have smaller flowers and distinctly three-lobed basal leaves. **Blooming Time:** March-May. **Locations:** Throughout Maryland but not common on the Coastal Plain. Adkins Arboretum, Tuckahoe State Park, Piscataway Park, Rocks State Park, Patapsco Valley State Park, Gunpowder Falls State Park, Potomac and Patuxent Rivers, Rock Creek Park, Seneca Creek State Park, Little Bennett Regional Park, Sugarloaf Mountain, Catocin Mountain, western mountains. Consult *Finding Wildflowers in the Washington-Baltimore Area* by Fleming, Lobstein and Tufty for additional bloodroot locations.

MNPS board president Cris Fleming and Leslie Hunter-Cario, chair of the Eastern Shore chapter, contributed to this article.

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

Early Spring Field Trips

Eastern Shore Plant Rescue

Leader: Sylvan Kaufman

Date: TBA **Time:** TBA

The Eastern Shore Chapter is hoping to organize a large plant rescue this spring at a wooded site near Adkins Arboretum. We are waiting to obtain more information about the flora of the site and permission, but if you would be interested in helping with this effort or in future plant rescues, please contact Sylvan Kaufman skaufman@adkinsarboretum.org or 410-634-2847 x24.

Pine Barrens Communities of the Washington, D.C. Area - Part 1

(Joint Field Trip with VNPS)

Leaders: Rod Simmons and John Parrish

Date: Saturday, March 31 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

We'll explore upland Pitch Pine-Oak-Heath Forest communities and lowland seepage communities dominated by pitch pine, including bogs. In addition to pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*), we should see dwarf chinquapin oak (*Quercus prinoides*), chinquapin (*Castanea pumila*), a diversity of ericads, and other plants of deep, sandy soils. We'll also keep a lookout for spring iris (*Iris verna*) and wild lupine (*Lupinus perennis*), both of which have not been seen in the area for decades but may still be present.

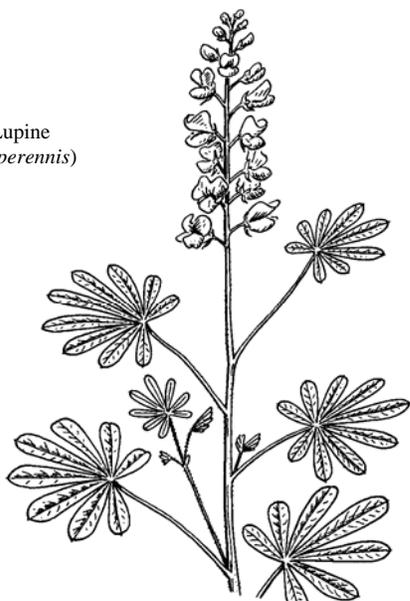
Directions: Take BW Parkway (295) north from Capital Beltway (495) to Powder Mill Road. Exit onto Powder Mill Road heading east. Continue east for app. 2 miles and look for entrance to National Wildlife Visitors Center on right. Turn onto entrance road and continue slowly to main parking lot at Visitors Center. Meet in parking lot.

Bring: Water and snacks or lunch. Wear sturdy shoes.

Note: Walk cancelled for rain but not light drizzle.

Contact: Rod cecropia13@msn.com or 301-809-0139.

Wild Lupine
(*Lupinus perennis*)



Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (61st in the Series) – Vicinity of Ft. Carroll (below St. Elizabeth's Hospital)

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

Date: Sunday, April 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 Street). 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 or snow is fine but cancelled if pouring rain.

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

Spring Ephemeral Walk

Leaders: Nick and Margaret Carter

Date: Saturday, May 5 **Time:** 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Visit the woods of Nick and Margaret Carter near Greensboro in MD. They have tended their forest for more than thirty years encouraging the native spring wildflowers to grow in abundance. The pine woods have a huge stand of pink lady's slipper orchids. Nick and Margaret have taught many ecology classes to all ages and are a wealth of information about the local flora and fauna and the history of the land.

Directions: Directions will be provided upon RSVP.

Bring: Boots, mosquito repellent if warm, water.

Note: Limit 15 people.

Contact: Sylvan Kaufman skaufman@adkinsarboretum.org or 410-634-2847 x24 to RSVP.

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (62nd in the Series) – Ft. Chaplin

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

Date: Sunday, May 6 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

We will explore **Ft. Chaplin** in this very special month of May when the herb layer is most interesting. We have been here before in May and we will probably see many of the familiar blooms and ground level plants of this terrace gravel forest site.

Directions: Meet across from Ft. Mahan on Benning Road NE. Traveling east on Benning Road from Minnesota Ave, go three blocks and turn right and park on Fort Drive or in a small lot just off the street at the recreation center. We will walk from here through the Fort connector to Ft. Chaplin.

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

Light drizzle is fine but cancelled if pouring rain.

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

Invasive Exotic Plant Removal Workdays + Slide Lecture

Non-native Plants: The Green Invasion! Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary

Speaker: Karyn Molines

Date: Saturday, March 17 **Time:** 1:00 – 3:00 pm

This indoor slide lecture will focus on the problems non-native invasive plants cause in natural ecosystems and how to identify the native and non-native species of concern. Come learn about our "Adopt-a-Plot" initiative to help control the invasives at the Sanctuary. Individuals, families, and groups can adopt their very own plot to monitor, map, and manage the invasives. This workshop is for leaders (adults and teens) of scouts, schools, and community groups who would like to participate in Adopt-a-Plot workdays.

Directions: See www.jugbay.org or call 410-741-9330.

Note: Free admission to the Sanctuary.

Contact: kmolines@chesapeake.net or 410-286-2928.

Suitland Bog Invasive Plant Removal Days

Leader: Chris Garrett, Park Ranger

Dates: Saturdays, March 17 and April 14

Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Manual removal of honeysuckle and multiflora rose using shovels, pruners, and perseverance. Come and help preserve this unique habitat.

Directions: From the Capital Beltway (I-495), take Exit 7A (Branch Avenue), toward Waldorf. Take Route 5 south. Take the Allentown Road exit. Make a left onto Allentown Road. Stay on Allentown Road through five lights. Turn left onto Suitland Road at the 6th light. Follow Suitland Road until it passes under Suitland Parkway. The entrance to the Suitland Bog is to the right.

Bring: Water, snacks and lunch, work boots, durable clothes, long sleeves, gloves, pruners, small shovels...

Note: There is some poison ivy.

Contact: Chris Garrett, Park Ranger Office, 301-627-7755.

Battling Botanical Bullies in Bear Pen Wildland, Garrett County

Leaders: Ron Boyer & Liz McDowell

Date: Fridays, April 13 and 15 **Time:** 9:00 am – 12:00 noon

Adult volunteers are needed to continue control efforts of Japanese spiraea in the Bear Pen Run area of Savage River State Forest. Bear Pen is designated as a Type 1 Wildland and like other natural areas around the state, it is threatened by a variety of exotic invasive species. In 2005, Ed Thompson, Maryland Heritage & Wildlife Service ecologist, identified the removal of *Spiraea japonica* from Bear Pen as a high priority project. We'll be working to continue our efforts to reduce the infestation using both mechanical and chemical control methods. Kerrie Kyde, Invasive Plant Specialist with the Maryland Wildlife & Heritage Service, is

providing technical support. Larry Maxim, Savage River State Forest manager, is providing work tools. Mike Gregory, Big Run & New Germany State Park manager, is providing free camping the night before for any out-of-town volunteers. Ron Boyer and Liz McDowell, Elk Ridge NatureWorks, are coordinating the project and providing snacks and drinks for volunteers.

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

Garlic Mustard Pulls, Sligo Creek Park

Leaders: Sally Gagné and Carol Hayes

Dates: Saturdays and Sundays, April 15 to June 15

Times: See schedule at www.fosc.org/RIPEventSched.htm.

From mid-April to mid-June we need help in eradicating garlic mustard from all of Sligo Creek Park. The RIP – Removing Invasive Plants – Committee of Friends of Sligo Creek holds plant removal events in Sligo between New Hampshire Ave and the headwaters in Kemp Mill and Wheaton. The group invites local residents and others to work on shrubs in fall and winter, garlic mustard in spring, mile-a-minute in summer, and vines throughout the year.

Directions: Take the Beltway to exit 30B and follow Colesville Rd to Sligo Creek Pkwy. Specifics are at website.

Bring: We will provide gloves, water, and cookies. Be sure to check <http://www.fosc.org> for last-minute weather changes. The work qualifies for student service hours.

Note: Easy pulling. Not recommended for anyone highly allergic to poison ivy.

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

Patuxent Research Refuge

Dates/Times/Locations: Sunday, April 22, Earth Day event – Weed Warriors kickoff. North Tract Visitor Contact Station, 1:00 – 4:00 pm; Tuesday, May 22, National Wildlife Visitor Center, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm; Monday, June 11, North Tract Visitor Contact Station, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon

In partnership between the Department of the Army (Fort Meade), MNPS, the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club, and Patuxent Research Refuge and volunteers. Non-native invasive plants are threatening our wildlife habitat. We need YOU to help stop them. Come out for one of our "Weed Warriors Days" and help us treat garlic mustard, mile-a-minute, Japanese stiltgrass and other non-native plant infestations on the refuge. All ages and abilities are welcome. Do your part to protect Patuxent from alien invaders, and become a Weed Warrior! You will receive a short educational briefing explaining the effects of invasive plants on wildlife and wildlife habitats and how to identify and control these plants.

Directions to the North Tract Visitor Contact Station: From I-295, take the exit for MD-Route 198 towards Fort Meade. Go approximately 1.5 miles until you see Glory Days Auto Salvage on your near right corner and baseball fields on your far right. Turn right between the two onto Bald Eagle Drive.

Native News

Proceed through the gate and continue about ½ mile to the Visitor Contact Station.

Directions to the National Wildlife Visitor Center: The Center is located off of Powder Mill Road between MD Route 197 and the Baltimore/Washington Parkway, south of Laurel. For additional information, call 301-497-5763 or visit <http://patuxent.fws.gov>.

Bring: Wear long sleeves and pants and bring gloves.

Contact: Do register for this event by calling 301-497-5887.

Weed Warrior Workday, Watkins Regional Park

Leader: Park Ranger John Dillon

Date: Sunday, April 29 **Time:** 9:00 am – 12:00 noon
Manual removal of the invasive exotic weed garlic mustard.

Directions: Watkins Nature Center is located in Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County, in Watkins Regional Park, one mile west of the Six Flags America amusement park. From the Capital Beltway (I-495), take Exit 15A (Central Avenue) east. Continue for approximately three miles. Turn right onto Watkins Park Drive (Route 193) and follow the park signs to the facility. From Route 301, turn onto Central Avenue (Route 214) west. Continue for approximately three miles (past Six Flags America). Turn left onto Watkins Park Drive and follow to the park entrance on the right.

Bring: Water, work boots, durable clothes, long sleeves, gloves. Refreshments provided.

Note: There is some poison ivy.

Contact: John Dillon or Chris Garrett at the Park Ranger Office 301-627-7755.

8th Annual Garlic Mustard Challenge, Patapsco Valley State Park, Relay

Date: Sunday, May 6 **Time:** 1:00 – 5:00 pm

Join the Friends of the Patapsco Valley & Heritage Greenway where volunteers pull out the invasive garlic mustard weed throughout the park for two hours. After the volunteer pulling challenge, all participants are treated to prizes, live music, several environmental displays, old fashioned games (like egg toss, potato sack races, etc.), nature scavenger hunt for kids, toasting marshmallows, and more. Kids can participate in the "Villain of the Valley" poster contest where the winner receives a \$100 savings bond. Everyone is encouraged to compete in the chef challenge where participants make delicious recipes using the garlic mustard herb as one of its ingredients. Winners of the chef challenge receive \$25 gift certificate to their choice of renowned restaurants in the Patapsco Valley area.

Note: Rain or shine, we pull and dine! **Fees:** \$5 fee/group for pulling challenge and \$5 fee/recipe submitted for chef challenge. Volunteers not participating in the challenges pay no fee and are appreciated!

Contact: Coordinator, Betsy McMillion 410-480-0824 or patapscofriend@comcast.net.

Garlic Mustard Pesto

(From: www.wildmanstevebrill.com)

When I served this on one of my Central Park tours, people couldn't believe how good it was, and I had to post it on my website pronto, because everyone was collecting the plant to make the recipe. Makes 4 cups

4 cloves of garlic	1½ cups low-sodium olives
3 tbs. garlic mustard taproots	2 cups walnuts or pine nuts
¾ cup parsley	½ cup mellow miso
1 cup garlic mustard leaves	¼ cups olive oil or as needed
1 cup basil	

1. Chop the garlic and garlic mustard roots in a food processor.
2. Add the parsley, garlic, garlic mustard and basil and chop.
3. Add the nuts and chop coarsely.
4. Add the olive oil and miso and process until you've created a coarse paste.

Garlic Mustard Pull-off, Lake Artemesia, Prince George's County

Leaders: Park Rangers Chris Garrett and John Dillon

Date: Saturday, May 12 **Time:** 9:00 am – 12:00 noon

Teams compete in removal of the non-native invasive weed garlic mustard along the Indian Creek Trail. Prizes given to winning team for largest amount pulled in a given area and time.

Directions: The lake is located on Berwyn Road in College Park. **From the south**, via the Capital Beltway (I-495), take Exit 23 (Kenilworth Ave) toward Bladensburg. Make a right onto Route 193 (Greenbelt Road). Make a right onto Branchville Road (this road turns into 55th Ave). The parking lot is on the left at the Berwyn Road intersection. **From the north**, via the Capital Beltway (I-495), take Exit 25 (Route 1) toward College Park. Make a left onto Route 193 (Greenbelt Road), then a left onto Branchville Road (this road turns into 55th Ave). The parking lot is on the left at the Berwyn Road intersection.

Bring: Water, work boots, durable clothes, long sleeves, gloves. Refreshments provided.

Note: There is some poison ivy.

Contact: Chris Garrett or John Dillon at the Park Ranger Office 301-627-7755.

Belt Woods, Bowie

Dates: Ongoing Saturday, Sunday, and occasional mid-week invasive species workgroups. Times and dates vary based on available team leader. Please call or email for schedule.

We will be removing creeping euonymus, Japanese honeysuckle, winged burning bush, multiflora rose, oriental bittersweet, Japanese stiltgrass, garlic mustard, etc. from various parts of the property.

Bring: Tools and gloves provided, but feel free to bring your own favorite tool or pair of gloves.

Contact: To be added to the contact list, email pamelakcooper@verizon.net or call 301-390-0797.

Upcoming Native Plant Sales

Audubon Society of Central Maryland Native Plant Sale

Location: Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary, Mt. Airy
Date: Saturday, April 28 **Time:** 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Audubon's eighth annual Native Plant Sale is the place to find a wide variety of native plants and the expert advice to help you incorporate them into your home landscape. There will be a great selection of trees, shrubs, and perennials for wet or dry conditions and full sun to shade. Master Gardeners and knowledgeable Audubon members will be available to answer questions about the wildlife value of the various plants and to help you choose the right plants for your site conditions. There will be several species of native azaleas and viburnums, ferns, grasses, woodland wildflowers, some butterfly favorites, and much more. Come early for the best selection! Plan to spend time visiting the Sanctuary after you make your purchases. Streams, a pond, wetlands and many wildflowers provide habitat for many birds, butterflies and other wildlife. All proceeds benefit the Sanctuary for habitat management, maintenance, and schoolyard grants.
Directions: From I-70, take exit 62 and turn right on Route 75 North. Proceed 4 miles and turn right on Old Annapolis Road. Travel 3 miles, and after passing Detrick Road on the right, the Sanctuary will be on your left. **Note:** Rain or shine!
Contact: Bill Becraft, Sanctuary Manager, 410-795-6546 or Robin Kummer, Master Gardener, 410-833-5155.

Adkins Arboretum's Spring Native Plant Sale and Programs

Join us for classes on: Incorporating Native Plants in the Garden, March 22; Invasive Plants, April 5; and Medicinal Plants for Healthcare on April 12. On Saturday, April 21 the Arboretum will hold its second Arbor Day Fun Run/Walk with 5 and 10 K routes. This year's native plant sale will be on Saturday, May 12 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. A wide variety of perennials, trees, shrubs, and grasses will be available. Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer gardening questions and there will be a guided walk of the Arboretum grounds. The Arboretum also offers guided walks every Saturday at 11:00 am. For more information on these programs or to register, call 410-634-2847 x0 or visit www.adkinsarboretum.org.

Spring Open House and Native Plant Sale at Environmental Concern

Please join us on Saturday, June 9 at our center of operations in St. Michaels, Maryland for an opportunity to learn more about our wetland education and restoration programs, as well as browse a selection of native plants available for sale. Additionally, we will be out on the road on both sides of the bay for a variety of plant sales this spring. Please visit: www.wetland.org for more info about native wetland plants.

General Announcements

An Introduction to the newly formed Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group

The Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group which formed one year ago is a citizen's organization dedicated to the preservation and environmental health of a subwatershed of the Anacostia River. The Beaverdam Creek watershed is located northeast of Washington, D.C. near the towns of Greenbelt, Beltsville, and College Park, Maryland. The group was founded by Greenbelt residents Susan Barnett and Mi Ae Kim with assistance from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG). Most of the watershed lies in the boundaries of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. We invite and encourage people to join our group and attend our meetings which are the third Tuesday of the month at Greenbelt Elementary School. Please visit us at beaverdamcreek.org.

Frostburg State University Launching Unique Interdisciplinary Major in Ethnobotany

Only Program of Its Kind in Continental U.S. Integrates Science, Culture
Starting in the fall of 2007, Frostburg State University undergraduate students will have the opportunity to major in ethnobotany, a unique interdisciplinary program that examines the connection between people and plants. Currently the only undergraduate program of its kind in the continental United States, the major was approved by the University System of Maryland Board of Regents in June. FSU's ethnobotany major will allow students to integrate science and culture as a way of understanding human reliance on plants and the environment. The foundation of the program provides students with a solid background in plant sciences, biogeography and cultural studies. Students then choose one of three concentrations within the major depending on their particular career interest: pharmacological ethnobotany, biogeographical ethnobotany or cultural perspectives in ethnobotany. The objectives of the major include imparting knowledge of the biological and chemical principles of plants; familiarizing students with their unique natural environment; provide a learning environment that integrates both biological and social science theories; involving students in legitimate scientific research with applications that directly benefit environmental communities where the plants are used; and instilling an appreciation for the interdependence of humans and plants. Students will be encouraged to learn other languages and participate in study abroad experiences to help them become scientists with a global perspective. For more information about FSU's ethnobotany program, contact Lyon at llyon@frostburg.edu or 301-687-4213. For more information about Frostburg State University, visit the website at www.frostburg.edu.

An Invitation from the Maryland Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation

The Maryland Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) is a member of the Maryland Native Plant Society. An important part of our mission is carrying out the backcross breeding program of TACF in Maryland, using Maryland American chestnut trees as mother trees. Our goal is to restore the American chestnut to our forests. We had a fantastic pollination season in Maryland mother trees in 2006, which produced more than two thousand advanced backcross seeds. We will be planting these seeds in eight Maryland orchards this spring, during the last half of March and the first half of April. We hope to plant at least twice as many trees this spring as we have ever planted before. I invite members of the Maryland Native Plant Society to contact me, Kathy Marmet, President of The Maryland Chapter TACF, by email at mdchapter@acf.org or by phone at 301-874-2272 if you would like to help with planting chestnuts. It is hard work, but enjoyable and rewarding for those of us who love plants.

Announcing the Checklist and Atlas of the Vascular Flora of West Virginia

By Paul J. Harmon, Donna Ford-Werntz, and William Grafton

The checklist and county dot-map atlas of the vascular flora of West Virginia is now available! This 381-page printed document includes a series of completely revised lists of the vascular plants known to occur outside of cultivation in West Virginia. County dot maps indicate from which counties each of the 2503 taxa is recorded. Open and solid dots indicate whether each was recorded after 1976 or not. Botanists, ecologists, foresters, biologists, land managers, naturalists, horticulturalists and gardeners will all find this book extremely valuable, providing: a reference to names and classification of all the ferns, trees, wildflowers and other vascular plants and the counties in the state in which they occur; which species are native, introduced, adventive, or exotic; which are classified as wetland species, which may be invasive to natural areas; those needing further field work; those needing systematic study; and those tracked by the West Virginia Natural Heritage program as state rare. Each book is a spirally-bound, 8.5 x 11 inch formatted document suitable as a field reference or an addition to ones library or herbarium shelf. Inside front and back covers hold a table of abbreviations and icons found throughout the book, and an index map of the counties of West Virginia. The entire work is indexed on common names, current scientific names as well as the scientific names used in the classic manual, *Flora of West Virginia* by P.D. Strausbaugh and Earl L. Core (Seneca Books, Inc., Morgantown, WV, 1977). Color-coded Sections include: Checklist by Division, Class, Family and Scientific Name; Checklist by Scientific Name; Exotic and Introduced Taxa Not Confirmed as Naturalized; Reported Taxa Not Documented as Part of the Flora; Taxa Excluded

From the Checklist; Atlas of the Native and Naturalized Vascular Flora; Atlas of Exotic and Introduced Taxa Not Confirmed as Naturalized. Cost: \$20 each, including shipping and applicable taxes. To get your copy send check (Made to WVDNR) with order to: Checklist and Atlas of the Vascular Flora of WV; Wildlife Diversity Program, Natural Heritage Group; West Virginia Division of Natural Resources; P. O. Box 67, Ward Road, Elkins, WV 26241. Contact: Janet Iseli 304-637-0245 or janetiseli@wvdnr.gov.

Olmsted Woods Walks, National Cathedral, Washington, D.C.

Thursday, April 12, 10:00 am – *The Glories of Spring Wildflowers* Leader: Maureen Alonzo, Cathedral Horticulture Manager. A discussion of: 1) spring ephemerals, wildflowers, native plants and budding trees and, 2) the Amphitheater Restoration, Phase III of the Olmsted Woods Project, and how it will help with water run-off as well as enhance the beauty of the Woods.

Thursday, April 26, 10:00 am – *The History and Folklore of Flowers* Leaders: Annette Lasley, native plant specialist. How did wildflowers get their names? This walk will focus on identifying wildflowers and their natural history, religious symbolism, and folklore.

Friday, May 4 and Saturday, May 5, 2:00 pm – *Flower Mart* Leaders: Dede Petri, Project Co-Chair, and Cathedral Horticultural Staff. A look at the completed Amphitheater and how it's restoration will create a wonderful new space for contemplation and worship services. Meet at the All Hallows Guild Booth.

Thursday, May 10, 10:00 am – *The Amphitheater - Native Plant Connection* Leader: Maureen Alonzo, Cathedral Horticulture Manager. The Amphitheater Restoration and the native plants that compliment the design, including how those plants were chosen.

Thursday, June 21, 10:00 am – *The Glories of Summer* Leader: Maureen Alonzo, Cathedral Horticulture Manager. On the first day of Summer, a walk focusing on the adaptation of trees and other woodland plants to warmer weather, and how the Woods Restoration is helping them to survive the storms, droughts and threats of heat.

Bird Walks As the Woods undergoes restoration, a guiding principle is the inclusion of groundcovers, shrubs, and trees attractive to birds and other wildlife. Bring your binoculars and catch the spring migration with experienced birder Sheila Cochran. Thursdays: May 3 and May 10 at 8:30 am.

No reservations are required and all programs are free. Please wear sturdy waterproof shoes. Programs will be cancelled in the event of heavy rain. Woodlands Information Line: 202-537-2319. 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.



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The Maryland Native Plant Society is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible. V7N2M/A07

Membership Dues:

- Individual: \$25.00/year
- Double: \$35.00/year
- Student/limited income: \$15.00/year
- Lifetime: \$250.00
- Organization: \$50.00/year

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