

Saturday Field Trips (September 17, 2016)

Pitch Pine Barrens at Beltsville Agricultural Research Center – Rod Simmons & Jorge Montero

BARC protects some of the most rare biodiversity in the DC region. The BARC Pine Barrens comprises a southern extension of the range of this rare vegetation type. There are both upland and lowland Pine Barrens at BARC, the latter a wetland sandy soil plant community. We will also see a variety of trees, and the forest understory has remarkable diversity of heaths, ferns and other native plants.

Suitland Bog – Cris Fleming

Suitland Bog, located just inside the Capital Beltway, is the best preserved of more than ten bogs historically reported in Prince Georges County. Although small, it is carefully managed by the Park and Planning Commission. Once containing over 40 plants on the state rare list, Suitland Bog still harbors about twenty rare species, including red milkweed, rose pogonia, northern pitcher-plant, and bog goldenrod. The main area of this bog is traversed on a wooden walkway and other areas involve walking along the edges of the bog.

Greenbelt Forest Preserve – Carole Bergmann & Damien Ossi

The North Tract of the Greenbelt Forest Preserve is a 100 acre parcel of the forest that once surrounded the City of Greenbelt. This woodland holds remnant pine barren communities--globally-rare communities which are considered ancient outliers of New Jersey Pine Barrens. We'll hike up Blueberry Hill to view the Oak-Heath-Pine Forest and look for extensive stands of various ericads, as well as Chinquapin, Dwarf Chinquapin Oak, Pitch Pine, and view a few rare acidic seepage communities which are considered ancient outliers of New Jersey Pine Barrens.

Rosaryville State Park – Chris Puttock & Rochelle Bartolomei

The fieldtrip will be to the Fred Eskew Reserve Area in the northeast corner of Rosaryville State Park, an outlier of the Piedmont in the Upper Coastal Plain. The forest community is a closed oak-hickory-beech forest assemblage. The understory is quite intact with acidic to neutral soils, and with little deer damage. The path is easy to moderate and can be muddy after rain.

Patuxent Research Refuge – Bill Harms & Joe Metzger

Join us in exploring the largest contiguous natural area between Washington, DC and Baltimore. We will visit plant communities not open to the general public. The Patuxent Research Refuge is home to a wide variety of rare and common plant communities. These include New Jersey Pine Barrens, upland mesic woods, wetlands, and various types of acidic seepage bogs. The Refuge is home to over 1200 species of vascular plants at last count.

Greenbelt National Park Bogs and Forests – Kirsten & Dwight Johnson

We will explore the Oak-Heath and Pine forests of this coastal plain park, with a visit to a fall line Magnolia Bog, looking for a variety of unusual plants such as *Carex bullata* and *Smilax pseudochina*.

The Wooded Hillock on the UMD campus – Karyn Molines and Marla MacIntosh

Easy, natural surface trails, short drive to the site 24-acre Wooded Hillock on the north edge of the campus contains an urban forest and a good example of a once-common terrace gravel forest. These elevated areas of gravelly acidic soils tend to have a diversity of oak trees, with blueberries and huckleberries in the understory. It was threatened by development, but thanks to the efforts of Dr. MacIntosh and groups like MNPS, the forest has been preserved and being used as a natural classroom to understand biodiversity and our native forests.

Sunday Field Trips (September 18, 2016)

Buck Lodge Park and Bog – Michael Ellis and Linda Keenan

Join us for a gentle walk through Buck Lodge Park and bog. With a diversity of habitats of the coastal plain, Buck Lodge harbors many rare and uncommon plants, a pristine oak-chestnut-heath forest, low-lying seepage forest, and old-age terrace gravel forest. The forests are dominated by chestnut oak, scarlet oak, blackgum, hollies, pines and a diversity of heath. See the efforts of Park Rangers and the Maryland Sierra Club working to save this natural area. Note: No Restrooms at this location

Central Farm Bog Walk– Rod Simmons & Beth Johnson

Canoe trip on the Tidal Anacostia River– Jorge Montero, Anacostia Watershed Society Natural Resource Specialist

This once-forgotten river is becoming the center of a movement to restore it as a public asset in the nation's capital. The Anacostia protects unique eco-systems: riverine tidal swamp forests, tidal emergent wetlands and the adjacent non-tidal wetlands that protect outstanding wetland plant communities and provide habitat to a plethora of fish and other animals.

University of Maryland College Park Herbarium – John Hall

Tour of George Washington House in Bladensburg (Anacostia Watershed Society Headquarters) – AWS's Landscape designer Jo-Elle Burgard

The AWS Headquarters are located at the historic George Washington House (circa 1752). Years of road realignments had created poor drainage patterns throughout the site. AWS installed permeable paving, a rainwater cistern, brick and dry stream channels, and rain gardens. The project demonstrates how sustainable storm water management can be successfully incorporated within historic sites challenged with a limited budget and very restrictive site constraints.