

Native News

Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

March/April 2010

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Upcoming Monthly Meetings

“Vernal Pools”

Tuesday, March 30, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Join Karyn Molines, biologist and MNPS founding member and former president, for a presentation on the importance of vernal and seasonal pools for wildlife. Vernal pools are temporary wetlands found in many stream valleys and upland forests. These special places are critical breeding grounds for many of our amphibians such as wood frogs and marbled salamanders. Karyn will discuss the hydrological characteristics and plant communities of vernal pools and key facets of amphibian life cycles that require vernal pools.

“Preserving Maryland’s Grasslands”

Tuesday, April 27, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Randy Pheobus, MNPS member and Director of the Native Grasslands Conservancy, will give a presentation on the different types of natural grasslands in Maryland and the many heliophilic or sun-loving plant species that are specially adapted to open conditions of woodland edges and openings, glades, meadows, and grasslands. Randy will also discuss conservation efforts in preserving remaining grasslands and open areas in Maryland, as well as restoration and replanting efforts at existing sites. Species that are rare, dwindling, and in need of conservation and protection will be discussed, including propagation efforts from seed collection throughout the state and region.

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

MNPS Announcements

MNPS now has its own page on Facebook, where you can post comments, questions, and photos. Search for Maryland Native Plant Society on Facebook, and become a Fan. You can also keep up with other Native Plant Societies on Facebook. We found FB pages or groups for Virginia Native Plant Society (plus the Potowmack and John Clayton Chapters), PA, NJ, FL, TX, KS, WA, MN, AZ, CA (several chapters). Facebook is for grownups too.

New! Sign up for activities on Meetup.com

MNPS is pleased to announce a new Internet venue for scheduling field trips, educational events, volunteer sign-ups, and meetings. Using a website called Meetup.com, MNPS members and others will be able to view a calendar of activities and sign up for them. The MNPS Meetup website is called "Maryland Native Plant Society Meetup." Our Meetup site is administered by an "organizer," who is our very own Board Member, Matt Cohen. We encourage you to look at our Meetup website, and join it, as explained below. You'll find there are Meetup groups with many varied interests. But don't worry. This will not be the exclusive means for members to learn about our activities. We will continue to publish *Native News*, post activities on our website (mdflora.org), and send regular email notices.

What is Meetup? According to their website, Meetup is on a mission to help the world's people self-organize into local groups. So far more than 6.5 million people have signed up and formed over 60,000 local Meetup Groups. Meetup.com was founded in 2001 by Scott Heiferman, Matt Meeker, and Peter Kamali. In an interview, Scott said, "The primary inspiration was the book *Bowling Alone*, by Harvard sociologist Robert Putnam, about the decline of community in America and how people don't know their neighbors anymore. The Internet does a number of wonderful things, but it treats geography as irrelevant. We still live in a world where the local level is extremely important. ... We are providing a service that revitalizes the Internet for local communities."

How do I start? Each person wishing to use Meetup will need a profile. So the first step is to create your profile on Meetup.com. Once your profile is ready, the next step is to join our MNPS Meetup group, by searching for Maryland Native Plant Society. You may also find other Meetup groups that pique your curiosity. In case you need help, or want some more information before you make the plunge, we plan to set up at the monthly meetings to assist with creating profiles, adding events, answering questions, or for signing up for events. We also plan to have a demonstration at one of the monthly meetings. Once you've joined the MNPS Meetup, you may browse the calendar of events, post discussion questions, privately email other Meetup members, and of course, sign up for events.

How to Set Up Your Meetup Profile

Go to the website www.Meetup.com/register. You will need to enter your real name, an email address to use for Meetup activities, create a password, and enter your local zip code. Once your profile is created, there is an account button which allows for many custom settings. Add some of your own favorite photographs. Help is only an email away. The email address that you created can remain hidden from other Meetup users.

Helpful tips:

*Do not include any personal information like your cell phone number or personal email address in your profile or in your RSVP comments. These pages are not private. Your profile information will be visible to everyone in Meetup and potentially programs designed to capture email addresses for spammers. You can always send and receive private email via the Meetup message system if you choose to activate it.

*It isn't necessary to list your last name in your profile. It is helpful if you use a last initial so we can tell the difference between Dave S and Dave T. If you wish to change your "name", click on the "Account" link up at the right hand top of the page and edit your name at any time. *Using an alias (anything but your real name) is not such a good idea because it makes it difficult to find you at an event.

*A personal photograph will help other members know who you are, but is not required.

Do you know when your membership expires?

To tell when your membership expires, (and what type of membership you have) take a look at your mailing label. For example, if your label reads 4/1/2010 your membership expires at the end of April. If it's time to renew, please use the form on the back of this newsletter or download one from the website. Mail your dues to MNPS Membership, PO Box 4877, Silver Spring, MD 20914. If your label does not include a date (example E-54) you are receiving a newsletter as part of our exchange program with other native plant (and similar) societies. Memberships or donations to support this service are appreciated.

Native Plant Professionals

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

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Chapter Events and Updates

Greater Baltimore Area Chapter

Randy Pheobus of the Native Grasslands Conservancy will speak on "Preserving Biodiversity - How Pollinators Benefit" at the Wednesday, March 17 meeting of the Baltimore Chapter. The meeting will be held at Irvine Nature Center and will start at 7:00 pm.

Western Mountains Chapter

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

2010 Schedule of Native Plant Happenings in our Region

Please note that chapter meeting locations may change due to scheduling conflicts beyond our control. If a meeting must be cancelled, a notice will be emailed ASAP.

April 3, 10, 17 & 24

Frostburg State University from 1:00 to 5:00 pm

Arboretum Workdays

Volunteer for the environment! Help remove exotics, restore natives, and build a split-rail fence. Meet at the gazebo in the stadium parking lot, ready to work outside. Tools and gloves provided. Any questions please contact Sunshine Brosi at 301-687-4213 or slbrosi@frostburg.edu.

April 15 & 16; 18 & 19

Savage River State Forest from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

SRWA Red Spruce Plantings

Adults are needed to help the *Savage River Watershed Association* (SRWA) plant red spruce plugs along streams in the Savage River State Forest. The goal of these plantings is to maintain conifer cover along native brook trout streams where hemlocks may be killed by the hemlock woolly adelgid, an exotic invasive insect. For more details or to volunteer, email the *Savage River Watershed Association* at SRWAcoordinator@gmail.com or call Ron Boyer, SRWA red spruce planting coordinator, at 301-895-3686.

April 20

Appalachian Laboratory at 7:00 pm

Chapter Meeting Topic – TBA

Speaker – Linh Phu, Natural Resource Biologist and Landowner Incentive Program Coordinator, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Details to follow...

Her program will begin immediately following a brief MNPS chapter business meeting.

Directions: From I-68 take exit 33 (Braddock Rd & Midlothian Rd exit). Follow Braddock Road approximately .2 miles to the entrance to the Appalachian Lab on the left side of the road (301 Braddock Road). There is plenty of parking in front of the building.

April 24

New Germany State Park from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

SRWA Native Plant Demonstration & Sale

Native plant enthusiasts will answer your questions about native plants, conservation landscaping and backyard wildlife habitat practices. A variety of native plants (grasses, sedges, wildflowers, shrubs, and trees) will be available for purchase. All proceeds will benefit the *Savage River Watershed Association*. For more information contact the SRWA at SRWAcoordinator@gmail.com or call Liz McDowell, SRWA native plant sale coordinator, at 301-895-3686.

Directions: From I-68 take exit 22 and follow signs for New Germany State Park. Turn left into the park onto McAndrews Hill Road. Signs will direct you to the native plant display and sale.

April 29

Bear Pen Wildlands from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

SRWA Battling Botanical Bullies

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 is threatened by a variety of exotic invasive species. Kerrie Kyde, Invasive Plant Specialist with the Maryland Wildlife & Heritage Service, is providing technical support. Wade Dorsey, Savage River State Forest acting manager, is providing work tools. Mary Ironside, Big Run & New Germany State Park manager, is providing free camping the night before for any out-of-town volunteers. The *Savage River Watershed Association* is coordinating the project and providing snacks and drinks for volunteers. For more details or to volunteer, email Savage River Watershed Association at SRWAcoordinator@gmail.com or call Ron Boyer, SRWA invasive species removal coordinator, at 301-895-3686.

Upcoming Native Plant Sales

The wholesale nursery American Native Plants Nursery is opening up for retail sales on the following days: Sunday March 21, Sunday, April 11, and Saturday, May 1 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. The nursery location is: American Native Plants Nursery, 4812 E. Joppa Road, White Marsh, MD 21128. The flyer says they'll have over 200 species of native trees, shrubs, grasses, vines, groundcovers, ferns, and perennials!

Also see above for a native plant demonstration and sale in Garrett County on Saturday, April 24.

Spring Field Trips

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (89th in Series) – Fort Stanton

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica
Date: Sunday, March 7 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
We will return again to **Fort Stanton**.
Directions: In Southeast Washington, D.C., get onto Martin Luther King Blvd SE traveling south and take Morris Road east. Go 5 or 6 blocks to where the road curves north and changes name to Erie Street. Go 5 blocks and turn right onto 18th Place (a block after 18th St) and park on street alongside park and Anacostia Museum.
Bring: Water and lunch. **Note:** Easy to moderate walk. Cancelled if raining; call to check.
Contact: Mary Pat Rowan blair-rowan@starpower.net or 202-526-8821.

Nature Hike to Greet New Spring in Cheverly, Prince George's County

Leader: Matt T. Salo
Date: Sunday, April 11 **Time:** 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
The PG/AA Chapter has organized a generic nature hike in Euclid Woods in Cheverly to celebrate the arrival of new vegetation and birds back from their wintering lands. We will examine the rich tree and shrub diversity of the area, including some unique flora, and survey the amazing revitalization of a restored area formerly overrun with invasive plants. This green oasis in otherwise urbanized area demonstrates that even the so-called developed tier can have rich biota and thrive if properly safeguarded and maintained. In focusing on ecosystem interactions there is something for everyone to see from stream ecology to unique microhabitats such as the "red desert" with pine barren type terrain. Children over ten welcome. Animal tracking tips for those interested.
Directions: Approach Cheverly from either south or north on B-W Parkway; take the exit for Cheverly onto Rte 202 (Landover Rd), head east a few hundred feet and turn right onto Cheverly Ave heading south. Continue for six blocks to Forest Rd, opposite a small park on your left. Turn right and continue three blocks until the road splits; stay to the right and continue straight ahead on Greenleaf Rd until you reach a dead end. Park anywhere on street and meet the group at the end of the road.
Bring: Sturdy footwear and jeans recommended; field guides for birds, trees, and spring flora; cameras, and binoculars for birds are optional.
Note: Easy walking in fairly flat terrain, some wet spots possible if there have been recent rains; in that case wear appropriate footwear. May be cancelled for heavy rain and rescheduled for Sunday, April 18 at same hours.
Contact: mtsalo1@gmail.com or 301-341-1261.

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (90th in Series) – Shepherd Parkway

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica
Date: Sunday, April 11 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
We will return to part of the Civil War Fort Connector in the vicinity of Fort Carroll referred to as Shepherd Parkway. Here we will see the ground carpeted with Toothwort and many unusual trees and ground plants. This area is just south of St. Elizabeth's Historic Site.
Directions: From the north take I-295 south past Suitland Parkway to exit #2-Bolling Air Force Base/Malcolm X (formerly Portland Street). Drive up hill going east and park on Malcolm X near Newcomb Street. From the south, take I-295 from the Beltway, proceed past South Capitol Street to Malcolm X, exit on right, and proceed as above.
Bring: Water and lunch. **Note:** Easy to moderate walk. A light drizzle is fine but cancelled if pouring rain.
Contact: Mary Pat Rowan blair-rowan@starpower.net or 202-526-8821.

Carderock Recreation Area Woodlands and Tow Path

Leader: Marney Bruce
Date: Saturday, May 1 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
This is a wonderful time to get out to see lots of spring wildflowers at this natural gem just outside the beltway. This popular recreational area, which includes a rock climbing wall, is wedged between the C&O Canal and the Potomac River and the wildflowers, wildlife, and blooming trees will be abundant. We will be walking in the woods, on the tow path, and occasionally crossing streams and climbing hills.
Directions: From the Capital Beltway take the exit for Great Falls/Carderock and follow Clara Barton Pkwy heading west towards Carderock. The Naval Surface Warfare Division will be on your right. Take that exit off the Parkway. At the stop sign at the end of the ramp turn left, go over the parkway, and bear right following the signs to Carderock. You will be passing under the tow path. When the road ends in a T, turn right and go to the last parking lot. There are bathrooms there.
Bring: Water, lunch, sturdy walking shoes or boots. Optional: binoculars, hand lens, camera, field guides.
Note: Light drizzle is fine but cancelled if heavy rain.
Contact: Marney Bruce marney@simplicity-matters.org or 301-652-0492.

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (91st in Series) – Fort Chaplin

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica
Date: Sunday, May 2 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
We will return to Fort Chaplin. Always a very special trip in May. We see wildflowers which only appear in May and each year at Fort Chaplin we seem to see more than the year before.

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

Bring: Water and lunch. **Note:** Easy to moderate walk. A light drizzle is fine but cancelled if pouring rain.

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

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (92nd in Series) – Fort Dupont

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

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

As we have done in the past, we have planned this event as a joint field trip with the Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society. We will explore the terrace gravel forests of **Fort Dupont** both North and South of the stream that flows through the middle of Fort Dupont Park.

Directions: We will meet in the parking lot of the Ft. DuPont Activity Center off Randall Circle. Randall Circle is on Minnesota Ave SE at Massachusetts Ave SE. Access via East Capital Street and go south on Minnesota Ave SE to Randall Circle which is at Mass Ave SE. Or, take I-295 from the beltway north to Pennsylvania Ave SE and turn north on Minnesota Ave. Travel north until you get to Mass Ave SE which is Randall Circle. Go around the circle and into the park at the sign and you will see the parking lot on your left.

Bring: Water and lunch. **Note:** Easy to moderate walk. A light drizzle is fine but cancelled if pouring rain.

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

General Announcements

Mid-Atlantic Field Trip Calendar

Take a look at <http://sites.google.com/site/botanicfieldtrips/>. It's a combined field trip calendar for mid-Atlantic native plant societies, organized by Muhlenberg Native Plant Society of Lancaster Co, PA and Philadelphia Botanic Club. Very convenient for planning an out-of-state jaunt.

Mosses for Beginners

Thursday, April 22; 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Saturday, April 24; 2:00 – 4:00 pm (Walk)

Location: Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, 1361 Wrighton Rd, Lothian, MD 20711; 410 741-9330

Using slides, dramatization, models, and microscope work, moss expert Linda Davis will introduce participants to moss anatomy, life cycle, ecology, human use, and gardening. She and her husband, Charles Davis, have inventoried mosses and liverworts for the National Park Service at Great Falls Park,

Virginia, and Piscataway Park and Fort Washington Parks in Maryland.

Ongoing Moss Study Group

We're a mix of beginners and advanced beginners, and we take our time looking closely at a moss or two each meeting. Led by Charlie and Linda Davis and sponsored by the Natural History Society of Maryland, we meet from 10:00 am until noon on the last Saturday of the month (March 27, April 24, May 29, and June 26). **Location:** Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum, 300 Oella Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21128. **For a map:** <http://tinyurl.com/6h6dvh>

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

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

The Montgomery County based nonprofit group,

Chesapeake Natives Inc., is seeking volunteers to help protect and monitor wild lupine populations in several counties. Chesapeake Natives is working under a permit from the State of Maryland to find and protect the few remaining populations of lupines. Existing lupine populations have been verified in the following counties: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Caroline, Carroll, Dorchester, and Worcester. The volunteers will be taken to their locations in the spring and trained in their task. No previous experience is necessary. It is imperative that the volunteers agree to certain ethical guidelines. They must protect the confidentiality of the locations, agree not to remove seed, and be committed to the task. Some locations will require the removal of invasives including small trees. Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator for more information: Linda Blossom 240-429-9295, Lindajblossom@gmail.com, or Volunteer@chesapeakenatives.org.

The Nature Conservancy April Workdays

April 8 (Thursday) John Friend Cave tree planting, 11-4: Join us as we plant a variety of native trees and shrubs in the field above a protected cave system in Garrett County. We will also be joined by The American Chestnut Foundation, who will provide native chestnuts for planting alongside the seedlings.

April 15 (Thursday) Jackson Lane tree planting, 10-4: Join us as we replant an old farm field with native trees and shrubs in a Caroline County preserve. This site contains an extensive complex of Delmarva Bays, both natural and restored, but on this date we will be focusing on the fields and forest adjacent to the bays.

April 24 (Saturday) The Glades red spruce restoration, 10-4: Join us as we transplant several thousand red spruce seedlings rescued from a nearby right-of-way, into an ecologically unique Garrett County preserve.

To sign up for any of these, please contact Genese Leach gleach@tnc.org. For more info, go to: www.nature.org.

~ Wildflower in Focus ~

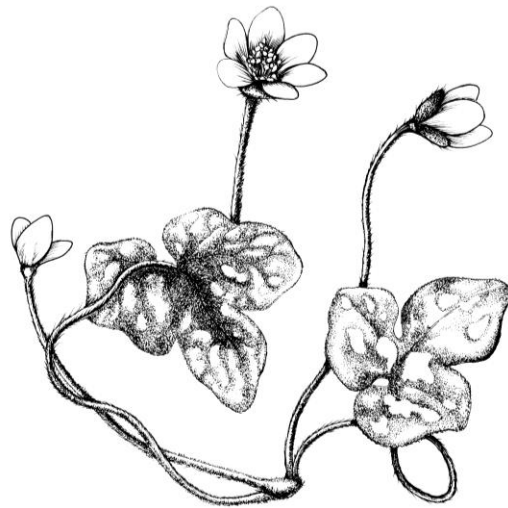
ROUND-LOBED HEPATICA

Hepatica americana (DC.) Ker Gawler
(*Hepatica nobilis* Schreb. var. *obtusata* (Pursh) Steyererm.)
(*Anemone americana* (DC.) H. Hara)

Buttercup Family (Ranunculaceae)

Written by
Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Illustration by
Tina Thieme Brown



Hepatica americana

Tina Thieme Brown ©2010

Hepatica is an early spring wildflower, variously colored pink, blue, lavender or white. When I was growing up in Vermont, my siblings and I searched the woodlands near our home for hepaticas as soon as the snow melted each spring. My sister, brother, and I were enchanted by their pastel hues and leathery leaves. Two Maryland Native Plant Society former presidents and longtime board members share my affinity for this wildflower. In Montgomery County Forest Ecologist and teacher Carole Bergmann's words: "Finding a hepatica in bloom is one of my favorite late winter hike experiences! And of course, I'm always happy to spot the leaves in the off-bloom season, and point them out on hikes whenever I see them." Author, botanist, and educator Cris Fleming has a long-standing tradition of searching for hepaticas each March 23rd, her daughter Molly's birthday.

The plant gets its name from the leathery purple-brown basal leaves, which resemble the liver (see herbal lore, below). Hepatica shares its linguistic roots with "hepatitis." The species most common in Maryland is the round-lobed hepatica (*Hepatica americana*). However, some botanists now lump this species with the sharp-lobed hepatica (*Hepatica acutiloba*) as separate varieties of the single species: *H. nobilis*. Round-lobed hepatica is designated *H. nobilis* var. *obtusata* and sharp-lobed is called *H. nobilis* var. *acuta*. Other botanists include the plants in the genus *Anemone*. Round-lobed hepatica: *A. americana* and sharp-lobed: *A. acutiloba*.

Flowers: ½ - 1" wide, with 6-12 blue, pink, white, lavender, or purple petal-like sepals. Slightly cup-shaped to nearly flat with 3 sepal-like bracts beneath the petal-like sepals and a reddish pubescent stem. One flower per stem. **Leaves:** Very distinctive basal leaves only, each with 3 rounded lobes and heart-shaped base. Petiole pubescent. **Height and Growth Habit:** 3 - 7" high; flowers upright or slightly nodding, leaves recumbent or partially upright. **Locations:** Round-lobed hepatica grows throughout Maryland but it is not common on the coastal plain. I have found a few specimens in Rock Creek Park and along Sugarloaf Mountain's Bear Branch. Carole Bergmann says: "I do know that I can regularly find round-lobed hepatica in Rachel Carson Conservation Park, Little Bennett Regional Park, Hoyles Mill Conservation Park, Cabin John Stream Valley Park, and Northwest Branch Stream Valley Park. However, you don't often find hepaticas in Montgomery County anymore. I have seen them at Snyders Landing, in Frederick Watershed forests, in state park acreage along the Patuxent, near Great Falls on Bear Island, in Virginia at Scott's Run and Difficult Run. Again, never in any great number—usually just one or two on a hike." According to Cris Fleming: "The only reliable places I now find hepatica [near Washington] are on the Marsden Tract on the C&O Canal and along Difficult Run in Great Falls, Virginia. There is still plenty of it at Snyders Landing. I see lots of leaves although I always get there after it has flowered. I certainly think it is less common on the coastal plain and I remember being surprised to see several clumps at the Jug Bay Area of Patuxent River Park many years ago." **Habitat and Range:** Upland woods; eastern Canada south to Georgia and Missouri. According to plant ecologist, former MNPS president, and longtime board member Rod Simmons: "A good list of places from Cris and Carole. As you know, Snyders Landing is a limestone outcrop community and Hoyles Mill a diabase community – Basic Oak-

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Hickory Forest. In fact, there are a good number of *H. americana* easily seen growing amongst diabase boulders along Sugarland Run at Runnymede Park in Fairfax County, Virginia – also Basic Oak-Hickory Forest.

Most other piedmont and fall line sites with hepatica, on either side of river, mentioned by Carole and Cris, will be Mesic Mixed Hardwood Forest, with richer coves and slopes in certain areas of the Potomac Gorge being Basic Mesic Forest.

As one travels east, towards and into the coastal plain, hepatica becomes quite rare to absent. In some cases on colluvial slopes below Terrace Gravel Forests (Oak-Heath Forest) along the fall line, where ancient, highly weathered clays (probably montmorillonite) of the Potomac Formation are exposed, one or two hepatica plants are often found in small microniches with an amazing diversity of plants typical of Basic Forests and acidic Oak-Hickory Forests of the Triassic Basin. Hepatica is fairly well distributed, even today, in these remaining woodlands along the fall line, but is very rare.

Natural Resource Inventory surveys in Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, Virginia have uncovered two very isolated occurrences of hepatica from upland colluvial slope forest communities, at Barcroft Park in Arlington and a nearby similar site in Alexandria.

Hepatica is very rare to absent on the coastal plain, but we found a couple of old specimens years ago at Chapman Forest in Charles County, Maryland growing amidst calcareous marine sands and fossil shells in a steep ravine in Shell-Marl Ravine Forest (Basic Mesic Forest)."

Wesley M. Knapp, Eastern Region Ecologist/Botanist for the Maryland Natural Heritage Program reports: "In Maryland, [round-lobed hepatica] *Anemone americana* is widespread and gets onto the Outer Coastal Plain where it is rare on the Eastern Shore south to Talbot County.

[Sharp-lobed hepatica] *Anemone acutiloba* is reported from Garrett and Prince George's Counties, MD. The Garrett Co report is Luttman 1935 (unpublished masters thesis on the Flora of Garrett Co.) and the PG Co report is reportedly backed by a specimen at MARY."

Herbal Lore: American Indians used leaf tea of this and the similar sharp-lobed hepatica or liverleaf (*H. acutiloba*) for a variety of ailments, including coughs, fevers and liver complaints. Alonso Abugattas, Arlington County naturalist and Director of the Long Branch Nature Center tells "Wildflower in Focus" that of the myriad common names circulating for this wildflower, "many point to the doctrine of signatures, its appearance, and such: Liverwort, liver-leaf, squirrel cup, snow trillium, mayflower, blue anemone, choisy, edellbare, liver-moss, mouse-ears, crystalwort, golden trefoil, ivy flower, herb trinity, kidneywort, and Paas-blumes (from the Dutch for 'Easter Blooms'). Both forms were used extensively for a variety of medical problems (abdominal aches, as a contraceptive, inducing childbirth, breathing problems, convulsions, as a laxative, as well as to treat hemorrhoids, convulsions, ringworm, bruises, dysentery, etc.) by Native American Indian tribes (including for liver type problems by the Cherokee among others). Unusual uses included the Iroquois using it for fortune-telling, the Chippewa as charms to help trap furbearing animals, the Potawatomi as a dye, and the Meskwaki as a wash for crossed-eyes. The Cherokee supposedly used it to induce vomiting and thus eliminate 'bad snake dreams.' Linnaeus even listed it as a medicinal plant in his *Materia Medica*. According to more country folklore, its powdered leaves could be spread on an intended's clothing as a love spell of sorts. Hepaticas use ants to distribute their seeds (myrmecochory) and are also found in Eurasia. According to author Jack Sanders, hepatica was used in a commercial medicine called 'Dr. Rogers' Liverwort and Tar' in the 1800's. According to Sanders, more than 200 tons of hepatica leaves were imported to Europe in 1883 alone." **Similar Species:** Rue-anemone (*Anemonella thalictroides*) is generally more common than hepatica and it has stem leaves as well as basal ones. Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) has larger flowers and variously lobed (not strictly 3-lobed) basal leaves. All 3 species grow along Bear Branch at Sugarloaf Mountain and bloom simultaneously. Sharp-lobed hepatica (*H. acutiloba*) has leaves with pointed, rather than rounded, lobes. It grows in the mountains of far western Maryland, according to Brown and Brown's *Herbaceous Plants of Maryland*. See also Knapp quote above. **Blooming Time:** March - April.

Alonso Abugattas, Carole Bergmann, Marney Bruce, Cris Fleming, Tony Fleming, Kirsten Johnson, Wesley M. Knapp, Mary Pat Rowan, Rod Simmons, and Louisa Thompson contributed to this article. For more hepatica locations consult: *Finding Wildflowers in the Washington-Baltimore Area* (Fleming, Lobstein and Tufty, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995).

"Wildflower in Focus" is adapted from: *An Illustrated Guide to Eastern Woodland Wildflowers & Trees: 350 Plants Observed at Sugarloaf Mountain, Maryland* (Choukas-Bradley and Brown, University of Virginia Press, 2008).

Stewardship Advocacy

Please ask your Senators and Representatives to appropriate \$1,000,000 each year for 5 years to Maryland and \$1,000,000 each year to Virginia as emergency Federal funding to detect and treat Asiatic Wavyleaf Basketgrass. This is the best approach we have to save an estimated 20% of the natural environment in ¼th of the United States. It is spreading very rapidly and covers most of our woodland habitats like Astro turf, replacing almost all the other herbaceous plants. It is far worse than Japanese Stiltgrass and forms a dense carpet of hundreds of acres after 5-10 years if not controlled. So far it is only in Maryland and Virginia so we still have a chance. Potential sources of funding include stimulus money, green job money, authorization for 2010-2014 invasive prevention and treatment related to the Endangered Species Act, and co-sponsoring and modifying the 4/1 matching funds 100th Meridian Invasive Species bill to include Eastern States with additional appropriations for urgent issues such as Wavyleaf Basketgrass.

Wavyleaf Basketgrass is the worst invasive plant threat in the United States from the Carolinas to Maine and west to the Midwestern states based on the damage done by Japanese Stiltgrass. Fortunately, Wavyleaf Basketgrass can still be eradicated and doing so may be the biggest “bang for the buck” employment of environmental funding at this time. Although Japanese Stiltgrass has been controlled in the immediate vicinity of many Federal and State listed endangered and threatened species, the introduction of an even worse invasive plant species in their habitats and ecosystems would be a major unnecessary burden to impose. It makes more sense to spend federal dollars under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act at the source of the problem rather than later in the immediate vicinity of these species. Another practical option would be to continue funding successful green jobs work such as that done by the Student Conservation Association on detection and control of non-native invasive plants to include Wavyleaf Basketgrass.

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The article below appeared in a recent issue of the newsletter of the Southern Maryland Group of the Sierra Club.

The Southern Maryland Group of the Sierra Club advocates that SMECO and PEPCO convert habitat under power lines and utility corridors to shrub/scrub habitat for birds, plants, and butterflies. Do not mow or broadcast herbicide. Instead, simply cut stump the seedlings of trees. Delmarva Power (the main power service for the Delaware-Maryland-Virginia corridor) has done this for years. There is an initial cost but considerable cost savings in the long haul. Bird watchers and researchers know the value of shrub habitat to our resident nesting species as well as many migrants. The disappearance of this habitat through lawns, parking lots, and other development have reduced the availability of this valuable area. Through proper management of their powerlines, energy companies like SMECO and PEPCO can have a positive impact on bird populations. Listed below are some of the species dependent on shrub habitat. Common shrub bird species include Prairie Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, White-eyed Vireo, Brown Thrasher, Gray Catbird, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Bobwhite, American Woodcock, Eastern Towhee, and Field Sparrow, as well as some migrants (that may breed elsewhere in Maryland) like Willow Flycatcher, Blue-winged Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Mourning Warbler, and Bewick's Wren. We have for years been asking PEPCO and SMECO to manage the vegetation under power lines for scrub-shrub habitat which ornithologists tell us is the most needed habitat in Maryland. Delmarva Power has been doing this for years instead of broadcast herbicides application or mowing. All they have to do is cut stump the seedlings of trees with triclopyr. They may even leave a few species of trees such as Virginia Magnolia, Serviceberry, Holly, and Fringe Tree which do not grow tall enough to reach the power lines. Leave the native myrtle which the Myrtle Warbler needs during fall migration. We prevent and mitigate the spread and introduction of non-native invasive plant species due to new utility corridor construction. We saw over 100 feet of scrub-shrub habitat under a power line at Swann Park by the library. It was almost all natives and many kinds. When Marc Imlay was natural resources manager for the Army National Guard he helped the Kentucky National Guard adopt this approach for an installation. They consulted with Delmarva Power. This approach works after staff gets technical training.

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For training, PEPCO and SMECO can consult with Richard A. Johnstone, President, Integrated Vegetation Management Partners, Inc., P.O. Box 9886, Newark, DE 19714-9886, Ph/Fax 302-738-9079, ivmpartners@comcast.net. Training includes commercial pesticide applicators certified in right-of-way and industrial weed pest control.



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