

Native News is published six times a year by the Maryland Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 4877, Silver Spring, Maryland 20914.

The Maryland Native Plant Society (MNPS) is a nonprofit organization that offers 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.

MNPS sponsors monthly meetings, workshops, field trips and a fall conference.

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weeks. We have addressed our concerns that such frequent mowing can increase soil erosion, and increase the potential for exotic plant invasion. But I believe that the real solution has to be better communication between the Canal's natural resources and maintenance divisions. Such frequent mowing is an expensive, time consuming endeavor. Understand the local flowering patterns and seasons to minimize cutting plants before they have the chance to set viable fruit. The diversity of plants, not only species richness, but blooming periods and plant height, benefits local wildlife by providing food sources throughout the year, and cover from predators and nature watchers traveling the towpath. Balance this with the costs to repair eroded hillside and invasive plant control, and indirectly, the increase in air and water pollution caused by gas powered mowers. Management decisions have to be made on the basis of accurate information on plant diversity, accessibility needs, and the perceived safety concerns of mowed and non-mowed areas. To date, the concerns over the safety of park maintenance personnel are taking precedence over all other management decisions.

Obviously a change as dramatic as this will not happen before the upcoming season of mowing. But we can influence their actions in specific areas of the Park. We need members to keep the Park informed of the areas that must be protected from frequent mowing. Please write to Susan Alberts; Natural Resources Specialist; C&O National Historical Park; P.O. Box 4; Sharpsburg, MD 21782 with places on the canal that need protection. Also, if you are able to volunteer your time to survey the areas, let her know that as well. Remember, the Canal is the public's park, and we should require that the management and conservation must work together to guarantee the preservation of this wonderful resource.

So as you are exploring the fabulous spring flora near Violette's Lock or Snyder's Landing (Ed. Note: see the enclosed field trip brochure for MNPS walks in this area) keep note of the bounty of plants found and report your findings to the Park. Enjoy the spring and see you at one of our many events

Karyn Molines
 President

Seeking Nominations for Board of Directors

Do you (or someone you know) have some administrative skills to volunteer to the Society? How about expertise in recruiting new members or promoting the Society in newspapers as do other organizations? Would you be willing to be part of a groups of dedicated members working towards the preservation of Maryland's native plants and their habitats? The Nominating Committee is seeking names of interested members to serve a two year term on the all-volunteer Board of Directors. Current members can nominate themselves, or nominate a willing member (please check with them first OK?) Directors must attend bi-monthly meetings, generally held on weekday evenings, but sometimes on weekend days. Each Board member volunteers on at least one Committee and should be willing to work towards increasing the profile of the Society throughout Maryland. We are specifically seeking nominees with bookkeeping abilities or members who live outside the Baltimore-Washington Corridor. Nominations for the Officers are also encouraged. To nominate yourself or another member, please send a brief biography (1 one paragraph) to the Nominating Committee at the Society's post office box or e-mail Louisa Thompson, louisathompson@erols.com, Nominating Committee Chair or Karyn Molines, kmolines@chesapeake.net.

Interested in submitting announcements, newsy articles or artwork to Native News? Then send your contribution(s) to nativenews@mdflora.org or to jah3r@excite.com or mail to MNPS, P.O. Box 4877, Silver Spring, MD 20914. Material for the July/August issue must be received by June 25.

HISTORIC JESUP BLAIR PARK: LOVE IT OR LOSE IT!

Located at the DC/MD line, with direct frontage on Georgia Avenue and Blair Road, historic Jesup Blair Park represents the largest and oldest significant stand of original native trees in the downtown Silver Spring area. Indeed it's the only park of its kind in Silver Spring. Its 14.5 acres are home to 250 trees representing 42 species, including over 100 historic old remnant forest trees, some over 200 years old. Violet Blair Janin bequeathed the country estate to Maryland as a public park in perpetuity in 1933. Her will stipulates that "all of the trees now upon the property be preserved except as such as it is *absolutely* necessary to remove in connection with the laying out of such park" ["such park" refers to the park that was to be created in the 1930s].

The survival of the Park is under threat. Montgomery College is collaborating with Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) to put a Cultural Arts Center (CAC) in the northeast section of the park where 40 trees occur, including a grove of 21 historic White Oak trees. Additional plans include extensive construction of other facilities where trees now stand, including a network of paved bike/pedestrian trails, a skate board park, 2 new tennis courts, a full and a half basketball court, restroom and storage structure.

Two hundred and five of the 250 trees in the park would be irreparably harmed by this plan. About 75 trees would be destroyed outright, and the survival of another 130 trees would be critically impaired due to construction and paving impacts to the trees' critical root zones. These losses would include the destruction and/or potential loss of 82 of the 100 historic old remnant forest trees. In short, the construction of the cultural arts center and the excessiveness of paved trails would destroy the park, the natural environment and the historic setting.

All of this damage can be avoided by relocating the cultural arts center to the adjacent Giant Bakery site, which the College is in the process of purchasing. The rest of the impacts to the trees in the park can be avoided by utilizing the existing layout of trails and designing the other park facilities, such as the ballcourts, more sensitively so as to respect the park's trees. This solution meets the college's need to expand, maintains the natural park environment for the community, and preserves the beauty and integrity of the historic setting.

The Park's "naturally occurring" native forest trees include 12 species, mostly Oak, including White Oak and also Post, Black, and Spanish Oaks. Other species that naturally occur in this ridge top forest setting include Black Gum, Red Maple, Persimmon, Black Locust, Black Cherry, Tulip poplar, and Pignut and Mockernut Hickories. The naturally occurring introduced trees include Osage Orange (much planted as a living fence before the use of barbed wire), Catalpa (for ornament and fence posts), Sugar maple (for shade, ornament and syrup), and Mulberry, introduced for the silk trade.

From an ecological perspective, these trees provide irreplaceable biological functions. They offer shade, filter pollutants from the air, provide fresh oxygen, retain and filter water, and act as a sound barrier. The older forest trees also provide abundant food for urban wildlife. These trees, with their grace and beauty, offer peace and serenity by their very nature. In short, parks with trees, particularly the big, old trees, are an oasis from the hectic pace of life in downtown Silver Spring and contribute to a higher quality of life.

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Northeast Chapter News—Native Tree and Shrub Planting at Bel Air High School

In the fall of 1998, students enrolled in the Environmental Science program at Bel Air High School conducted a habitat analysis of their Bel Air, Maryland campus. One important component of wildlife habitat found to be lacking was trees – both in numbers and in diversity. Students decided to rectify that situation using funds from an environmental enhancement grant provided by the Harford County Department of Public Works. Students in Environmental Science II and on the Envirothon Team assessed the campus for potential planting areas. They then obtained permission from the BAHS Administration, Athletic Department, and, after consulting with the Groundskeeping Staff, decided on the best possible planting sites. Three different sites were selected – an upland site, a riparian buffer, and portion of the athletic practice field that is seasonally saturated with groundwater.

The students then set about the task of selecting native tree and shrub species that would tolerate conditions at each of these three planting sites. They chose 35 different species. The list included Flowering, Silky, and Red Osier Dogwood, Red and Sugar Maple, Red and Black Chokeberry, three species of Viburnum, Serviceberry, Musclewood, Atlantic White Cedar, Hackberry, Buttonbush, Redbud, Yellowwood, Sweetpepper Bush, Witchhazel, Virginia Sweetpire, Sweet and Black Gum, Sourwood, Sycamore, Pin and Red Oak, Elderberry, Winterberry, American Holly, and Sassafras. There were approximately 500 trees and shrubs in this first planting.

Students from all 13 sections of Environmental Science participated in the planting, staking, and mulching. Sam Jones of Atlantic Star Nursery taught several students how to dig ball and burlap specimen trees for an adjacent site slated for development. Several of the larger trees were included in this project. Students from Bel Air Middle School and Homestead Elementary School assisted with the tree planting on the sites near their schools. In order to make the job of mowing and maintenance easier, the trees were planted in large groups which were then covered with mulch.

After two years, survival rates are greater than 90% in spite of the severe drought we experienced during the first summer. Students replace any dead trees with others from the BAHS Tree Nursery. They are also involved in selecting and planting herbaceous material in the mulched beds to provide additional habitat and color to the project.

These students learned many lessons while participating in this project. They learned how to analyze a site for its wildlife habitat potential. They learned the importance of selecting native tree and shrub species. The students also learned how to safely use a variety of tools, handle a wheelbarrow, dig a proper hole, spread mulch, organize work groups, set daily and long-term goals, and take pride in a job well done. And they definitely learned how to plant trees!

What's New on the Web Page?

For some years the MNPS has printed and distributed nursery comment cards. These are cards you can sign and leave with a nursery to register your protest if you discover they are selling invasive alien species, or they are selling cultivars masquerading as natives, or they don't have some common native species that you think they should be selling. These cards are now available on line. Carol Jelich has created a system that lets you download a small file so you can easily print them yourself. There is a link to these cards from the "Nurseries with Native Plants" page [mdflora.org/publications/nurseries.html] as well as from the MNPS publications list.

The MNPS has as its goals "Protecting, Conserving, and Restoring Maryland's Native Plants and Habitats". There is no reason to sit home wondering how you can help accomplish this goal since you can now easily find a way to get involved in the restoration effort through our web site. The site currently lists six links to ongoing projects that can use your help every month. You will find background material, a schedule of events, and a contact person for each project. Recent additions to this list are Brookside Gardens and the Wilson Bridge native plant rescue. [mdflora.org/volunteers_invasives.html]

We have added links to some very useful maps available on line. These can be found under the "native plant web links" section of the main page. [http://mdflora.org/maps_on_line.html] You can link to TopoZone which has every USGS 1:100,000, 1:63,360, 1:25,000, and 1:24,000 scale topographic map for the entire United States. At TopoZone you can find the map you want by searching on a place name, or entering the map coordinates in Decimal degrees, Deg/min/sec, or UTM coords. This is a very handy resource if you want a quick look at the topo for some specific place. There are also links to maps closer to home. The Maryland Geological Survey has a number of useful physiographic and geologic maps on line. A particularly useful collection are the geologic maps by county. Some of the counties are broken down to a remarkable level of detail. If you want to know the soil type in your own backyard these maps will give you a start.

In our continuing effort to save trees (and postage costs) the latest issues of Marilandica, Native News, and the Events and Field trips brochure are always available to you on line. Because electrons are faster than mail trucks they are usually posted there before they arrive in your mailbox.

[mdflora.org/publications/publications.html]

You may have asked yourself, "Why does our web page look like this? Everyone else has a site filled with nifty pictures and buttons that flash but we still have one from the Pleistocene that is all text and has this huge list of links on the main page." Well, there are four objectives that guide the MNPS web site: speed, ease of use, information, and permeability. The site has no needless graphics because they slow down the loading of a page for people with a dial up connection. You see the whole MNPS site the moment you connect. There are no flashing buttons because these often require the latest version of some web browser or a specific web browser plug in. You can easily use the MNPS web site with any web browser that has ever been

made. Nothing on the Society web site is more than three clicks from the main menu. The usual buttons that say things like "about us", or "our mission", or "meet the officers" are missing because the site is mostly about native plants, not about the image and structure of the MNPS. That long list of links on the main page is to increase permeability. A growing number of web sites are complete dead ends. They are nothing more than a web presentation of an organization's printed material. In contrast the MNPS site tries to pass users through to another site. That's permeability. If you don't find what you want to know on our site we try to point you to a place where you will. This is the World Wide WEB after all. Take a closer look at that list of links on the main page. [mdflora.org] They contain sources that will answer almost any native plant question.

Thanks to MNPS Field Trip Leaders for 2000!

The field trip committee would like to acknowledge our gratitude and appreciation toward our volunteer field trip leaders for their important contributions to the MNPS. The enthusiasm and expertise of our field trip leaders is key to a successful field trip program for us all and we could not do it without them!

Some MNPS field trip leaders earned the field trip committee's coveted Annual Awards for their exceptional volunteer efforts. These awards are the Orchid Award (leading five or more field trips), the Magnolia Award (leading four trips), and the Trillium Award (leading three trips). We especially thank our exemplary volunteers in these 2000 award categories.

Orchid Award

Joe Metzger, Jr.

Magnolia Award

Cris Fleming

Trillium Award

Carole Bergmann, Sam Jones, Karyn Molines, John Parrish

Additional 2000 Field Trip Leaders

Ellie Altman, Lou Aronica, Andy Brown, Diane Chance, Tim Draude, Danielle Fitzko, Heather Helm, Jerry Hudgens, Pete Jayne, Carol Jelich, Dwight Johnson, Dennis Kirkwood, Jim MacDonald, Laura Murray, Bill Sipple, Brent Steury, Wilbur Rittenhouse

Announcement

Earhome, Inc., will hold a program -- "A Sense of Place" -- including a brief hike followed by a talk and food sharing, at Cromwell Valley Park in Baltimore County, Sunday, May 20, 5-8 pm. Contact Louisa Thompson, 410 707-2550 or louisathompson@erols.com. A 4-session study group on this topic is also being planned.

More On Mailings

Take another look at your mailing label.

"Hey, when does my membership expire?" This is one of the most common questions our membership chairman hears. In order to give him a chance at some real conversations, and so you all know that answer more easily, your membership expiration date is now printed on your mailing label. It is followed by a letter which is your membership type. I - individual, D - double membership, S - student, L - lifetime, C - complimentary. Your membership extends through the month that is printed on the label so if the label says 4/1/2001 you are a member until the end of April. We've given expired members a little grace period for this mailing but if you see that your membership has expired, its time to renew. You can send your renewal with the membership form on the Events brochure or you can use the membership form found on the web site. The form on the web site is sized to print from your browser and is located at:
http://mdflora.org/join_mnps.html.

Monthly Meeting Announcements

We asked if you wanted us to send you MNPS publications via the internet and your response was overwhelming. We will gradually be shifting over to more reliance on electronic distribution of publications throughout the year. The first big change is in the monthly meeting announcements. So many of you asked to get these via e-mail that it no longer makes sense to produce and mail a paper version. People without e-mail shouldn't worry though. The printed monthly meeting announcements are being incorporated into the newsletter. ~~Native News will now have an expanded section on upcoming meetings with all the information that goes out via e-mail.~~

Marilandica

As you may know Marilandica has been changed into a numbered occasional series; but what is a numbered occasional series? Numbered series are a common way for institutions to publish scholarly articles. There are museums with occasional series that have been in publication for more than 100 years. There is no fixed publication schedule because each volume is published as the material becomes ready. There may be a single volume one year and five volumes in the following year. Publication is tied to contributions, not to the calendar. When each volume of Marilandica is ready it will be mailed to all MNPS members.

Civil War Forts Continued from page 1

At one time, a parkway-like road was proposed to run through the fort system. We hope that this proposal is now abandoned. Today, there is discussion of walking and biking paths through the circle. While MNPS favors human access to park resources, we will be vigilant in insisting that extreme care be taken so that access does not destroy the biological value of these natural areas.

The Civil War fort sites were established on higher elevation points which, as it turns out, happen to be places where erosion has as yet not removed and lowered the sand, gravel and clay mix deposited by the Potomac River as various glaciation episodes retreated further to the north. These sites, referred to as terrace gravel deposits, are very acidic and low in nutrients and support plants such as chestnut oak, shadbush and various Ericaceous species which tolerate such conditions. All of the areas surrounding the fort emplacements were deforested to provide sightlines for defense purposes. Even though the trees were cut to the ground, the stumps and roots remained and many resprouted, especially chestnut oak. Evidence of this exists as numerous multi-trunked trees.

Many of the parks surrounding the fort sites are highly creased with ravines as the elevation drops from the crests. Here, the subsurface soils are varied and patchy, supporting substantial stands of mountain laurel and, in moister areas, spicebush and arrowwood. Sweetbay magnolia is found in low spots in several locations, including one which constitutes a magnolia bog.

Most of our recent visits to these fort sites have been in the winter. Therefore we have less information on the herbaceous layer of these areas. But considering the site conditions, we anticipate many discoveries in the coming months. We plan to develop site by site plant lists and community descriptions. We will also report on conditions such as degradation, erosion, and exotic plant infestation. We also hope to obtain information on animal species found in these areas. If you would like to help in this effort, we welcome you to come discover and enjoy these largely ignored places. (Ed. Note: see the enclosed field trip brochure for a list of scheduled visits to the fort sites, or visit the MNPS website at www.mdflora.org.) The increased biotic documentation and increased awareness of the beauty and integrity of the entire fort/park system puts us in a better position to support and defend this treasure.

Lou Aronica is chair of the MNPS Conservation Committee

Jesup Blair Park Continued from page 3

The further loss of open space is unjustifiable in light of the scarcity of green space in our highly urbanized setting. Several recent polls in Montgomery County demonstrate that people want green space preserved. They do not want to turn their parks and open spaces into buildings and pavement. Sustainable growth – growth that incorporates harmony with the natural environment, that balances economy with ecology – is consistent with the public's expressed preference for preserving green space.

Montgomery College could "grow better" by incorporating green space in its vision. Preservation of Jesup Blair Park – its beautiful old trees and the historic context – is part of that vision.

For further information on how you can help save the park and its venerable trees, contact John Parrish & RG Steinman at 301-565-2025 or send us an e-mail at lifeonearth@juno.com

Announcements

MNPS Monthly Meetings

Rare Habitats and Rare Plants of Maryland
 Tuesday, May 29, 7:30 pm
 Fairland Library Burtonsville, Maryland

Rare plants don't just grow anywhere; they usually are found in rare habitats. In this slide presentation, Cris Fleming will show several of Maryland's rare habitats and some of the rare plants that occur in these special places. Rare habitats in each region of the state will be covered, including Sand Plains, Delmarva Bays, and Magnolia Bogs of the Coastal Plain, Serpentine Barrens and Riverside Outcrops of the Piedmont, and Seepage Swamps, Limestone Bluffs, and Shale Barrens of the mountain regions. Our own walking botanical encyclopedia, Joe Metzger, will also be on hand from 7:00 to 7:30 to help with plant identification from photos, slides, cuttings, and small plants.

There will be refreshments and door prizes. Pot luck refreshments are always welcome.

Directions to the Fairland Library: From I-495, take Exit 30 (Colesville Rd) north for about 6 miles. Turn left onto Briggs Chaney Rd and right at the first light onto Old Columbia Pike. The library is about 1.5 miles ahead on the left at 14910 Old Columbia Pike. Phone number is 301-421-5400.

Identification and Control of Invasive Exotic Plants
 Tuesday, June 26, 7:30 p.m.
 White Oak Library Silver Spring, Maryland

We are constantly bemoaning the loss of habitat as new malls and houses are being built while, at the same time, the forests and fields that are left untouched are being changed as an increasing number of new species silently spread through the area and threaten our native plants. This is the plague of invasive exotics. These plants have been introduced for erosion control (kudzu), wildlife value (autumn olive), as ornamentals (lesser celandine) or accidentally (Japanese stilt grass). In the last few years mile-a-minute and Japanese stilt grass have become rampant in our area. Dr Imlay will talk about his personal experiences organizing many exotic removal projects and tell us how we can help solve this problem.

Joe Metzger will be on hand from 7:00 to 7:30 to offer help with plant identification. Refreshments and door prizes.

Directions to the White Oak Library: Exit the Washington Beltway at New Hampshire Avenue (exit 28). Go north about 2 miles. The library is the first building on the right, once you have passed under Route 29 just passed the Sears store.

Attention Western Maryland MNPS Members
 Residents of Hagerstown, Boonesboro and surrounding areas interested in joining the new Eastern Panhandle chapter of the West Virginia Native Plant Society, would be most welcome. Meetings are held on the first Saturday afternoon of each month. Contact Lynn Wagner at lwagner@intrepid.net for more info.

Wildflower Celebration at Brookside Gardens

Saturday, May 5, 2001, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Come celebrate the grand opening of a new boardwalk joining Brookside Gardens and Brookside Nature Center in Wheaton, MD. Lectures, tours childrens programs and a native plant sale. All programs free, no registration required:
 Native Woody Trees & Shrubs, Diane Lewis
 Spring Ephemerals, Rod Simmons
 Propagating Wildflowers, Denise Gibbs
 Creating a Wildflower Garden, Jean Worthley
 Invasive Species, Carol Bergmann
 Pollinating Biology of Natives, Lynette Scaffidi
 Maryland Ecosystems, Mark Garland
 NATIVE PLANT SALE 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
 Check out www.brooksidegardens.org for more information.

Conservation Stewardship Project at Patapsco Valley State Park

Patapsco Stewardship Project, invasive plant removal plus nature hike, April 21 (woodies and garlic mustard on the upland Valley View Trail) and May 19-- both 10-2:30 followed by a garlic mustard recipe contest and ending with a garlic mustard composting demonstration.

Patapsco Valley State Park, Avalon/Orange Grove Area (near BWI airport). Registration required; contact Robin Hessey, rh148@umail.umd.edu.

Garlic Mustard Challenge and Cook's Challenge, May 12, 10-3:00, Patapsco Valley State Park, Avalon/Glen Artney Area. Compete to pull the most garlic mustard (by weight pulled) or prepare the tastiest dish made from the Villain of the Valley. Family event. For information call 410 480-0824.

Assateague Coastal Trust Plant Sale

Saturday, May 5, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

ACT is the only grassroots 501.c.3 non-profit environmental advocacy group on the lower Eastern Shore. Though we have been around for 30 years we sponsored our first sale just a year ago. With the help of local horticulturist and native plant specialist Helen David we sold two thousand plants in the first three hours the sale was open, and eventually had to turn folks away. The sale was a huge success, not only as a fundraiser for the Trust, but in generating interest in the use of native plants. Our Native Plant Sale is Saturday, May 5, from 8:00 a.m. until noon. It will be held at the Ocean Pines branch of the Worcester County Library, on Route 589 just south of Route 90. We're selling quart pots of twenty different species @ \$4.00 (\$3.50 for advance orders of 10 or more). We will also have a selection of trees and shrubs, plus plenty of information on choosing and planting native species. Interested gardeners can get an advance order form by calling the Assateague Coastal Trust at (410) 629-1538, or by e-mailing us: ACT@beachin.net.

Invasive Exotic Plant Removal Projects

Alien invasives are the second biggest threat to biodiversity after habitat loss. A relatively small proportion of alien plants introduced are invasive. Some of these include common garden plants such as English Ivy & Japanese Honeysuckle. Removing invasive plants is a new and rapidly growing field only recently recognized as to its importance in preserving native flora and fauna. We are actually developing and experimenting with many of the techniques we use. Join us! It's a great way to get outdoors, you learn about different plants and know you're doing something good for the environment at the same time! Typically 5-10% invaded now, these parks will become 30-50% invaded unless we help in a timely manner. We are also looking for more botanists to help us identify native plants for girl scouts, gardeners, and other beginners.

Chapman Forest Ecosystem Alien Invasive Plant Removal Project & Native Plant Walk

The first Sunday of each month @ 10:00 a.m.

Some thirty of us controlled Japanese honeysuckle from another 100 acres of the 2500 acre Chapman's Forest (State Park) this past Winter. Garlic mustard is next in the same old growth North Tract (May 6 and June 3) because of the endangered plant species, including spring wildflowers, up the ravines under attack. You may discover the newly preserved Chapman Forest Ecosystem and participate in its stewardship the first Sunday of each month.

Meet at the parking lot at Ruth Swann Park at 10am off of Route 210, Indian Head Highway 1/2 mile past Bryans Rd Shopping Center. Bring gloves and bag lunch with drink (beach party). Marc Imlay- 301 283-0808 Weather advisory: Trip is on unless severe weather occurs.

Invasive Exotic Removal in Rock Creek Park

Invasive removal at Rock Creek Park, Saturday, May 5, 9AM to noon. Help the staff of Rock Creek Park remove invasive exotic plants. Meet at the Nature Center on Glover Rd, just south of Military Rd. Wear long sleeves and pants, bring water. Tools and gloves provided, but if you're fond of your own, you might want to bring them. Questions? Email or call Lou Lieb at llieb@erols.com or 202-723-5909.

Sideling Hill Creek, Lil Aaron Straus Wilderness Area

May 20. Remove non-native invasive plants and rescue *Iris cristata* and other Piedmont plants along one of the most pristine floodplains in Maryland. Meet at Woodmont Lodge (301 678-7924) at 9 a.m. Take exit 77 on U.S. 168 just west of Hancock MD. Go 5 miles south on Woodmont Road and turn left into the lodge entrance road. Co-sponsored by the Maryland Native Plant Society and the Sierra Club in cooperation with the Maryland Conservation Council and the Army National Guard. Bring gloves and bag lunch. Shannon Cauley- 202 331-7775 extension 474. Weather advisory: Trip is on unless severe weather occurs.

Non-native Invasive Plant Removal at Brookside Gardens

2nd Sunday monthly May 13 & June 10 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Our goal is to protect the un-cultivated natural areas at Brookside Gardens, a 50-acre public garden that is a part of Wheaton Regional Park, which is overrun mostly with Kudzu, Oriental Bittersweet, Porcelain Berry, Japanese honeysuckle and Wine-berry. Currently we are focusing on the edge of the creek that flows along the north perimeter of our gardens. We are looking for volunteers to help with this rewarding project.

Tools are provided but if you have pruners and leather gloves please bring them. We recommend long sleeves, long pants and water resistant shoes. Meeting dates are subject to change. Please call to confirm next quarter's listings.

Directions: From I-495, the Washington Beltway, take Route 97, Georgia Avenue north, 3 miles. At Randolph Road, turn right. At Glenallan Avenue, turn right. At the four-way stop sign, turn right into Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Ave.

Contact: Cheryl Beagle (301) 962-1413 or cbeagle@mncppc.state.md.us

WEED WARRIORS WANTED

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's (M-NCPPC) Forest Ecologist is assembling a team of volunteers (WEED WARRIORS) to monitor and remove non-native invasive plant species in Montgomery County Parks, and we need your help! As a WEED WARRIOR volunteer, you will receive a short training session from the Forest Ecologist in the identification of, removal and control techniques for non-native invasive plants. WEED WARRIORS can then work at their own pace and choose a schedule that best suits them. Many current WEED WARRIORS live near a M-NCPPC Stream Valley Park or Regional Park and do their volunteer work while walking their dogs or taking an occasional hike through their neighborhood park. Whether you choose to work individually or in a group, your efforts will contribute to the control of non-native vegetation in the 28,000 acres of Montgomery County parkland.

Please contact Carole Bergmann, Forest Ecologist for M-NCPPC, and MNPS Board Member at (301) 949-2818 for more information or to sign up.

Invasive Exotic Removal in Greenbelt National Park

Third Sunday of Every Month

Come join us in defending Greenbelt Park from encroachment by alien invasive plant growth. Located just down the road from campus, Greenbelt National Park is a beloved retreat for local residents, and an important refuge for native plants and animals. Volunteers will enjoy a nature walk through the park, learn about local native plants from experts, and pull out harmful non-native invasives. Program dates are May 12 and 26. We will be meeting at 11:00 am at the Laurel picnic area. Please contact Lauren Urgenson at urrgie@wam.umd.edu with any questions, or if you need transportation.

Announcements

Invasive Removals/Habitat Enhancement at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary

Second Saturday monthly at 10 am
(May 12, June 9, July 14)

Japanese Honeysuckle, Asiatic Stilt Grass, and Tree-of-Heaven are our major targets. Some days we will assist with riparian shrub plantings and maintenance and warm season grass habitat monitoring.

Jug Bay is located at 1361 Wrighton Rd in Lothian, MD. For more information or directions call 410-741-9330 or visit their home page at www.jugbay.org.

Adkins Arboretum Events

Tuesday May 1

"From Designing a Yard to Designing a Community," Ellie Altman (Adkins Arboretum) and Britt Slattery (US Fish and Wildlife Service). Last session in a conservation landscaping series. Limit 35.

Saturday May 12

Adkins Arboretum Annual Spring Native Plant Sale, celebration of the flora of the mid-Atlantic region, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Tuesday May 22

"Trees of Maryland," slide presentation by Rod Simmons, a well-known ecologist and educator, long-time president of the Maryland Native Plant Society. With great appreciation and knowledge, he explains the relationships between geology and plant communities. 7-9 p.m.

Tuesday June 12

"Workshop on Sedges (*Carex*)" by Chris Lea, ecologist with the National Park Service, 7-9 p.m., *Carex* is the most species-rich genus in most of North America. A combination of field trip, indoor lab work, and slide program will be used to (1) introduce participants to local examples of these fascinating plants and (2) illustrate the diversity of *Carex* statewide.

Thursday June 21

"Backyard Butterfly Gardens" by Andi Pupke, Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage, co-sponsored by Adkins Arboretum, 7 p.m. Learn the methods and techniques of attracting butterflies to your backyard using native Maryland plants. This free workshop will be held at the "Old Railway Station," 46 Pennsylvania Ave., Easton. Please call 410-822-5100 for more information.

Saturday June 30

Tree Identification walk with Dave Perry at Adkins Arboretum, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Learn the most common trees in our region. Focus of the walk will be getting to know the whole form of trees. Bring binoculars and field guides. Dave Perry is a Volunteer Naturalist at Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge where he regularly leads tree walks.

The Adkins Arboretum is located in Ridgely, on Maryland's Eastern Shore. For more information or directions call 410-634-2847 or visit their website at www.adkinsarboretum.org.

Olmsted Woods Events

The Olmsted Woods at the Washington National Cathedral is a beautiful 5-acre urban woodland. Purposely left intact in Frederick Law Olmsted's original and subsequent landscape plans, the woodland provides an outdoor classroom setting for the area schools, various contemplative spots, and a wonderful new path system that follows Olmsted's original approach to the Cathedral. In 1998 a restoration project was begun to remedy 80 years of unchecked use of the woodlands and its invasion by exotic plants. Presently, efforts are aimed at removing exotic plant species, working to restore the forest understory, as well as the depleted and compacted soils. The existing conditions are beautiful and include numerous mature oak and beech trees.

Woods Walks: 10 AM on Wednesdays--April 25, May 2 and 9--
Spring Delights: The Greening of the Olmsted Woods. Tours led by experts will focus on spring ephemerals, wildflowers, native plants and budding trees. Walks are also scheduled for June 13, July 11 and August 15 (details TBA).

Bird Walks: 8:30 AM on Thursday, May 3 and Thursday, May 10--Led by experienced birder

Work Days (NEW): 10-12 Noon on Saturdays beginning April 7 and continuing May through November. Horticulturist Elizabeth Brewster directs volunteers to help plant and/or to remove invasive exotics.

Participants meet at the George Washington Plaza on Pilgrim Road for all events. Call the Olmsted Woods InfoLine for more information: 202.537.2319.

Join the American Bird Conservancy

If you love the company of birdsong while outdoors, you'll want to get to know American Bird Conservancy. Bird lovers share common ground with all those who care about protecting native plants in their environment. From pesticides to invasive species to land management issues, our conservation programs address the full range of threats to birds, and the places they call home. Through our *Pesticides and Birds* campaign, we're trying to prevent the use of chemicals that decimate pollinators: birds, butterflies, and other insects that are at the heart of a healthy environment. ABC is also a leading NGO in the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) and Partners in Flight (PIF). Through these networks of scientists, government agencies, academics, landowners and others, ABC is engaged in dozens of on-the-ground projects to protect and restore natural habitats. And our work expands to the international scale: our *ReCovering Paradise* program brings us together with Latin American partners to make pasture lands more productive for ranchers, while still protecting birds and biodiversity throughout the region.

ABC members receive the magazine *Bird Conservation* and the newsletter *Bird Calls*; together, they provide the most comprehensive overview available of the latest that's happening in bird conservation. For a free copy of our magazine, and to learn more about ABC and our conservation programs, visit our website at www.abcbirds.org, or call us at 1-888-BIRDMAG.