

# Native News

Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

March/April 2006

Volume 6 Number 2

## Inside This Issue:

President's Letter

Page 2

~

MNPS Contacts

Page 2

~

MNPS Announcements

Page 3

~

Chapter Events and Updates

Page 3

~

Wildflower in Focus

Page 4

~

Early Spring Field Trips

Page 5

~

Invasive Exotic Plant

Removal Workdays

Page 7

~

General Announcements

Page 9

## Upcoming Monthly Meetings

### “American Chestnut: Past Abundance and Future Restoration”

Tuesday, March 28, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

The American Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) was formerly one of the largest, most abundant, and most important trees of eastern deciduous forests, ranging from southern Maine west to Michigan and south to Alabama. The Chestnut Blight (*Cryphonectria parasitica*), which was unknowingly introduced into New York City on Chinese Chestnut (*Castanea mollissima*) nursery stock in the early 20th Century, quickly spread through forests, girdling mature trees at the base. Today, most of what remains of the tree throughout its range are old trunk resprouts and small saplings, with mature, fruiting trees exceptionally rare. Doug Boucher, a forest ecologist and instructor at Hood College, will discuss the great importance of American Chestnut in our eastern forests, how forests and wildlife were affected as a result of the blight, and possibilities for future restoration of this species.

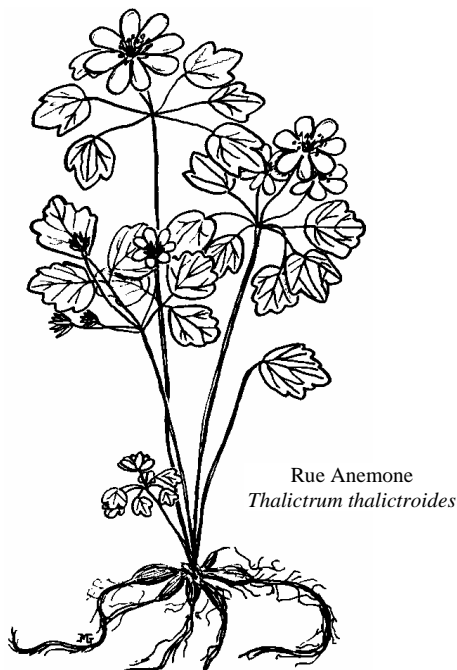
### “Spring Flowering Native Plants of Maryland”

Tuesday, April 25, 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.

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.



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### Executive Officers:

Carole Bergmann, President  
Marc Imlay, Vice President  
John Parrish, Vice President  
Carolyn Fulton, Secretary  
Beth Johnson, Treasurer

### Board of Directors:

Nancy Adamson           Linda Keenan  
Lou Aronica, Emeritus   Ann Lundy  
Matthew Bazar           Iris Mars  
Lisa Bierer-Garrett     Joe Metzger, Jr.  
Paul Carlson             Karyn Molines  
Melanie Choukas-Bradley   Chris Partain  
Kirsten Emigholtz       Mary Pat Rowan  
Cris Fleming             Roderick Simmons  
Jim Gallion

## President's Letter

Dear Members,

In this, the first *Native News* since our 2006 Board election, I'd like to thank you for re-electing me as President, and WELCOME our newly elected/re-elected Maryland Native Plant Society Executive Officers (John Parrish, Marc Imlay, Carolyn Fulton, Beth Johnson) and Board of Directors (Nancy Lee Adamson, Matthew Bazar, Lisa Bierer-Garrett, Paul Carlson, Melanie Choukas-Bradley, Kirsten Emigholtz, Cris Fleming, Jim Gallion, Linda Keenan, Ann Lundy, Iris Mars, Joe Metzger, Jr., Karyn Molines, Chris Partain, Mary Pat Rowan, Rod Simmons).

I not only want to welcome our Directors, I want to THANK them for taking on the challenge, making the commitment, and digging in already! The Board held its Annual Retreat in mid-January and we left the all-day session energized, with redefined goals, and full of new strategies about how to accomplish them and further our Society's mission.

Many, many ideas were discussed that day, and there would be no way to summarize them in this short letter. I will therefore just mention three of the concrete actions we've decided upon as examples of the types of changes: We have about a dozen Board Committees, but during our Retreat, we decided to form another important Committee, titled the "Volunteer Committee." We know that a lot of members would like to help out more in our Society, but aren't exactly certain how or when or where they can do so. This Committee will help clarify the options – provide some focus, connect job requests with willing workers. This should help our Society function much more smoothly. We talked about how important *Native News* is to MNPS members; how it serves as a method and a means, a communication tool, an education tool. One of our Board Members kindly volunteered to write a new column which will highlight a special native plant every issue. We talked about how many excellent field trips we sponsor each year, and how great it would be to have a record of "species seen" for each venture. One of our Board Members took that on as a personal goal, and has already made a great deal of progress getting the process set up. This type of consistent record keeping will be invaluable. Again, literally dozens of further topics/goals/recommendations were deliberated upon that day. As time moves forward this year, I feel certain that you will notice some progress.

On an entirely different topic, I'd like to put in an "advertisement" for our own MNPS Website <http://www.mdflora.org>. Board member, Iris Mars, does an excellent job working to keep our site up-to-date, and expanding its offerings and the ways in which it can be of service. If you haven't taken time recently to look at our site, I suggest you do so. By going to [mdflora.org](http://www.mdflora.org): You can access a copy of the latest *Native News* and see what is going on calendar-wise with field trips and habitat restoration projects; You can read information about native species to plant and non-native invasives not to plant; You can read about what the Chapters are planning; You can find out about "places at risk" in our state, and learn what conservation steps are being taken and how you can help; You can instantly access a number of important botanical studies done by Board Members (3 quick examples: John Parrish's *Native Woody Plants of Montgomery County, Maryland*, Rod Simmons and Mark Strong's *Flora of Araby Bog*, Joe Metzger's *Maryland Native Plants – A Master Checklist*)... ; You can find out that our 2006 Fall Conference will be on October 14 and 15 (so MARK your calendar!). The list goes on... Try it. You'll appreciate it!

A cold rain is falling and the wind is blowing like crazy as I am trying to finish this letter by my deadline. By the time anyone else reads this, however, it will be the beginning of March, and spring will definitely be around the corner... So, I say, "Plan to get out next weekend—or today—and look for signs of emerging buds and spring ephemerals. Smell the intoxicating 'wet earth/spring evening' scent that fills the air."

Thanks, Carole

## MNPS Announcements

### Mailing Volunteers Needed

The mailing party for the next issue will be Tuesday, April 25 prior to the monthly meeting. Karyn Molines, the regular mailing party coordinator will be out of town, so we need someone who will help coordinate this mailing party. Mostly it will be to instruct other volunteers the proper labeling and sorting of the newsletter. We have several volunteers who regularly help out, including Jacqui Sapper, John Parrish and Beth Johnson who take the mailings to the post office, Chris Partain who prints the mailing labels, and Rod Simmons who picks up the newsletter from the printer. Everyone who comes and helps out makes this a fun and social volunteer event. And the mailing gets done in no time! If you are interested in helping with these, please contact Karyn Molines, 410-286-2928 or kmolines@chesapeake.net.

### Welcome New Members!

Thanks for joining! We hope you'll join us on the many field trips and meetings we have to offer. Rick Borchelt, Carson Carbone, Carrie Colson, Dorée Huneven, Eileen Lankford, Janet Misbach, Joyce Ann and Eugene Rall, and Dr. L.K. Thomas recently joined the Society.

### Organizational Members

Our newest membership category is for organizations that wish to support MNPS. The following people and organizations have joined at this level: Audubon Society of Central Maryland, Ron Polniaszek, president (Mt. Airy, MD), Lower Marlboro Nursery, Mary-Stuart Sierra, owner (Lower Marlboro, MD), and Battle Creek Nature Education Society, Andy Brown, naturalist (Prince Frederick, MD).

Our website can provide more information about our Organizational members, including links to their websites. Organizational members should send a brief description of the organization and contact information to Iris Mars at webmanager@mdflora.org.

### General Membership Information

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 3/1/2006 your membership expires at the end of March. 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, P.O. Box 4877, Silver Spring, MD 20914. Sometimes, membership checks and renewal notices cross in the mail. We apologize if this happens; we do try to update our membership database weekly. If we accidentally receive two renewals for a membership, we have a policy to extend the membership for an additional year. So if you send in your membership dues twice, we treat it as if you renewed for two years. Thanks for your support.

## Chapter Events and Updates

### Greater Baltimore Chapter

Our next meeting will be on March 15 at 7:30 pm at Irvine Nature Center. Our speaker will be Cris Fleming, author of *Finding Wildflowers in the Washington-Baltimore Area*. She will be speaking on Soldiers Delight, a 2000+ acre serpentine barren in western Baltimore County. The geology of the serpentine barren makes it a site for rare and unusual plants and Cris will talk about the plants found there and what to look for at different times of the year. Irvine Nature Center is located on the grounds of St. Timothy's School, 8400 Greenspring Ave, Stevenson, MD. For directions call 410-484-2413.

### New Local Chapter of MNPS Forms

We're happy to announce the formation of a local chapter of MNPS in western Maryland. The Western Mountains Chapter of MNPS held its first meeting at the Frostburg University library on February 21 at 7 pm. Ed Thompson, Western Regional Biologist for the Maryland Natural Heritage Program presented a program entitled "Plants of Special Habitats of Western Maryland." Ed is one of the most respected and knowledgeable naturalists in the Central Appalachians and has been employed as an ecologist by the Md. DNR, Natural Heritage Program, since its inception in the early 1980's. During his presentation, Thompson used his incredible slide images to highlight native plant species that grow in special habitats of Allegany and Garrett counties.

The Western Mountains Chapter has 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 Judith Gaydos at 301-687-4425 or jegaydos@frostburg.edu, Cheryl Lough at 301-616-7983 or ckl@dcldesignstudio.com, or Liz McDowell at info@elkridgenatureworks.com or 301-895-3686. Our next program will be:

### "Purple Loosestrife: Nip It in the Bud"

Thursday, April 20, 7:00 pm  
New Germany State Park

Speaker - Kerrie Kyde, Invasive Plant Specialist for Maryland Natural Heritage Program

Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) can be beautiful in the garden but an ecological menace in the wild. Fast-growing, aggressive and prolific, purple loosestrife can out-compete native wetland species, and reduce feeding and nesting habitat for native insects and birds. Learn where this plant came from, what its effects are in wildlands and how you can help control this species in Maryland before it gets out of hand. Chapter business meeting to follow the program.

## ~ Wildflower in Focus ~



### Trailing Arbutus (Mayflower)

*Epigaea repens* L.

Heath Family (Ericaceae)

By Melanie Choukas-Bradley  
Artwork by Tina Thieme Brown

One of Maryland's earliest and most delightful spring wildflowers is trailing arbutus, a low-growing plant with a woody stalk, leathery evergreen leaves, and five-lobed pink or white flowers. The flowers have an unforgettable, almost tropically bold fragrance that is well worth getting down on your hands and knees to experience. When and where you find trailing arbutus in bloom, inhale deeply, but please do not disturb this now uncommon Maryland wildflower or its habitat.

Trailing arbutus is the state flower of Massachusetts and the provincial flower of Nova Scotia. Generations who have endured the long cold northeastern winters have appreciated the early spring blooms of this plant. According to Smithsonian botanist Stan Shetler, trailing arbutus "has long evoked rich sentiments in poetry and lore. In New England and elsewhere, the common name is mayflower. This name is said to date to the Pilgrims, who found it abundant around Plymouth, Massachusetts, and the first bloom to assure them that their first terrible winter was over. John Greenleaf Whittier wrote a poem, *The Mayflowers*, that captures the timeless lure of this wildflower. As the name of the English hawthorn and the ship that brought them to America, 'Mayflower' evoked fond memories for the Pilgrims."

Trailing arbutus has a persistent woody stem, and although it is diminutive in size, botanical manuals group it with shrubs. The plant is in the heath family, along with showy flowering shrubs such as mountain laurel, azalea, and rhododendron, as well as huckleberry and blueberry—important fruit sources for wildlife. Maryland woodlands from the Allegheny Plateau to the Coastal Plain—particularly those with acidic soils—harbor many native heath family members.

#### Specific Characteristics of Trailing Arbutus

Flowers: Pale pink or white, highly fragrant, each flower a small tube ending in 5 flared lobes. About ½" long, growing in small terminal and upper axillary clusters. Leaves: Alternate, evergreen, leathery. Ovate or oblong, with entire margin and a rounded or heart-shaped base. Leaves ¾ - 3 ½" long, often pubescent, especially on upper surface and along the margin and petiole. Growth Habit: A trailing plant with a woody stem, growing close to the ground. Habitat and Range: Rocky or sandy acidic soil; Newfoundland to Saskatchewan, south to Florida, Mississippi and Iowa. In Maryland, you'll often find it along partially eroded roadsides and trailsides. Herbal Lore: North American Indians used trailing arbutus leaf tea for urinary tract disorders and as a blood purifier. A folk remedy for kidney stones, Shakers sold it as "gravel plant." Although apparently effective, it does have toxic properties. The plant was extirpated in many areas because of its popularity as an herbal remedy and spring wildflower. Blooming Time in Maryland: March—May. Locations: Throughout the state but uncommon in most areas due to collecting and habitat disturbance. In the Washington, D.C. area—Rock Creek Park, Great Falls, Virginia, Seneca Creek State Park, Sugarloaf Mountain, Quiet Waters Park, and many other regional parks. Consult *Finding Wildflowers in the Washington-Baltimore Area* by Cris Fleming, Marion Blois Lobstein and Barbara Tufty for other locations near the cities. Please remember to treat this uncommon wildflower and its habitats with utmost respect!

## Early Spring Field Trips

### Evergreens, Charles County

**Leader:** Marc Imlay

**Date:** Sunday, March 5 **Time:** 1:00 – 5:00 pm

Maryland has a diversity of plants that are green all winter, even though they are not "evergreens" such as pines and cedars. We'll focus on the less common evergreen species, including herbaceous plants that still have green basal rosettes. Plan to attend the invasive removal project in the morning to help distinguish native from non-native species.

**Directions:** Meet at the Ruth B. Swann Park-Potomac Branch Library parking lot, 20 miles south of Washington Beltway (I-495) on Rt. 210 (Indian Head Hwy). Give yourself 30 to 40 minutes from the beltway.

**Carpool Info:** Meet at Sierra Club Md. Chapter office at 9:00 am; return 5:00 pm. Call Laurel Imlay at 301-277-7111.

**Contact:** Marc Imlay 301-283-0808. RSVP is welcome.

### Chapman Forest South, Charles County

Co-sponsored by the Chapman Forest Foundation

**Leaders:** Rod Simmons and Jim Long

**Date:** Sunday, March 26 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

We will visit upland and lowland forest sections of the south side of Chapman Forest. The vegetation of the south side is diverse and mostly typical of the coastal plain, except for places where outcrops of Paleocene age calcareous sands and loams support flora typical of the inner piedmont and mountains. On this moderate hike, we should see numerous ferns and club mosses, including adder's tongue fern, some early blooming spring wildflowers, pristine streams and vernal pools, and coastal flora such as pagoda oak and deciduous holly. Much of the south side is still largely unexplored, so we will have fun discovering new plants and parts of the forest as well.

**Directions:** From the Capital Beltway (495), take Indian Head Highway (Rt. 210) south for approximately 20 miles to the intersection of Indian Head Highway and Rt. 227 at Bryans Road. We will meet in the McDonald's parking lot (at the intersection on the right) and then carpool to the site.

**Contact:** Rod cecropial3@msn.com or 301-809-0139.

### Bear Island/Billy Goat Trail, Montgomery Co.

Cosponsored by the Botanical Society of Washington

**Leader:** Dan Nicolson

**Dates:** Saturdays, April 1 and April 8 **Time:** Meet 9:30 am  
The Botanical Society of Washington's annual Bear Island and Billy Goat Trail Flowering Plants Walks #1 and #2. The 1<sup>st</sup> trip (reconnaissance) is April 1, the 2<sup>nd</sup> is April 8. Plant list from a prior year: [www.botsoc.org/bearislandlist.pdf](http://www.botsoc.org/bearislandlist.pdf).

**Directions:** Park at lots across from Old Anglers Inn. See: <http://www.oldanglersinn.com/map.html> for directions.

**Bring:** Lunch and water.

**Note:** If pouring rain on Saturday, we may try Sunday.

**Contact:** Dan 202-633-0910 or nicolson@si.edu.

### Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (51<sup>st</sup> in the Series) – Ft. Chaplin

**Leaders:** Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

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

We will return to **Ft. Chaplin** to see many plants of the Terrace-Gravel uplands and will record our findings.

**Directions:** We will meet across from Ft. Mahan on Benning Road NE, Washington, D.C. We will park three blocks east of Minnesota Ave off Benning Road. At the third block on your right (traveling east on Benning from Minnesota) turn right and park in the parking lot of the recreation center or on the street. 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 canceled if pouring rain.

**Contact:** Mary Pat Rowan [blair-rowan@starpower.net](mailto:blair-rowan@starpower.net) or 202-526-8821.

### Sewell Spring Branch Hike, Severn Run Natural Environmental Area, Anne Arundel County

**Leader:** Eileen O'Brien

**Date:** Sunday, April 9 **Time:** 2:00 – 4:30 pm

Experience an intact coastal plain forest with sandy uplands and wooded steep slopes. This is a wonderful hike for beginners as well as more experienced botanists. We'll see great views of the scenic Severn River along trails leading to the edge of a tidal (draw) marsh and shrub swamp. Plants of interest include very large black gum (95" CBH) and pitch pine, sweetbay magnolia, swamp azalea, silky dogwood, blueberries, chinquapin, trailing arbutus, wintergreen, lady slipper orchid, ebony spleenwort, and rattlesnake fern. In the wooded swamp, the occurrence of skunk cabbage and sphagnum moss at the same location implies a unique set of soil moisture conditions. We may see osprey, herons, and bald eagles. Historical features include an ironstone root cellar and the foundations of three homes.

**Directions:** **From I-695**, take I-97 south to Exit 10A, Benfield Blvd east. Loop back over I-97. Turn right at light onto Veterans Hwy south. Travel 2.2 miles, through two lights. Left onto Generals Hwy south./MD-178 for 1 mile. Turn left at light onto Indian Landing Road for 1.3 miles. Park on LaRue Road (on your right). Meet at DNR trailhead on left side of Indian Landing Rd, across from mailbox #1013. **From D.C.**, take I-95 N to Exit 38A for MD-32 East. Travel 14 miles to merge onto Crain Hwy/MD-3 N. Stay in right lane for split onto Veterans Hwy north (before I-97!). Turn right onto Generals Hwy S/MD-178 for 1 mile. Left at light to continue as above.

**Bring:** Wear sturdy shoes that may get muddy. Bring water and a small snack. Field guides, binoculars, and hand lenses welcome. Tick protection is always advised.

**Notes:** This is a moderate hike with one steep slope descent and one gradual climb back. Rustic benches on a bluff above the Severn are a pleasant spot for our break.

**Contact:** Eileen 410-923-3505.

# Native News

## Wildflower Hike – Gunpowder State Park – Hereford Area

**Leader:** Dwight Johnson

**Date:** Saturday, April 15 **Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm (or for however long you want to stay)

Come and see a good assortment of spring wildflowers. This is a good walk for wildflower beginners. We will do a five-mile circuit hike along the shores of the Gunpowder River between York Road and Big Falls Road, but most of the wildflowers will be seen along the first mile and you can leave whenever you like.

**Directions:** From the Baltimore Beltway go north on I-83 for 12 miles and take Exit 27 West onto Mount Carmel Road. We will meet at the Park and Ride just west of I-83.

**Bring:** Lunch and water. Binoculars can be handy. Hiking boots are highly recommended.

**Note:** The trail at times will be steep, rocky and narrow. Reservations required.

**Contact:** Dwight 410-366-7239 or  
DwightMJohnson@comcast.net.

## Non-Tidal Wetlands Identification, Gwynn Acres Path, Dorsey Hall, Howard County

**Leader:** Ria Malloy

**Date:** Saturday, April 22 **Time:** 10:00 am – noonish

This 100 year floodplain is a designated non-tidal wetland. You will learn wetland identification basics, including associated plant identification. Many wildflowers should be in bloom, both wetland and upland. Many animals and birds call this area home.

**Directions: From Baltimore:** take I-70 or US 40 west to US 29 south. **From D.C.:** take US 29 north, or take I-95 or I-295 north to MD 32 west to US 29 north. From US 29, take MD 108 west. Turn right at the first light onto Columbia Road. I'll scout out the path close to April 22 and determine the best place to meet. Please email me your intention to attend and I'll send specific directions that week (mmalloy@umd.edu).

**Bring:** (Suggested) boots (waterproof if it has been raining a lot), wildflower and/or tree field guides, and binoculars.

**Note:** Due to the nature of wetlands, heavy spring rains can impact accessibility. Registration is not necessary, but suggested, in case last minute changes to location have to be made.

**Contact:** If it rains, check: [www.marylandnature.org](http://www.marylandnature.org) for rain date or cancellation. NOTE: this is not the MNPS website; it is the website of the Maryland Natural History Society.

## Cove Point Marsh, Calvert County

**Leader:** Bob Boxwell

**Date:** Saturday, April 22 **Time:** 10:00 am – noon

Over 600 acres of freshwater marsh and upland forest are preserved at this Calvert County site. The area is located at the Cove Point LNG site and has limited access. This may be one of the only opportunities to visit the area. Photo ID and reservations are a must.

**Directions:** Take route 2/4 south. You will pass signs for Flag Ponds and Calvert Cliffs. Look for the sign for Cove Point Park and make a left turn onto Cove Point Road. You will pass the park on the left and Little Cove Point Road on the right. The LNG plant is on the left. Turn here where you will meet the leader and proceed to the guard shack.

**Bring:** Picture ID, boots are useful, and please no cell phones or cameras.

**Note:** Due to security concerns, I will need reservations no later than Monday the 17th.

**Contact:** Bob 410-394-1300 or 410-610-5124 (cell).

## Hellen Creek Forest and Wildlife Preserve, Lusby, Calvert County

**Leader:** Bob Boxwell

**Date:** Saturday, April 29 **Time:** 10:00 am – noon

Located in the Hellen Creek watershed, this 50-acre property has a variety of habitats including stream valleys, upland forest, and marsh. The preserve is adjacent to TNC's Hemlock Preserve. Both properties have populations of American hemlock.

**Directions:** Take route 2/4 south past the Lusby town center (there is a left turn light there). Take the next right at the light. This is Coster/Mill Bridge Road and you need to go left onto Coster. You will pass the two ends of Bafford Road. Look for three mailboxes as you go down the incline on the right (two black one brown). Turn at the third onto a gravel road. There is a sign (very hard to read) for Clifton Drive (if you see Hilltop, you just missed it). The road is very bumpy so take your time. Follow this past two houses, around the bend, and make the first left turn (11785). Follow this to the Cove Point Natural Heritage sign.

**Contact:** Bob 410-394-1300.

## Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (52<sup>nd</sup> in the Series) – Ft. Stanton

**Leaders:** Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

**Date:** Sunday, May 7 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

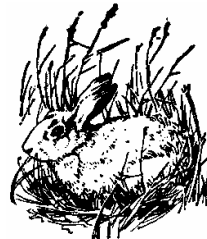
We will return to the southern part of Ft. Stanton where we have not been lately, especially in the spring, and where we can expect to see a very good ground display.

**Directions:** In Southeast Washington, D.C., get onto Martin Luther King Blvd SE and take Morris Road east. Go 5 or 6 blocks to where the road curves north and changes its name to Erie Street. Go 5 blocks and turn right onto 18<sup>th</sup> Place (a block after 18<sup>th</sup> Street) and park there alongside park.

**Bring:** Water and lunch.

**Note:** Easy to moderate walk. Light drizzle is fine but canceled if pouring rain.

**Contact:** Mary Pat Rowan [blair-rowan@starpower.net](mailto:blair-rowan@starpower.net) or 202-526-8821.



## Invasive Exotic Plant Removal Workdays

### Greenbelt National Park, Prince George's Co.

**Dates:** First Saturdays, monthly

**Time:** Meet at 11:00 am in the Sweetgum Picnic Area.

Located just 12 miles from Washington, D.C., Greenbelt Park is a beloved retreat from the city and an important refuge for native plants and animals. Come join us in defending Greenbelt Park from encroachment by alien invasive plant growth. Volunteers will be hand pulling harmful non-native plants such as Japanese honeysuckle, beefsteak mint, mile-a-minute vine and garlic mustard. People of all ages, backgrounds, and interests are invited to spend a fun day outdoors while learning about the differences between native and non-native plants and helping to preserve the health and native wildlife of this local natural area.

**Directions:** From the Capital Beltway (495), take Kenilworth Avenue south about ¼ mile to Greenbelt Road (Rt. 193). Kenilworth goes under 193. Stay to the right so you can take Rt. 193 East (a left to go over Kenilworth) for only a few hundred yards to the park entrance. Greenbelt Park is on the right hand side before the turnoff for the BW Parkway. Follow the signs to the Sweetgum Picnic Area.

**Carpool Info:** Meet behind the Sierra Club office behind the College Park Shopping Center (the upper lot behind the Wawa & Vertigo books) at 10:30 am.

**Bring:** Lunch, drink, and appropriate clothing for weather.

**Contact:** Tom Crone 301-864-1959 or tomnjan@erols.com, Kate Odell kateo@wam.umd.edu or 301-474-5395, or Laurel Imlay 301-864-1009(h)/301-277-7111(w).

### Ruth Swann Park and Chapman Forest, Charles County

**Leader:** Marc Imlay

**Dates:** First Sundays, monthly **Time:** 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

**Directions:** Meet at the Ruth B. Swann Park-Potomac Branch Library parking lot, 20 miles south of Washington Beltway (I-495) on Rt. 210 (Indian Head Hwy). Give yourself 30 to 40 minutes from the beltway.

**Carpool Info:** Meet at Sierra Club Md. Chapter office at 9:00 am; return 5:00 pm. Call Laurel Imlay at 301-277-7111.

**Bring:** Gloves, lunch, and water. Durable long sleeves and pants recommended.

**Contact:** Marc 301-283-0808. RSVP is welcome.

### Woodend Sanctuary, Montgomery County

**Dates:** Second Saturdays, monthly

**Time:** Between 9:00 am – noon

The Audubon Naturalist Society is seeking volunteers to help remove non-native plants from its Woodend Sanctuary in Chevy Chase. Volunteers will be trained by staff and/or experienced volunteers.

**Call:** 301-652-9188 x 30 for more information or to sign up.

### Fort Meade, Anne Arundel County

**Dates:** Second Saturdays, monthly **Time:** Meet at 10:00 am  
A partnership between Dept. of the Army, MNPS, Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club, and volunteers. Help remove Japanese stilt grass, English ivy, garlic mustard, tree of heaven, multiflora rose, crown vetch, Japanese honeysuckle, common privet, *Phragmites*, Asiatic tearthumb, etc. You will receive a short training session from personnel from Md. Chapter of the Sierra Club or MNPS in the identification of, removal, and control techniques for non-native invasive plants. You are invited to spend a day outdoors, hand-pulling some non-native weed populations while learning about the differences between native and non-native plants, and helping to preserve the health and native wildlife of the natural areas.

**Directions:** Take Rt. 175 east from (I-295) Baltimore Washington Parkway. Take Llewellyn Ave south onto the installation. A Ft. Meade representative will meet you at guard station to escort you to work site.

**Bring:** Hand tools, gloves, lunch, and water. Long sleeves and pants recommended.

**Contact:** Don Marquardt at 301-677-9185 or marquardtd@emh1.ftmeade.army.mil.

### Northwest Branch of the Anacostia, Montgomery County

**Leader:** Jane Osburn

**Dates:** Third Saturdays **Time:** 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Please join us for a walk in the forest to remove invasive plants from areas along the Northwest Branch stream. We'll then relax and have a vegetarian lunch. All are welcome.

**Directions:** From the intersection of 29 (Colesville Road) and University Blvd in Silver Spring, go east on University and turn (there's only left) on Williamsburg Drive. Stay on Williamsburg at the first fork you come to (bear left), and then at the second fork (Williamsburg N. vs. S.) bear left again. Williamsburg turns into Big Rock Road at the bottom of the hill. 10204 Big Rock Road. Hope to see you there!

**Bring:** Water and gloves. I have extra gloves if you need some. Vegetarian lunch provided.

**Contact:** Jane for more info at 301-754-1564.

### Belt Woods, Prince George's County

**Leaders:** Robert Burnett and Maureen Fine

**Dates:** Saturdays, ongoing **Time:** 9:00 am – 12:00 noon

Belt Woods is bordered by Central Ave (214) to the south and Church Road to the east, just on the outskirts of Bowie, MD. Meeting place for work groups varies, depending on the focus for that day. Plants to be addressed over the next few months: mile-a-minute, honeysuckle, English ivy, bitter-sweet, multi-flora rose, Ailanthus, periwinkle, stilt grass, etc.

**Bring:** Drink and snack. Gloves and tools provided.

**Note:** Poison ivy is very abundant, as are thorny bushes, so please dress in long pants and long sleeved shirts.

**Contact:** Maureen maureenfine@earthlink.net or 301-464-9306 to verify meeting location.



# Native News

## Battling Botanical Bullies in Bear Pen Wildland, Garrett County

**Leaders:** Ron Boyer & Liz McDowell

**Date:** Friday, April 21 **Time:** 9:00 am – 12:00 noon

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 on Friday, April 21 and Friday, June 16 from 9 to 12 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. Mike Gregory, New Germany State Park manager, is providing free camping the night before for any out-of-town volunteers. Ron Boyer and Liz McDowell are coordinating the project and providing snacks and drinks for volunteers. For more details or to register, contact Ron at 301-895-3686 or info@elkridgenatureworks.com.

## Garlic Mustard Pulls, Sligo Creek Park, Montgomery County

**Leaders:** Sally Gagne, Others

**Dates:** Saturdays, May 6, 13, 20, 27 **Time:** 9:00 – 11:00 am

The goal is to remove all garlic mustard in upper Sligo Creek. Work will be at four sites - contact us for directions.

**Bring:** A snack if desired. We'll have water and provide cotton gloves. Wear long sleeve and pants as protection against possible poison ivy. No previous knowledge needed.

**Note:** Wear protective glasses if you have them, and a hat.

**Contact:** RIP@fosc.org or phone Sally at 301-588-2071.

See www.fosc.org for last minute weather updates.

## 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.

**Contact:** Carole Bergmann, M-NCPPC Forest Ecologist, at 301-949-2818 for more info or to sign up.

## Become an Urban Weed Warrior!

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks has started its own Urban Weed Warriors program. Weed warriors can come to learn about the non-native invasive species in Baltimore City parks. Training includes weed ID, removal techniques, and an overview of non-native invasives. The training will lead to certification as a weed warrior, whereby volunteers can work on their own to help control non-native invasive species in City parks.

**Contact:** Janelle Burke, Weed Warrior Program Coordinator, janelle.burke@baltimorecity.gov or 410-396-0359. Please call to confirm dates, locations, and times.

## Anacostia Watershed Society Weed Warriors

Non-native invasive species of plants such as English ivy, Japanese stilt grass, and kudzu are covering the natural areas that we in the conservation movement have worked so hard to protect from habitat destruction, erosion, and water pollution. Just as we are making progress on wetlands, stream bank stabilization, and endangered species, these plants from other parts of the world have covered 30-90% of the surface area of our forests, streams and meadows. Many of us feel demoralized and powerless to combat these invaders that have few natural herbivores or other controls. The Anacostia Watershed Society is establishing a program to provide local friends groups and public and private landowners with several models to draw upon in the Anacostia watershed and in the region. We are assisting in developing a major work effort (three to five years) at each site to remove massive populations of about a dozen species. Regular stewardship projects are conducted in all seasons including winter, early spring, late spring, summer, and late summer. This high-intensity program is followed by a low-intensity annual maintenance program to eliminate plants we have missed, plants emerging from the seed bank, and occasional plants migrating in from neighboring areas. Several ongoing projects we are presently conducting include Magruder Park, Hyattsville, and Little Paint Branch Park and Cherry Hill Road Community Park in Beltsville. Please contact Marc Imlay, PhD, Conservation biologist, Anacostia Watershed Society 301-699-6204, 301-283-0808 for dates and times.

### 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 2006 Mailing Party Dates (preceding regular Monthly Meetings at White Oak Library):

Tuesdays at 6:00 pm: April 25, June 27, and August 29.



## General Announcements

### 20th Annual Lahr Symposium

#### Native Plants: Cultivating a Sustainable Future

March 25, 8:30 am – 3:30pm

Administration Building Auditorium

Continuing in the 20-year tradition of the Lahr Symposium, this year's program brings together thought provoking topics concerning the natural world and our human attempts to be a positive presence in nature's garden. The day's speakers will address our understanding of what is—and is not—native; the conditions under which natural diversity flourishes; and how our personal landscapes can be transformed from mere ornamental spaces to become genuine environmental assets. Symposium participants can shop early—8-10 am—at the **Native Plant Sale**. For program brochure, fees, and symposium registration form, call 202-245-5898. Number of spaces available as of 1/30/06: 139.

**New England Wild Flower Society (NEWFS)** is delighted to announce the publication of the completely revised second edition of the 1956 Cobb classic Peterson *A Field Guide to the Ferns* of Northeastern and Central North America rewritten by Cheryl Lowe and Elizabeth Farnsworth for the Society, available at [www.newenglandwildflower.org](http://www.newenglandwildflower.org), and widely distributed through publisher Houghton Mifflin. Please get in touch with me with any questions or if you would like to interview the authors or review the new “must-have” guide. Contact Debra Strick at [dstrick@newfs.org](mailto:dstrick@newfs.org) or 508-877-7630 x 3501.

### Pickering Creek Audubon Center

Saturday Morning Naturalist Walks start April 1, 9:00 am.

Come enjoy the bounty of the season at Pickering Creek! Each walk focuses on a different part of our property. Free to All. Call for further information: 410-822-4903.

### 2006 National Environmental Partnership Summit: "Stewardship in Action: Our Responsibility – Our Environment"

May 8-11; Sheraton Atlanta Hotel - Atlanta, GA

During four days of interactive sessions, workshops and site visits, environmental assistance policy-makers, providers, and recipients will explore stewardship activities in pollution prevention, compliance assistance, and performance based environmental leadership. Attendees will examine partnering, science and systems-based approaches, multi-media and “whole toolbox” strategies, measurement, transferability, sustainability and more in the context of a vision of stewardship. Join your colleagues for the third annual National Environmental Partnership Summit - dedicated to and created by individuals who inspire, lead, fund, create, deliver, and receive environmental assistance. Be inspired as you renew and create relationships with as many as 800 environmental leaders and innovators from all over the country. See: [www.environmentalsummit.org](http://www.environmentalsummit.org).

### 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Native Plants in the Landscape Conference

Millersville, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, June 1-3  
Millersville University, Department of Professional Training and Education, P.O. Box 1002, Millersville, PA 17551-0302  
Phone: 717-872-3030 Fax: 717-871-2022 Email: [npilc@yahoo.com](mailto:npilc@yahoo.com) Website: [www.millersvillenativeplants.org](http://www.millersvillenativeplants.org)

### Environmental Concern in Partnership with Chesapeake College is offering Native Plants in the Landscape –

**Homegrown in the USA.** Why is everyone talking about native plants? Don't be the last person on your block to join the native plant revolution, and have healthy gardens that require less maintenance and attract a greater number of birds, butterflies, and wildlife than non-native gardens. Sign up for this eight-hour course taught by certified horticulturists at the nation's first native wetland plant nursery where you will learn: Why native plants are important; The great variety of native plants including trees, shrubs, grasses, and flowers available for the home landscape; Where and how to plant these species; Simple landscaping design principles that you can apply to your own projects; What makes these plants thrive and survive. Tuition: In-county (Talbot) - \$5, Out of county - \$10, Out of State - \$15. All students pay a \$60 course fee, includes a copy of Wetland Planting Guide for the Northeastern U.S. CED 119 A: M, W, 4/24-5/3/06; 6-8pm; 4 sessions. Location: Environmental Concern Campus, St. Michaels, MD. Contact Chesapeake College to register at [www.chesapeake.edu](http://www.chesapeake.edu) or 410-228-4360 ext 5850.

### Botany / Horticulture Courses for Resource Professionals

Environmental Concern Inc. is excited to present its 2006 Wetland Training Schedule. Since 1972, Environmental Concern has been committed to promoting public understanding and stewardship of wetlands through education and outreach, native species horticulture, and restoration and creation initiatives. Come learn with us and gain practical, applicable, and effective knowledge and tools. May 23-24, Wetland Botany, St. Michaels, MD  
August 11-13, Wetland Field Ecology, Delmarva Peninsula  
September 19-21, Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes, St. Michaels  
Instructor bios and a full listing of all courses with descriptions: [http://www.wetland.org/educ\\_procourses.htm](http://www.wetland.org/educ_procourses.htm).

**Environmental Concern** will have retail plant pick up dates Fridays, March 24 and April 21 and Saturday, April 22. Please call to order and schedule time for pick up. On Saturday, March 25, Environmental Concern will be participating in the **Lahr Symposium Native Plant Sale** at National Arboretum, Washington, D.C. 10-3. Celebrate Earth Day Saturday, April 22 with Environmental Concern at Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel, MD 10-2. EC will be selling native plants for your garden. Mark your calendar for Environmental Concern's **Open House and Plant Sale** in scenic Saint Michaels, Maryland on Saturday, June 10 from 9-2. Any questions please call EC Nursery Sales 410-745-9620 or e-mail [nursery-sales@wetland.org](mailto:nursery-sales@wetland.org).



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The *Native News* is adding something new. "Wildflower in Focus" will appear in each issue, written by natural history author and MNPS board member Melanie Choukas-Bradley and illustrated by botanical artist and book illustrator Tina Thieme Brown. "Wildflower in Focus" will explore a native plant in each issue of the *News*. For the first issue, Melanie and Tina have chosen trailing arbutus, a favorite spring wildflower.

**Membership Dues:**

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

Additional Donation \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check:  New  Renewal