

Native News

Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

January/February 2008

Volume 8 Number 1

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Upcoming Monthly Meetings

“Wild Orchids of North America”

Tuesday, January 29, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Join Jessie Harris, renowned nature photographer and MNPS member, for a spectacular presentation on the native orchids of North America. Jessie has traveled throughout the continent in search of wild orchids in their natural habitats and has amassed a stunning collection of photographs, many of which are used in botanical references. Most of Maryland's numerous orchid species will be presented as well, including those that are rare or historically known from the state.

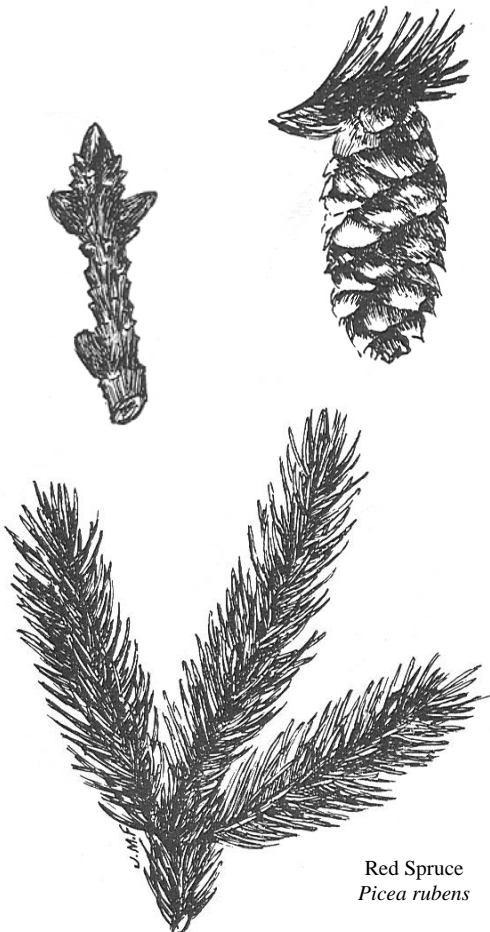
“Rights of Nature”

Tuesday, February 26, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Robert Fireovid, research biochemist and MNPS member, will host a DVD presentation by two internationally renowned environmental lawyers - Cormac Cullinan and Thomas Linzey - speaking eloquently about conferring legal rights to ecosystems. This talk, which was given last spring at a special St. Thomas University School of Law colloquium on the topic, presents a new environmental jurisprudence that gives natural ecosystems legal rights (or standing). Mr. Cullinan wrote the book, *Wild Law* about these concepts; and Thomas Berry wrote the book's forward. Mr. Linzey of the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund has helped municipalities in Pennsylvania pass ordinances conferring rights to ecosystems. A discussion will follow the presentation.

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.



Red Spruce
Picea rubens

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.

Native News



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President's Letter

On this blustery day in December, I am reminded that winter does indeed come to Maryland. I am hoping for lots of snow this year, both because I love the quiet beauty of the falling snow and because we so desperately need to refill our reservoirs that were parched from the long summer drought.

As the Maryland Native Plant Society begins a new year, I'd like to express thanks and appreciation to our retiring board members: Paul Carlson, Joe Metzger, and Lisa Bierer-Garrett. Paul has graciously offered to continue to arrange the monthly meeting place and to remain on the Election Committee. I'm sure both Joe and Lisa will stay active and helpful to the Society as well. We are pleased to welcome oncoming board member Amy Doll who is returning to the board after an absence of several years. Many thanks to Election Committee members Melanie Choukas-Bradley, Paul Carlson, Kirsten Emigholtz, and Karyn Molines as well as the volunteers who helped mail the ballots.

At the November board meeting, we had a final report on the fall conference from Conference Committee Chair Karyn Molines. Karyn reported that we had close to 90 participants and that the Frostburg State University faculty was impressed with the conference. Now is the time to begin thinking of next year's conference. Please let us know your desires as to a location (area of the state) and your preferred dates in early fall. You could email me and/or Karyn with your thoughts.

On the conservation front, recently we have had good news, bad news, and very bad news. The good news from Prince George's County is that, thanks to pressure from Vice-President Linda Keenan and others, the Department of Natural Resources has arranged an agreement with PEPCO for a vegetation management plan at the Buck Lodge Bog. It is hoped that this will result in no mowing and careful use of machines in the sensitive wetlands under the powerline.

The bad news sent by Western Mountains Chapter representative Liz McDowell is that, for financial reasons, Governor O'Malley has proposed closing several parks, including New Germany State Park in Garrett County, the site of one of our field trips at the fall conference. MNPS has sent a letter to the Governor and the Secretary of Natural Resources protesting the closure of New Germany and describing the special scenic beauty and natural recreational opportunities of this park.

MNPS members who live in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties have already heard the very bad news that, in a long-awaited decision, the judge ruled against both legal challenges to the Inter-county Connector. MNPS and the Audubon Naturalist Society based our lawsuit mostly on the destruction of sensitive environmental areas, whereas Environmental Defense and Sierra Club based their suit mostly on air quality issues. MNPS Vice-President John Parrish had spent months, even years, surveying and describing the natural areas in the path of this unneeded superhighway. In November, the MNPS board voted to file an appeal to the decision, but we are waiting to see what action, if any, our partners are taking. Despite these setbacks, I take comfort in the beauty of the winter landscape and the joys of the season. Best wishes to all MNPS members for a wonderful holiday and a Happy New Year (also a big snowstorm!).

Cris Fleming

MNPS Announcements

Greater Baltimore Area Chapter

The Greater Baltimore Area Chapter will meet on Wednesday, January 16 at 7:30 pm at the Irvine Nature Center. Our speaker will be Louisa Thompson who will talk about "**Native Plant Landscaping in Urban Conditions and Disturbed Soils.**" There will be a Steering Committee meeting at 6:00 pm for all who are interested in the workings and programs of the group. For more information contact Ann Lundy at annlundy@verizon.net or 410-366-9365.

Many of us want to restore the native plant community that once existed on the land around our homes, but what if conditions are so changed that the pre-development plant community couldn't survive there now? Should we try to restore the soil? Use non-native garden plants chosen well-adapted to urban conditions? Can we use native pioneer plants, or draw from the plant communities of Maryland's barrens and other stressful environments? There is no single right answer. Join us to consider the problems and possibilities.

Western Mountains Chapter

The Western Mountains Chapter will hold its regular meeting at the Appalachian Lab in Frostburg on Tuesday, February 19 at 7:00 pm. The guest speaker will be Pat Durkin, founder and director of the Baltimore Checkerspot Restoration Project. Ms. Durkin will give a PowerPoint presentation called "**Saving Maryland's Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly.**" Her program will begin immediately following a brief business meeting. The public is welcome to attend.

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

Directions to the program: 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. For more information contact Liz McDowell at 301-895-3686 or info@elkridgenatureworks.com.

Contact MNPS Chapters close to your home:

Catoctin Chapter

catchapter@mdflora.org

Joe Metzger 410-775-7737

Jim and Teresa Gallion 301-898-0678

Please do join the Catoctin Chapter Listserv:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/catoctinmnps/>

Eastern Shore Chapter

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Greater Baltimore Area Chapter

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Northeast Chapter

(Matthew Bazar) nechapter@mdflora.org

Southern Maryland Chapter

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Karyn Molines 410-286-2928

Washington, D.C. Chapter

dcchapter@mdflora.org

Mary Pat Rowan 202-526-8821

Western Mountains Chapter

wmdchapter@mdflora.org

Liz McDowell 301-895-3686

For more info about the seven Chapters of MNPS, please also visit our website

(www.mdflora.org) and click on Chapters.

Wildflower in Focus

This regular feature of the newsletter will reappear in the next (March-April) issue of *Native News*.

Do you know when your membership expires?

We appreciate every member who renews because every society activity is made possible by member dues. If you remember to renew before your expiration date, you'll help us save money by reducing the number of renewal letters we have to mail. We send an email renewal reminder the month before your membership expires – thank you everyone who responds to these emails – you have saved the Society money! We also mail renewal letters out the month you expire, and send two reminder letters if we don't hear from you. Early renewals allow us to spend your membership dollars on projects, not stamps for renewal letters. So, prompt renewals just make sense. To tell when your membership expires, take a look at your mailing label. For example, if your label reads 1/1/2008 your membership expires at the end of January. 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 receive two renewals for a membership, we have a policy to extend the membership for an additional year. Thanks for your support.

Winter Field Trips

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C.

Region (68th in Series) – Bald Eagle Hill

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

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

We will return to **Bald Eagle Hill**, located at the extreme southeastern edge of the District of Columbia. Bald Eagle Hill is not a Civil War Fort but is part of the preserved corridor that connects the Fort Circle to Oxon Cove. This site includes both upland forest and streamside vegetation.

Directions: From the north, take the Anacostia Freeway (I-95) south to the South Capital Street exit. Proceed about one mile to First Street SE and turn right (just after Galveston St). Soon after, make a right onto Joliet Street. Proceed up the hill about 2 blocks and park on the street in front of the Bald Eagle Recreation Center.

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

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

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C.

Region (69th in Series) – Fort Mahan

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

Date: Sunday, February 3 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

We will return to **Fort Mahan**.

Directions: Meet across from Fort Mahan on Benning Road NE. Traveling east on Benning Road from Minnesota Ave NE go three blocks and turn right (it may be 41st Place or Street) to park on the street there or in a small parking lot just off the street at a recreation center.

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

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

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C.

Region (70th in Series) – Fort De Russey

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

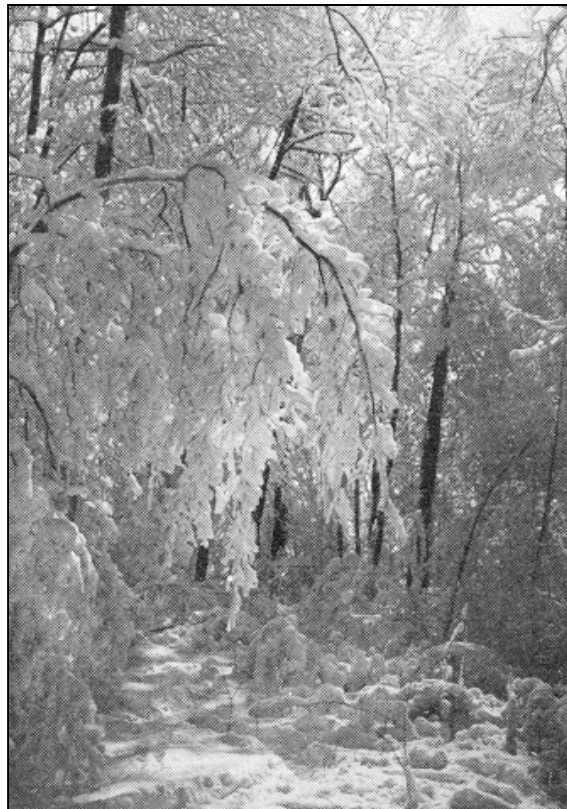
Date: Sunday, March 2 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

We will return to **Fort De Russey**, located in Rock Creek Park in Northwest Washington, D.C. We will investigate the Fort and then move down to the stream and look for early spring ephemerals.

Directions: Get to the intersection of Oregon Avenue and Military Road NW. Travel north on Oregon passing St. John's High School on the west and a military retirement home also on the west and then turn west on Tennyson St and park on the street there across from the park.

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

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



Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C.

Region (71st in Series) – Fort DuPont

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

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

We will return to **Fort DuPont**.

Directions: We will meet in the parking lot of the Ft. DuPont Activity Center off Randall Circle. Randall Circle is on Minnesota Avenue 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. Light drizzle is fine but cancelled if pouring rain.

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

Native News Deadlines:

Jan 25	March/April Early Spring Issue
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

2008 Mailing Party Dates (preceding regular Monthly Meetings at White Oak Library):

Tuesdays at 6:30 pm: February 26, April 29, June 24.

General Announcements

Internship Opportunity: Spring 2008

General internship in a wholesale native wetland plant nursery. Start date: approx. March 3

Length of Internship: 12-15 weeks; 40 hours/week

Hourly wage: \$9.00

Applicant requirements: At least 2 years of college with focus in horticulture, botany, plant science, or a related field; strong interest in ecological restoration

Application deadline: January 12, 2008

Environmental Concern's Wholesale Native Wetland Plant Nursery has been providing quality native plants for successful wetland restoration projects for 35 years. We are seeking two spring interns who are interested in developing skills in the horticulture and nursery industry and share a passion for native plants and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. Interns will receive specific training in native plant propagation and plant health care, and gain work experience in the wholesale native plant nursery industry. They will work along side other nursery staff and will work closely with nursery management to develop one independent research project. Interns may also have the opportunity to participate in outplanting and environmental education projects with EC's Construction and Education Departments. Who should apply: Applicants should be capable of rigorous outdoor work, including lifting up to 50 lbs. Applicants also need reliable transportation to and from work each day.

Please send applications to: Environmental Concern, Inc
Attn: Leslie Hunter-Cario

P.O. Box P, St. Michaels, MD 21663

Phone: 410-745-9620 Fax: 410-745-4066

horticulture@wetland.org www.wetland.org

American Chestnut Land Trust, Prince Frederick Vine Vindicator Workdays

- This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about native species in the mid-Atlantic area and what you can do to help create healthy landscapes. Non-native invasive species are detrimental to the health of native species. The ACLT will provide instructions, showing where invasive plants and vines are of the greatest threat, how and when to remove them, and how and why they are here. Saturdays: January 26, February 23, and March 29

Guided Winter Woodland Hike - Dress appropriately for this memorable afternoon hike. Join the ACLT staff for winter views of Parkers Creek and the Chesapeake Bay. Saturday, February 16, 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Hiking Trail Maintenance Day - Join ACLT staff and volunteers as we work on the hiking trails in preparation for spring and summer hikers. Cook out and picnic lunch provided for volunteers at Noon.

Saturday, March 8, 9:00 am – 12:00 Noon

Special Presentation - "*A Sense of Wonder: A Play Based on the Life of Rachel Carson*"

Acclaimed actress Kaiulani Lee has written and will perform this one-woman play based on the life and works of environmentalist Rachel Carson at St. John Vianney Family Life Center. Sunday, March 30, time to be announced; Admission fee

For the most up to date information, details and directions please visit www.acltweb.org or contact Charity R. Higgs, ACLT Community Relations Coordinator, 410-414-3400 or volunteer@acltweb.org.

8th Land Ethics Symposium:

Creative Approaches to Ecological Landscaping

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve

Thursday, February 21, 2008

Sheraton Bucks County Hotel, Langhorne, Pennsylvania

This informative day-long symposium will focus on the ways in which landscape architects, designers and contractors, and land managers, planners and developers can create economical and ecologically balanced landscapes using native plants and restoration techniques. Stay ahead of the curve with innovative ideas and successful solutions from these experienced landscape practitioners:

Preserving Land in the Face of Development - Ann Hutchinson, Natural Lands Trust

Stewardship Planning for Natural Lands - Holly M. Harper, Natural Lands Trust

Gardens Past, Present & Future: Sustainable Sites Initiative - John Peter Thompson, Behnke Nurseries

One Drop at a Time: New Paradigms for Home Gardens - Marcus de la Fleur, Conservation Design Forum

Queens Botanical Garden's Sustainable Landscapes and Buildings Project - Jennifer Ward Souder, Queens Botanical Garden

Stormwater, Stream Restoration & Native Plants: The Ecological Context & Designer's Challenge - John W. Munro, Munro Ecological Services

Fee, including continental breakfast and lunch: \$99; fulltime students: \$65. Pre-registration by mail or fax required. For more information or to receive a brochure, call the Preserve 215-862-2924, email [Hildy Ellis \(ellis@bhwp.org\)](mailto:HildyEllis@bhwp.org), or visit www.bhwp.org/educational/symposia.htm.

Maryland Big Tree Program Volunteers Needed

The Maryland Big Tree Program Committee is looking for volunteers to help with measuring Maryland's Big Trees. There is no cost to you and training will be provided. Typically a Big Tree Measurement Day takes place on a Saturday and lasts for about 5 hours, but other BTMDs may occur on weekdays and be of shorter duration. Volunteers should be able to walk up to ½ mile at a time over rough ground if necessary. For additional details, contact John Bennett at dottiejobennett@aol.com.



Maryland Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 4877
Silver Spring, MD 20914

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We thank you for your support!

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Name 2 _____
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City _____
State _____ **Zip Code** _____
(Your county is the basis of your local chapter affiliation. Please include.)
County _____
Home Phone _____
Work Phone _____
E-Mail _____

Please do not list me in your membership directory.
 Please do not send me monthly Society announcements by e-mail in addition to post.

If you are a business you can be included on the MNPS providers list.
Please indicate the name of your business and what type of business it is:

Business's name _____
 Native plant propagator or grower
 Native plant supplier
 Native plant landscape professional

Please make checks payable to the Maryland Native Plant Society and mail to:
Maryland Native Plant Society; P.O. Box 4877; Silver Spring, MD 20914

The Maryland Native Plant Society is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible. V8N1J/F08

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