

Native News

Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

May/June 2008

Volume 8 Number 3

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Upcoming Monthly Meetings

“Our Native Pollinators”

Tuesday, May 27, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Many plants and animals have co-evolved over millennia to form the Eastern Deciduous Forest and associated communities that most of us live in the midst of. Native pollinators, in turn, are vital to the future sustainability of our native plants. Join Alonso Abugattas, Naturalist with Arlington County, Virginia and butterfly expert, for a fascinating and lively presentation on our native pollinators, including a wide diversity of native butterflies, bees, and others such as flies, moths, and hummingbirds. Alonso will also discuss ways of attracting pollinators to one's garden and some of the important native plants for pollinators. Directions below.

“Wavyleaf Basketgrass Moves in Waves through Maryland Forests”

Tuesday, June 24, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Join Kerrie Kyde, Invasive Plant Specialist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), for a presentation on the rapidly-spreading, highly invasive Wavyleaf Basketgrass (*Oplismenus hirtellus* ssp. *undulatifolius*) in Maryland. Two small populations of this Eurasian grass never previously found in the U.S. were discovered in Patapsco State Park by sharp-eyed botanists in 1996. Smithsonian Institution and international experts confirmed its identity as an exotic subspecies of a grass that is native to subtropical and tropical regions, including the southeastern coast of the U.S. The native grasses are Basketgrass (*O. hirtellus*) and its related native subspecies Bristle Basketgrass (*O. hirtellus* ssp. *setarius*). The exotic subspecies is Wavyleaf Basketgrass (*O. hirtellus* ssp. *undulatifolius*) [source Maryland DNR]. Kerrie will discuss the serious threats to forest ecosystems from this species, its identification, where it is known in the state, and control and eradication methods, including DNR's efforts.

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.



In Loving Memory of
Wanda Tice

~

Across The Universe

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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President's Letter

Despite the cold rains, cloudy days, and chilly temperatures in March and April, our familiar wildflowers are blooming in the woods. Early spring flowers seen in mid-April along the Potomac River include Sessile Trillium, Trout-lily, White Trout-lily, Dutchman's Breeches, Squirrel Corn, Blue Cohosh, Virginia Bluebells, Wild Blue Phlox, and Dwarf Ginseng.

Here are two dates to put on your calendar right now. May 31-June 1 will be a return to Garrett County for a weekend of field trips. During last year's fall conference in the western mountains, many people requested that MNPS return to the area during the spring flowering time. In response to this wish, we have arranged an informal program of field trips with leaders such as Rod Simmons, Joe Metzger, Liz McDowell, and myself. It should be a good time to see species of this region such as Painted Trillium, Yellow Clintonia, and Fringed Polygala and also to explore some areas in depth. See the information about the weekend in the listing of spring field trips in this issue. Plan to come for all or part of this weekend devoted to field explorations in a beautiful place with good companions.

This year's annual fall conference has been scheduled for September 20-21 and will be held at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) in Edgewater, MD, near Annapolis. The conference committee, chaired by Karyn Molines, is working on the overall theme, speakers, and field trips for the conference. The focus will be on the nearby Chesapeake Bay and associated wetlands.

As a follow-up to a visit last fall, a small group of board members plans to explore the property of the Izaak Walton League near Seneca in mid May. The League has proposed a cooperative venture between our two organizations that interests us very much. MNPS would help the League with identifying plants on their property, suggesting ways to protect the rare species and control invasive species, while the League would offer us their property as a field trip site and their clubhouse as a meeting place. We will keep you informed on this project and hopefully be able to plan a field trip there soon.

At the January annual planning meeting, the board evaluated what had been accomplished in the past year, noted what projects were continuing, and set new goals. I was pleased to report that a long-time project of mine – that of making lists of species seen on our field trips and posting them on our web page – finally got initiated. This is just a beginning; only five lists have been posted but we hope to have more on-line soon. Go to the link for "Plant Lists" to see these and to "Volunteers" to learn how you can help with this important project.

Speaking of the web page, the board and all the members really appreciate the excellent work of web manager Iris Mars in keeping the web page informative, attractive, and up-to-date. Iris reports that requests keep coming in for more photos on the website. This was a goal we set last year but it has not been accomplished yet. I know we have many photographers in MNPS so please contribute some photos. Iris is looking for pictures of plants, natural areas, "horror sites" of invasive species, people on field trips, etc. All photos should be in JPEG (.jpg format) and file size should be < 220KB. Email to mnps_photos@yahoo.com and include your name, the date taken, and a description of the subject.

The joyous welcoming of spring is ageless and universal. In *Song of Solomon*, the poet sings, "For, lo! the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land." I hope you all are able to get out often and enjoy this glorious season!

~ Cris Fleming

MNPS Announcements

Dear Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties resident members,

This is an invitation to all of you to begin considering the formation of a new chapter of the Maryland Native Plant Society. Although we are welcome to participate in any of the hikes and other events scheduled by the other chapters, they are often very far away causing members to miss out on many activities we might otherwise attend if they were closer. We have many wonderful, even unique outdoor locations within our counties, as well as in other nearby ones, for hikes and other outdoor activities and access to relevant events such as lectures, films, etc., closer by that we could attend if information about them would be made available.

If you have an interest in local activities I suggest two ways of indicating your interest:

- 1) If you wish to participate actively in organizing the chapter, getting involved in planning hikes, locating interesting natural sites, finding experts to give presentations, organizing hands-on work restoring the environment, or collaborating with existing local groups, we can organize a planning meeting to discuss what we could do locally that we were not able to do without local organization.
- 2) If you are interested in local activities and do not have the time or desire to get involved in planning, but would participate in local indoor and outdoor events, simply send in your contact information and we will keep you informed of any planned activities.

Please let me know in which of the above categories you would prefer to act and send in your contact information such as name, postal address, telephone or email address. We will then arrange a planning meeting and let everyone know what develops from it. My contact information is: Matt T. Salo, 5607 Greenleaf Rd, Cheverly, MD 20785; 301-341-1261; mtsalol@excite.com or mtsalol@gmail.com.

Western Mountains Chapter Meeting

The *Western Mountains Chapter* of Maryland Native Plant Society will hold its regular meeting at Finzel Swamp on June 17 from 7:00 pm until dusk. During "Focus on Finzel" we will meet outside to explore this unusual shrub swamp owned by The Nature Conservancy. Finzel Swamp is located in a landscape feature called a "frost pocket." It lies at high elevation (2700') in a poorly drained depression surrounded by hills. This combination provides more moisture and cooler temperatures compared with other areas on the Allegheny Plateau. As such, Finzel Swamp is home to state-rare northern vegetation, including Canadian Burnet, Wild Calla, and Larch. It also supports state-rare breeding birds such as alder flycatcher and northern saw-whet owl. Though we will hike only on designated trails, it's best to wear waterproof footwear. Bring insect repellent and a flashlight. Sorry, but no pets allowed and no restrooms available. For more information contact Liz McDowell at 301-895-3686 or

info@elkridgenatureworks.com. Directions: From I-68 take exit 29 and head north on Route 546 for ~ 1.5 miles. Turn right onto Cranberry Swamp Road (just past ballfield) and follow signs for TNC property. Parking is limited so please carpool.

MNPS Board Meeting Schedule for 2008

MNPS members are welcome at the bi-monthly meetings of the Board of Directors. The meetings are held every other month on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Shorefield House in Wheaton Regional Park. From the center of Wheaton, go north on Georgia Avenue, turn right at Shorefield Road (traffic light), go to the end of Shorefield Road and bear left to Shorefield House. Since the meetings are held in a back room, you may have to go around to the back door if the front door is locked. The schedule for 2008: Mondays, May 12, July 14, September 8, and November 10.

Wavyleaf Basketgrass Alert

Maryland Native Plant Society volunteers: Come to the known locations of Wavyleaf Basketgrass in Beltsville, Greenbelt, and Baltimore in late spring to learn how to identify this fast spreading grass that was first identified in North America in the Patapsco Valley State Park in 1997.

So far, the grass has only been documented in Maryland, meaning that if it is eliminated now, the entire continent will be free of yet another scourge to our native flora and fauna. It is stoloniferous, with seeds that easily stick to clothing. Until now, no concentrated effort has been made to manage this mounting crisis which is likely to destroy 10% of our woods in one fourth of the United States of America in the next decade unless we act now.

After you have learned to recognize this grass from your site visit or from the photographs on our website at www.mdflora.org you can look for and report it. Please let us know of your interest in coming to a site visit and report findings to Marc Imlay marc@anacostiaws.org, 301-699-6204, or 301-283-0808, Chair, Habitat Stewardship Committee for the Maryland Native Plant Society and Kerrie Kyde, Invasive Plant Specialist, kkyde@dnr.state.md.us or 410-260-8534. You can call toll free in Maryland: 1-877-620-8DNR (8367), TTY users dial 711.

The Maryland Native Plant Society, Sierra Club, and Anacostia Watershed Society can take credit for having this species identified by botanists at Little Paint Branch Park in Beltsville, Maryland, recognizing that it is non-native and as invasive as Japanese Stiltgrass, which is the most damaging non--native invasive plant in our region. We alerted the Maryland Department of Natural Resources which then found that the initial small patches at Patapsco State Park have expanded to 150 acres of "Astro Turf." If it were not for this example of early detection/rapid response by DNR, AWS, Sierra Club, and MNPS, the entire continent would be at far greater risk.

Native News

In 2007, we mapped and removed 3 small patches of Wavyleaf Basket Grass in Greenbelt National Park, ranging from 5' by 3' to 20' by 10' on the western side of the Azalea Trail, to the west of the Sweetgum Picnic Area. All of the Wavyleaf patches were quite dense, with individual plants occurring along deer trails between major patches. We removed most of the 3 acres of Wavyleaf Basketgrass in the 150 acre Little Paint Branch Park in Beltsville with M-NCPPC and will finish this year.

We alerted the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Ecology Committee. They surveyed BARC-west for wavyleaf basketgrass. BARC found three larger (10-20 sq ft) colonies and a number of smaller ones, all located in a single forested area. On Aug 31, all the plants were treated and they will monitor the site for seedlings next year. The 1,000 acre Middle Patuxent Environmental Area in Howard County surveyed for, found, and removed a significant patch.

~ Marc Imlay

Members' Moments

This column is getting its start in the hope that it will be a forum for MNPS members to let others know something about your MNPS experiences (such as field trips) or what ignited your interest in native plants and habitats or your efforts to preserve native plant communities – any of the many things that bring us all together.

To give the column a start, a number of board members have committed to write something about their own experiences and backgrounds that brought them to MNPS and the board. In fact, the genesis of the thinking about this column came out of a board discussion about one of the board's important ongoing goals, and that is to bring on new members. We thought that by writing something about our individual backgrounds, it would highlight how diverse the skills and experience of the board members are. The hope is that it will encourage many of you to see you much you could bring to the board and consider serving at some point.

As the current secretary and also a board member with a non-botanical background (to encourage those of you who are in the same non-scientific boat), I volunteered to be the first to write about how I came to MNPS and the board. So here goes.

When my husband and I moved, in 1987, to Calvert County, I was a commuting Capitol Hill worker with no gardening heritage and absolutely no botanical understanding. But the move put us in a place with a fair-sized yard, a lot of it untamed. That untamed section issued a real siren call to me, and over the years it became teacher, solace, and frustrating consumer of many weekends. For the first several years I devoured garden catalogs and ordered packet after packet of the most entrancing looking seeds. Most of those seeds ended up adding to the soil composition, but their sprouts seldom saw the light of day.

After a couple years it occurred to me that although the Burpee and Seeds of Change products weren't sprouting, a lot

of other things were in fact thriving. So I started getting interested in those plants. In investigating those persistent characters, of course, a completely new world started to reveal itself. I discovered that there are plants that belong in our area and provide valuable food, shelter, and other life-critical things for the native fauna. And I learned, to my shock, how many of the plants in an area can be remarkable brutes that have insinuated their way into the ecosystem and are quite literally choking out the plants that support the widest variety of wildlife. The more I learned, the more I wanted to know. I was fortunate to have, among many mentors, my neighbor Mary Stuart Sierra who owns Lower Marlboro Nurseries and Karyn Molines and others of Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary.

The more I continue to learn, the clearer I see the urgency and the fundamental importance of protecting of our native plant communities. When I first heard of "the Maryland Native Plant Society" I was thrilled to know there is a community of people pursuing that goal. The work and successes of this relatively small group are, well, awesome, and whatever time can be given to it is, I think, valuable and rewarding. When I learned there were opportunities to serve on the board, I decided to take a chance and see if I could be helpful. Happily, it turns out there is really no end of things that can be done!

~ Carolyn Fulton

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. 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 5/1/2008 your membership expires at the end of May. 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.

Not receiving our monthly emails?

Check that mnps@chesapeake.net is in your address book or list of approved emails—spam blockers might be rejecting the emails. To verify that we have your correct email address, send a message to mnps@chesapeake.net.

Spring Field Trips

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (72nd in Series) – Fort Chaplin

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

Date: Sunday, May 4 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

We will return to **Fort Chaplin**, always a very special trip in May. We see wildflowers which only appear in May and each year at Fort Chaplin we seem to see more than the year before.

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

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

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

Plant It & They Will Come!

Wildlife Habitat Garden Tour, Garrett County

Leaders: Ron Boyer and Liz McDowell

Dates: May 10, 11, 24 & 25 and June 14 & 15

Ron and Liz of Elk Ridge NatureWorks are hosting several open house events at their native plant nursery. Tour their wildlife garden to see a variety of conservation landscaping and wildlife habitat practices that individuals can use to enhance biodiversity around their homes, schools, and businesses. Experience the joys of a garden filled with bees, birds, butterflies, and beautiful plants.

Directions: From I-68 take exit 22 & follow signs for New Germany State Park. Turn left into the park onto McAndrews Hill Road & travel ~ 2 miles to stop sign at Westernport Road. Turn right & travel .25 mile to Red Hill Road. Turn right & drive ~ .5 miles to Elk Ridge Lane. Turn left onto Elk Ridge Lane (private road) & travel .3 miles out gravel lane to site on right.

Note: Free guided tours at 10:00 am, 12:00 noon and 2:00 pm; native plants and habitat boxes available for purchase. Sorry, no pets allowed and no rest room facilities available.

Contact: For more info call 301-895-3686 or email info@elkridgenatureworks.com.

Gunpowder State Park

May Wildflower Hike – Hereford Area

Leader: Dwight Johnson

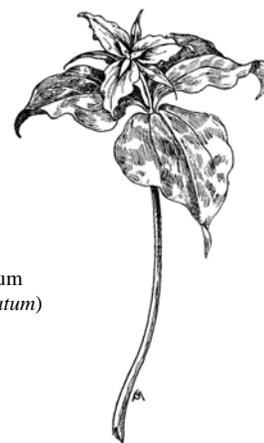
Date: Saturday, May 17 **Time:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Come see some late spring wildflowers on the Gunpowder in Hereford Md. We should see Nodding Trillium, Miterwort, Greek Valerian, and Whorled Pogonia along with other spring wildflowers.

Directions: From the Baltimore Beltway go north on I-83 for 12 miles and take exit 27 onto Mount Carmel Rd. Proceed west for 0.7 miles and make a right at Masemore Rd and proceed for another 1.5 miles to parking area. The speed limit is posted at 10 miles at the bottom of Masemore Rd. Believe it. There is a very sharp narrow turn at the mill.

Bring: Lunch and water. **Note:** You can buy lunch at Graul's Supermarket located in the shopping center on Mt. Carmel Road just east of the exit from Interstate 83.

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



Painted Trillium
(*Trillium undulatum*)

Springtime in Western Maryland

Leaders: Cris Fleming, Rod Simmons, Joe Metzger, Liz McDowell and others

Dates: Saturday, May 31 and Sunday, June 1

Time: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Due to popular demand by participants in the 2007 MNPS fall conference, we are returning to Maryland's western mountains for a weekend of late spring field trips. We will visit some of the same places as we did in the fall, such as Finzel Swamp, North Cherry Creek Bog, The Glades, and New Germany State Park and we'll also explore some new sites in Garrett County. Among the species we hope to see are Fringed Polygala, Painted Trillium, Wild Calla, Yellow Clintonia, Starflower, Goldthread, and many bog species. These field trips will be informal and exploratory with a goal to produce species lists both for our own and The Nature Conservancy's records. We will probably visit at least two sites each day. Participants are welcome for one or both days. Most of the sites are about a three-hour drive from the Washington, D.C. area. Participants are responsible for their own meals and lodging. Camping is available at New Germany State Park and reasonable lodging is found at The Casselman Inn in Grantsville (www.thecasselman.com).

Bring: Field guides, cameras, hand lens, binoculars, water, food, footwear for wet places.

Contact: Cris Fleming at cjfleming@aol.com. Please contact Cris to sign up for the whole weekend or one day only. A detailed list of field trip locations, meeting times, and leaders will be sent to all who sign up.

Native News

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (73rd in Series) – Oxon Run

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

Date: Sunday, June 8 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

We will return to Bald Eagle Hill, (not a Civil War Site but an upland terrace like the Civil War Forts) located at the extreme southeastern edge of the District of Columbia. Here we will hike down to **Oxon Run** at its southeastern exit from the city and take a walk north following the stream to investigate the stream 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: Wear waterproof boots because we may get wet; water and lunch. **Note:** Easy to moderate walk. Light drizzle is fine but cancelled if pouring rain.

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

Ferns on the Gunpowder – Gunpowder State Park – Kingsville (Perry Hall) Area

Leader: Dwight Johnson

Date: Saturday, June 21 **Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Learn about common and some less than common ferns along the Gunpowder River between Kingsville and Perry Hall. We should see more than twenty species. We will explore two different paths, each about one mile long. Both paths will be flat easy walking.

Directions: We will meet at the large parking lot on the east side of US Rt. 1 (Belair Rd) at the Gunpowder River 5.4 miles north of Interstate 695 (Baltimore Beltway) Exit 32.

Bring: Lunch and water.

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



Fringed Polygala
(*Polygala paucifolia*)

Goldthread
(*Coptis trifolia*)



Summer Solstice Walk

Elklick Natural Area, Fairfax County, VA

Leaders: Rod Simmons, Charles Smith, and Tom Raque

Date: Sunday, June 22 **Time:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Please join us as we celebrate the summer solstice on a joint field trip with our friends from the VNPS Potowmack Chapter and Prince William Wildflower Society at the Elklick Natural Area in Fairfax County, Virginia. The Triassic Basin comprises a significant portion of the northern Virginia piedmont, including extensive diabase communities. Elklick Natural Area is one of the region's largest and most diverse natural areas. This recently preserved area includes large expanses of high quality forest, old field communities, diabase outcrop barrens, scenic streams, and wetlands. We will see a diversity of native oaks, including Shumard Oak, Hickories, White Ash, Dwarf Hackberry, and other hardwoods; the state-rare Prickly Ash; expanses of native grass meadows with an abundance of wildflowers, many uncommon to rare, like Heath Aster, Torrey's Mountain Mint, Hoary Mountain Mint, Purple Milkweed, and many others; outcrop barrens with Fameflower, Slim Knotweed, False Pennyroyal, Blue Curls, Hairy Forked Nailwort, and others; and wetlands with Quillwort, Veined Skullcap, and others.

Directions: Take the Capital Beltway (495) across the American Legion Bridge into Virginia and proceed several miles to the 66 West exit. Take 66 west for several miles and take the exit for Rt. 50 West. Take Rt. 50 west from Fairfax and 66 to Pleasant Valley Rd. Turn left on Pleasant Valley Rd and proceed southwest for several miles. Take note at intersection of Pleasant Valley Rd and Braddock Rd (Cox Farms on right) and proceed a short distance past intersection on Pleasant Valley Road and look for parked cars along road edge on right. Park along road edge and fenced field.

Bring: Water, snacks, and lunch. **Note:** This is an easy to moderate walk on mostly flat to gently rolling ground. The morning part of the walk will be to one side of the property and the afternoon to another.

Contact: Rod Simmons cecropia13@msn.com.

Native News

Oaks and Hickories Walk

Co-sponsored by Adkins Arboretum

Leader: Chris Frye

Date: Wednesday, July 9 **Time:** 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Fee: \$8 MNPS or Arboretum members, \$10 general public

Oaks and hickories abound in the forests of the Delmarva and are a critical food source for many animals. Join botanist Chris Frye on a walk to learn about these wonderful trees.

Participants will learn how to identify many of the oak and hickory species, and why their biology makes them so difficult to tell apart sometimes. Chris Frye is Maryland's State Botanist with the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife and Heritage Division.

Bring: Dress for the weather, bring a hand lens, and be prepared to walk through some wet areas.

Contact: Adkins Arboretum info@adkinsarboretum.org or 410-634-2847 x0.

[If you would like to lead a field trip for MNPS or suggest a location for a field trip, please contact Meghan Tice at cecropial3@msn.com with your ideas.]



Contact MNPS Chapters close to your home:

New* Anne Arundel/Prince George's Counties Chapter *New-Just starting

Matt T. Salo 301-341-1261

mtsalo1@excite.com or mtsalo1@gmail.com

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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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.

Invasive Exotic Plant News

On July 12, Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy signed Local Law 22-2007, a law to prohibit the sale, introduction, and propagation of invasive, nonnative plant species. The law states, in part, that beginning January 1, 2009, 57 invasive plant species will be banned, including such menaces as multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), wineberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius*), lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), princess tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*), and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*). Several additional species are to be banned in the following year. You can read the text of the law at the Suffolk County Legislature Web site at www.co.suffolk.ny.us/legis/. Click on "Online Documents," then "Search the laws of Suffolk County." Enter 22-2007 in the search box at the bottom left.

(From *Long Island Botanical Society*, Vol. 17 No. 4, newsletter of the Long Island Botanical Society, New York)

Native News Deadlines:

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
March 25	May/June Late Spring Issue

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

Tuesdays at 6:30 pm: June 24, August 26, October 28.

~ Wildflower in Focus ~

PAWPAW

Asimina triloba (L.) Dunal

Custard-Apple Family (Annonaceae)

Written by
Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Artwork by
Tina Thieme Brown



The pawpaw is the only member of the largely tropical custard-apple family that is indigenous to Maryland and northeastern North America. Pawpaw fruit, which ripens in early fall, is a cross between a banana and mango in taste and texture. Other common names for the plant include “West Virginia banana” and “Indiana banana.” The spring flowers, appearing before and with the young leaves, are equally as intriguing, blooming along streams and rivers and in moist rich woodlands. According to Montgomery County Department of Parks forest ecologist and MNPS board member Carole Bergmann, pawpaw has become more common in Montgomery County, Maryland during recent years as deer don’t browse it as voraciously as they do many other woody plants. Pawpaw serves as the principal host plant for the zebra swallowtail butterfly. **Flowers:** Purple, maroon or brownish. Slightly drooping and somewhat bell-like with 2 layers of 3 petals (6 in all). The outer 3 petals curve backwards. Petals are ovate or nearly round; flowers 1 - 2” across, borne along the branchlets. **Fruit:** Greenish-yellow banana-like berry, 2 - 6” long. Edible, delicious. Favored by humans, bears, raccoons, opossums and wild turkeys. **Leaves:** Simple, alternate, deciduous, 6 - 12” long with an entire margin, abruptly pointed apex and wedge-shaped base. Large leaves are tropical-looking. **Growth Habit:** Small tree or tall shrub. **Twigs:** Slender, brown, pubescent when young, with dark reddish-brown woolly winter buds. The terminal bud resembles a small paint brush. **Habitat and Range:** Moist woods, streamsides, riversides; scattered distribution in southern Ontario and eastern U.S. from New York to Florida, west to Nebraska and Texas. **Herbal Lore:** Steven Foster and James Duke describe a somewhat contradictory herbal profile in Peterson Field Guides’ *A Field Guide to Medicinal Plants and Herbs of Eastern and Central North America*: “Fruit edible, delicious; also a laxative. Leaves insecticidal, diuretic; applied to abscesses. Seeds emetic, narcotic (produce stupor). The powdered seeds, formerly applied to the heads of children to control lice, have insecticidal properties. **Warning:** Seeds **toxic**. Leaves may cause rash.” **Similar Species:** In the absence of flowers and fruit, could be confused with the umbrella magnolia (*Magnolia tripetala*). **Blooming Time:** March - May. **Fruiting Time:** Fruit matures in early autumn. **Locations:** Rock Creek Park, C&O Canal National Historical Park, Blockhouse Point Conservation Park, Hoyles Mill Conservation Park, Wheaton Regional Park, Sugarloaf Mountain along Bear Branch and Bennett Creek, Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary and other parks along the Patuxent River.

MNPS Board President Cris Fleming and Board Members Carole Bergmann and Karyn Molines contributed to this write-up. Wildflower in Focus is adapted from *An Illustrated Guide to Eastern Woodland Wildflowers and Trees: 350 Plants Observed at Sugarloaf Mountain, Maryland* (Choukas-Bradley and Brown, paperback edition, 2008, University of Virginia Press).

General Announcements

Maryland Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation

Meeting on Friday, May 9, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Dr. Hill Craddock, Davenport Professor of Biology at the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga, will be presenting "Chestnut Breeding in the Southeastern US" at the Marx Center at Hood College in Frederick, MD. For more information, call Essie Burnworth, President of MD TACF at 301-762-6715. Directions To Marx Center: From US highway 15 in Frederick, exit onto Rosemont Avenue going east (left turn if coming from south). In about four blocks, you will see Hood College on your left. Turn left into campus on Martha Church Drive, the first possible left after the street angles slightly to the left at the main campus entrance. At the first stop sign, keep to the right of Brodbeck Hall. At the second stop sign, you will face a parking lot. Directly ahead of you to the north as you enter the lot is Coffman Chapel. The Marx Center is just north of the Chapel. You can park in this parking lot or go through the lot keeping to the right to a smaller parking lot immediately to the north of the Marx Center.

Olmsted Woods Bird Walks

All Hallows Guild at Washington National Cathedral was founded in 1916 to be responsible "for the care and beautification of the Cathedral gardens and grounds."

Bird Walks: Thursdays, May 8 and May 15 at 8:30 am
In the restored Woods a guiding principle is the inclusion of groundcovers, shrubs, and trees attractive to birds and other wildlife. Bring your binoculars and catch the spring migration with experienced birder Sheila Cochran.

For the tours: Participants meet at the George Washington Statue on Pilgrim Road, which is on the south side of the Cathedral. Visitor parking is available in the Cathedral garage accessible off Wisconsin Ave. No reservations are required and all programs are free. Programs will be cancelled in the event of heavy rain. Woodlands Info Line: 202-537-2319. Please wear sturdy waterproof shoes.

Volunteer Opportunities: Care of the Olmsted Woods is an ongoing effort. If you would like to help, please call Maureen Alonso, Cathedral Horticulture Manager: 202-537-2203.

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.

Environmental Concern 2008 Wetland Training Schedule

Register now - Spaces are Limited
Wetland Permit Writing (Maryland) - June 25 (NEW)
Introduction to Wetland Botany - July 10-11
Advanced Plant Identification - August 4-5
Living Shoreline Design and Construction - August 20-21
Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes - September 8-11
Evaluation for Planned Wetlands - October 6-8
Basic Wetland Delineation - November 10-14
Scholarships are available. Full course descriptions, instructor bios, and registration information can be found at www.wetland.org. Call or email Bronwyn Mitchell, Education Director for more information: dir.educate@wetland.org or 410-745-9620.

Upcoming Native Plant Sales

Adkins Arboretum's Spring Native Plant Sale and Symposium

This year's native plant sale will be on Saturday, May 10 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. A wide variety of perennials, trees, shrubs, and grasses will be available. Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer gardening questions and there will be guided walks of the Arboretum grounds.

This year's Spring Symposium theme is "Earth's Green Mantle-How It Works." The Symposium will be held on Friday, May 16 from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm at Chesapeake College in Wye Mills, MD. Dr. Doug Tallamy, entomologist at the University of Delaware, and author and photographer Rick Darke are the keynote speakers for this symposium that will cover the basic scientific principles you need for understanding today's complex environmental issues. For more information on these events or to register, call 410-634-2847 x0 or visit www.adkinsarboretum.org.

1st Annual Friends of Black Hill Nature Programs Native Plants and Wildflowers Sale

Friday, May 16 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm and
Saturday, May 17 from 9:00 am – 12:00 noon
This event will have a variety of plants available that are sure to attract butterflies and birds, including hummingbirds to your yard or garden. All proceeds will benefit the naturalist programs at the park. This is also a celebration of our new greenhouse and free refreshments will be served. Please visit our website www.blackhillnature.org. Directions: Sale will be held at the greenhouse at Black Hill Regional Park which is located at 20926 Lake Ridge Drive, Boyds, MD 20841. Contact: Denise.Gibbs@MNCPPC-MC.org.



Maryland Native Plant Society

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Silver Spring, MD 20914

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Please do not list me in your membership directory.

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Please indicate the name of your business and what type of business it is:

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Please make checks payable to the Maryland Native Plant Society and mail to:

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The Maryland Native Plant Society is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible. V8N3M/J08

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 _____

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