

Native News

Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

July/August 2008

Volume 8 Number 4

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Box Huckleberry
(*Gaylussacia brachycera*)
On the verge of extirpation in Md.

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

“Habitat Value of Natives: More Than Fashionable Flowers”

Tuesday, July 29, 7:30 pm

Wheaton Regional Library – Large Meeting Room

11701 Georgia Ave, Wheaton, MD 20902

Continuing the theme of last year's Irvine Native Plant Seminar and this year's Lahr Symposium, this month's meeting will compare cultivars of native plants with native species and how these plants relate to the natural communities around us. Join Lou Aronica, a founding member of MNPS and native plant grower, for a presentation on the choices planners, homeowners, and gardeners have in drawing from the region's natural floristic diversity and plant associations, with an aim towards conservation and restoration.

Directions: Exit the Washington Beltway at Georgia Ave/MD 97 (exit 31) and head north toward Wheaton. Go about 2.4 miles; library is on right. The last intersection is Dawson Ave; if you reach Arcola Ave, you've gone too far.

“A Year of Botanical Exploration in Maryland and Vicinity”

Tuesday, August 26, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library – Large Meeting Room

Join members of MNPS' Botany Committee (and maybe the Maryland Natural Heritage Program) for a presentation on the results of botanical surveys and field trips throughout the state and adjoining region over the past year. The presentation will include newly discovered species for Maryland by DNR and MNPS from the Eastern Shore and Patuxent area; surveys in the “sand belt” region of Anne Arundel County; a Magnolia Bog near Laurel; recent finds in southern Maryland; uncommon to rare species from Baltimore and Pennsylvania field trips; exploration along the upper C&O Canal; and surveys of the Nature Conservancy's North Cherry Creek Bog site and other places in Garrett County.

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.



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President's Letter

May and early June seemed to vacillate between cold rainy weeks and hot steamy days, but as I write this in mid June, lush green summer has certainly settled into Maryland.

A highlight of late May was the Springtime in Western Maryland Field Weekend when about 30 MNPS members from different chapters explored several sites in Garrett County. In cooperation with the Maryland/DC Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, we were privileged to survey the fine forest and pristine wetlands of North Cherry Creek Bog, a new TNC preserve. Our field study and species list will assist TNC in monitoring this beautiful site. Other excellent field trips included exploring the vast peatlands of The Glades and Rock Lodge and seeing the many northern species growing in Big Run State Park and Potomac State Forest. A great time was had by all, topped off by a group dinner at the old Casselman Inn Restaurant. Lists of species found at the public parks will be available on our website later, but we don't publish species lists for privately held sites.

In another cooperative venture, a small group of MNPS members has visited and surveyed the Izaak Walton League BCC Chapter's property in Montgomery County. This site contains very unusual Triassic shale barrens which have been known to harbor several state-rare plants. We were able to confirm the presence of four watchlist and two highly rare species. Unfortunately, the property has many disturbances, including invasive bush honeysuckle and roadside mowing by the county. We are working with the League to address these problems and we plan to schedule a members' field trip there next year.

MNPS Committees have been busy this spring. The Nursery Advisory Committee has prepared a questionnaire to be sent to native plant nurseries, propagators, and growers. The questionnaire is in response to members' interests in whether plants sold are local, state, or regional eco-types. Information from the answers will be posted on our website.

The Conference Committee is busy finalizing details such as location and caterer for the Saturday evening social, field trip sites and leaders, and publicity for the September 20-21 conference at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, MD.

The Governance Committee is tackling an updating of MNPS's by-laws and mission statement. The by-laws, which were written in 1992, are now very outdated and awkward. The committee will prepare recommendations for revisions to the by-laws which will then go to the board for discussion. The mission statement is also obsolete as it fails to mention advocacy efforts, one of our important activities for many years.

Speaking of advocacy, in early May, I received a letter from Governor O'Malley stating that he had "made the decision not to allow commercial wind power development on public land in Maryland." Liz McDowell of the Western Mountains Chapter had alerted me to this concern, the board approved a letter that I then sent to the Governor, and Karyn Molines read the letter at a hearing in Annapolis. Obviously, ours was not the only objection to the plan but I'm proud that we were involved in this successful advocacy action. Mary Pat Rowan of the Washington, D.C. Chapter is currently working on two issues: she received board approval for MNPS to sign on to a letter requesting that the National Park Service do a complete environmental impact study before constructing new cell towers in Rock Creek Park and also to a letter and testimony written by Mary Pat and her husband protesting the proposed sale of the Old Soldiers Home property from the National Park Service to the District of Columbia for development.

Hope you all will still get out during "the dog days of summer." Even when it's hot, the summer wildflowers are gorgeous in the meadows and wetlands.

~ 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; mtsalo1@excite.com or mtsalo1@gmail.com.

Western Mountains Chapter Meeting

Monarch Butterflies, Culture and Conservation

The *Western Mountains Chapter* of Maryland Native Plant Society will hold its regular meeting at the Appalachian Lab in Frostburg on Tuesday, August 19 at 7:00 pm. The guest speaker will be Caroline Blizzard, director of the Discovery Center at Deep Creek State Park. Ms. Blizzard will give a PowerPoint presentation called *Monarch Butterflies, Culture and Conservation*. Her program will begin immediately following a brief business meeting. The public is welcome to attend.

The miracle of the monarch butterfly migration brings diverse cultures and conservation together. Adults and children in Garrett County and Mexico have come to know each other and understand they are working together thousands of miles apart for the same goal. The goal is the preservation of a single insect and conservation issues they both have in common. Ms. Blizzard will present the cultural

and conservation connections she has come to understand through her tagging program, travels to the over-wintering sites in Mexico, on-line student blog, and pen pal program.

Caroline Blizzard has served with the Maryland Park Service for 18 years and has been the director of the Discovery Center at Deep Creek State Park for four years. Prior to her position at the Discovery Center, she was a park ranger at Herrington Manor and Swallow Falls State Park in Oakland and Gunpowder Falls State Park in Baltimore. A graduate of Allegany College of Maryland and Frostburg State University, Ms. Blizzard has studied the monarch-milkweed connection for several years.

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.

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Mary Pat Rowan 202-526-8821

Western Mountains Chapter

wmdchapter@mdflora.org
Liz McDowell 301-895-3686

Welcome New Members!

The following have recently joined the Society: Rochelle Bartolomei, Fritz Bowers, Jennifer Cashell, Natalie Crabbs, Jeremy Edwards, Marcia Froomer, Andrew Graham, Helen Hardcastle and Chris Wetterau, Pamela Haughton-Denniston, Sharon Hipkins, Nancy Horn, Cathy Hudson, Steve McKindley-Ward, Stuart Miles-McLean, Fran Pope, Mark Priest and Yvonne Yang, Cassandra Quandt, Elizabeth Secrest, Pamela K. Shaw, Frances Smithson, John Smucker, Linda Sumpter, and Moira Weldon. Thank you for your support.

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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, July 14, September 8, and November 10.

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 7/1/2008 your membership expires at the end of July. 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.

Photos Wanted for the MNPS Website

Requests keep coming in ... for more photos on the website! You can help by sending in pictures of plants and other things of interest, such as scenes from your favorite natural areas or "horror sites" where invasive plants have taken over.

Guidelines:

Photos with people: Get permission from the individuals in the photo to use the photo on the website; include that with your photo. Many people don't like to unexpectedly find themselves in pictures on websites.

All photos: Must be in JPEG (.jpg) format; file size should be < 200 KB; email to mnps_photos@yahoo.com. Mail must include the following: your name, the photographer's name, the date taken, the location taken, a description of the subject (e.g., if it's a plant, identify the plant).

2008 Annual Fall Conference

Ecological Communities of the Western Shore of the Chesapeake Bay September 20-21

Location: Smithsonian Environmental Education Center
Edgewater, Anne Arundel County

Early Registration Fee: Members: \$50; Nonmembers: \$65
(includes lunch) Saturday Social Fee: \$30 (includes dinner)

This year we will focus on the Western Shores of the Chesapeake, from brackish tidal wetlands to the riparian forests of the Patuxent River. We will highlight the recently described Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*) Coastal Plain Bottomland Forest communities found in Prince George's County. Our annual fall conference starts Saturday with a morning of speakers followed by afternoon and Sunday field trips throughout the region. The evening Saturday Social offers an opportunity to catch up with others. Additional details can be found on our website www.mdflora.org or contact Karyn Molines, Fall Conference Chair kmolines@chesapeake.net (preferred) or 410-286-2928.

Members' Moments

I became a Habitat Steward for the National Wildlife Federation in 2000 and my little 1/8-acre in Bethesda was certified as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat the next year. It seems I have always been interested in wildlife, but I wasn't always aware of the connection between local flora and local fauna. In the late 1990's I began volunteering and taking classes at Woodend, the Audubon Naturalist Society sanctuary in Chevy Chase.

As time allowed, I would go on spring wildflower walks offered by ANS, often with Cris Fleming. I learned about our native trees, shrubs and flowers, where they grew naturally, their wildlife associations, and threats to their existence. Slowly I began seeing the big picture: the importance of native plants and biodiversity, and the threat of non-native invasive plants to our ecosystem. I became a Weed Warrior.

Several years ago I was certified by The Nature Conservancy to tackle invasive plants in the Potomac Gorge, and I chose Carderock as my focus area. Carderock is fifteen minutes from my home and is just off the beltway in Maryland. The area between the climbing wall and the Potomac River became my favorite place to roam, whether I was looking for wildflowers or garlic mustard. Cris Fleming first introduced me to this special place on one of the early spring wildflower walks. Over the years, I have been back to this area countless times, in all seasons.

Now I lead walks myself to Carderock and to other areas in the Potomac Gorge such as Turkey Run, Scott's Run, and Riverbend. I am not a botanist or even a trained naturalist, so I was surprised when I was asked to join the Board of the Maryland Native Plant Society. But anyone with a love of our native plants and their habitats can make a significant contribution to this wonderful organization.

~ Marney Bruce

Summer Field Trips

Please note:

There will be no Civil War Fort Site field trips in July or August. Please see the trip description for September.

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.

Box Huckleberry and Mid-Summer Flora in the Ridge & Valley Province in Pennsylvania

Leader: Lou Aronica

Date: Sunday, July 13 **Time:** 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

This field trip is jointly sponsored by MNPS and the newly founded Williams, Powell, Clark, and Stoney Valley Botanical Society (WPCS Bot Soc). Box Huckleberry (*Gaylussacia brachycera*) has a spotty occurrence in Maryland, Delaware, and Penna., as well as a wider distribution on the western side of the Appalachians. The one known Md. site is now down to a few stems. Penna. has 3 historical locations in Perry County. The site we will visit is by far the largest patch, covering a number of acres and may be one plant. Following the visit to the Box Huckleberry site, time and interest permitting, we will revisit Stoney Valley to check Mid-summer flora. We will gather at the same location (see below) as on April 27th and carpool about 22 miles to the Perry County location.

Directions: Proceed to Harrisburg, PA via I-83 (Baltimore Area) or I-270 and Route 15 (D.C. area). Take Route 22-322 about 7 miles north to the town of Dauphin – exit into town about 1000 feet – and gather in front of small shopping area on left.

Bring: Lunch, water, and footwear for some moist but rocky terrain.

Contact: If you are late or lost, call cell phone 703-597-3711 to hook up.

Wetland Plants of Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary

Leader: Karyn Molines

Date: Saturday, July 26 **Time:** 9:30 am – noon

Summer is when freshwater tidal wetlands are most lush. Pickerelweed, arrowhead, wild rice, turtlehead, and over 60 other species can be found in the marshes and swamp along the Patuxent River. We won't even need to get our feet wet, because we'll be on boardwalks and trails. Ospreys, turtles, frogs, and snakes are likely to be found on this easy hike.

Directions: From Washington, D.C.: From the Washington Beltway take Pennsylvania Ave (Route 4) south. In about ten miles take exit for Plummer Lane. Continue for half mile and turn right on Wrighton Road. In a half mile turn left onto gravel drive and proceed to the Wetlands Center.

From Annapolis: Take Route 2 south of Annapolis (approx. 15 miles). Turn right at light for Route 258. Continue 4.5 miles to the end.

From Calvert/St. Mary's Counties: Take Route 2-4 North. Continue on Route 4 north at the 2-4 split. Take the Bristol/Deale exit (Route 258). At top of ramp turn left. Travel over Route 4 to the stop sign. Turn left onto Wrighton Road. Continue for 1.5 miles and turn left onto gravel drive and proceed to Wetlands Center.

Bring: Water and a bag lunch; field guides, binoculars, hand lens, camera.

Note: Trip is on, rain or shine.

Contact: Karyn 410-286-2928, or kmolines@chesapeake.net (preferred) or call the Sanctuary 410-741-9330.

Poplar Island Restoration Tour

Leader: Katelin Mielke, Poplar Island Tour Director

Date: Thursday, August 7 **Time:** 9:00am – noon

This trip is a great opportunity to view the restoration of Poplar Island, a historic island in the Chesapeake Bay, which provides a beneficial use of dredge material. Hundreds of thousands of native marsh grasses have been planted on the island, providing wildlife habitat. Poplar Island is expected to serve as a wintering site, transient stop, and nesting location for local and migratory wildfowl. It also provides shelter and quiet water habitats for diamondback terrapins, crabs, rockfish, and killifish. The island restoration is a multi-organization effort sponsored by the USACE and the MPA. The tour will transport us to the 3.5 acre long and ½-mile wide island via boat and around the island via bus.

Directions: Because the Poplar Island land base is under construction and may be in an alternate location, directions to the meeting place will be provided to confirmed participants approximately one week prior to the tour.

Bring: Please pack water and a snack. You may also wish to bring a windbreaker, sun-block, insect repellent, and binoculars. Those who wish to pack a lunch may gather afterwards to eat in a nearby park.

Note: This trip is limited to 24 participants. Please contact Leslie Hunter-Cario to sign up. Current MNPS members may attend for free, while non-members will pay \$25 for registration (MNPS membership).

Contact: RSVP to Leslie Hunter-Cario eschapter@mdflora.org (preferred, so that directions can be emailed) or leave a voice mail at 410-463-2890.

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Gunpowder State Park – Hereford Area

Leader: Dwight Johnson

Date: Sunday, September 7 **Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

This will be a 4-mile nature and exercise hike along the Gunpowder from Masemore Rd to Prettyboy Dam. There will be steep and very rocky sections along the trail. We will stop for anything that is interesting. We should find a good variety of ferns and 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. Binoculars might be handy. Hiking boots are highly recommended.

Note: Rain or shine. If you need to pick up a sandwich, Graul's Supermarket is located in the shopping center on Mt Carmel Rd at the I-83 exit. You will want to ask to have it packed in a bag instead of their usual plastic box.

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

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (74th in Series) – Fort Circle Connector

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica

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

We will trek along the **Fort Circle Connector** near Eastern Avenue at the edge of Washington, D.C. Along this stretch there are a number of terrace gravel sites which we have not explored in the last few years. It is time to revisit these to understand why they are preserved and worthy of future preservation.

Directions: Heading Southeast on South Dakota Ave NE from Riggs Road take a left on Gallatin St and park where 17th Street comes in on your right (the woods are on your left). Or, if coming from the Southeast (such as from the BW Parkway), travel Northwest on South Dakota to Gallatin St (remember it is in the 3 syllable sequence) and turn right on Gallatin St and travel to the intersection with 17th coming in on your right with the woods on your left. Park on the street.

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

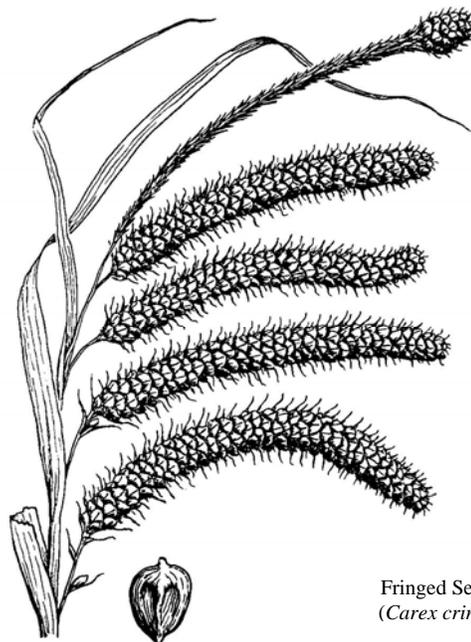
Contact: Mary Pat Rowan blair-rowan@starpower.net or 202-526-8821.

Jean Ellen DuPont Sheehan Audubon Sanctuary Field Trip

Leader/s: Audubon Staff

Date: Tuesday, September 16 **Time:** 3:00 pm

The Sheehan Audubon Sanctuary is a 952 acre property in Talbot County bordering tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay. There are woodlands (some historically drained, some with vernal pools), grasslands, tidal and non-tidal wetlands, and shoreline areas. The non-tidal wetlands, formerly agricultural



Fringed Sedge
(*Carex crinita*)

fields, have recently been restored, and the plants will have had a full growing season to develop. The grasslands are in the midst of some management trials. To get a good look at all of the various habitats, we'll travel partially by vehicle and partially on foot.

Directions: From the north, follow US 50 E to Easton. Take a right on Rt. 322 Easton Bypass. Take a right on Rt. 33 St. Michaels Road and follow approximately 12 miles. (From the south, follow U.S. 50 W to Easton, turn left on Rt. 322, and turn left on Rt. 33.) After passing through the town of St. Michaels, look for signs for Bozman. Take a left on Rt. 579 Bozman Neavitt Road. Travel about 1.7 miles to the sanctuary, which will be a left turn. We will meet by the gate and travel in together.

Carpool Info: If interested in carpooling, e-mail Leslie and let her know where you would be able to meet up with others.

Bring: Binoculars are a must, as well as good solid walking shoes or hiking boots. You may also wish to bring water to drink or a field guide for reference. Ticks and chiggers and mosquitoes abound, so be prepared to tuck in and spray up.

Note: The tour is provided free of charge, however donations to the sanctuary are appreciated.

Contact: RSVP to Leslie Hunter-Cario eschapter@mdflora.org; leave a voice mail at 410-463-2890.

Native News Deadlines:

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
May 25	July/August Summer 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 ~

BONESET

Eupatorium perfoliatum L.

Aster or Daisy Family (Asteraceae)

Written by
Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Illustration by
Tina Thieme Brown



Tina Thieme Brown ©2008 *Eupatorium perfoliatum* Boneset

Boneset was an herbal medicine staple for Native Americans and early European settlers. Thanks to its distinctive leaves, boneset can be told readily from other indigenous white-flowering members of the *Eupatorium* genus. Boneset grows in moist and wet habitats throughout Maryland. **Flower Heads:** Small chalky white disk flowers (10 - 25 per head) form fuzzy, flat-topped or multileveled terminal and upper axillary clusters up to several inches across. **Leaves:** Opposite, simple; lanceolate, toothed, sessile, with at least some of the leaf bases so perfectly fused that the plant stalk appears to pierce through one double leaf. When leaves are fused, the term is “connate;” when appearing to be pierced by the stem, “perfoliate.” One botanical manual describes boneset’s leaves as “connate-perfoliate.” Plant stalk hairy. **Height:** 2 - 5’.

Habitat and Range: Moist or wet woods, meadows and thickets; much of eastern U.S. and Canada. **Herbal Lore:** According to Steven Foster and James Duke (Peterson Field Guides’ *A Field Guide to Medicinal Plants and Herbs of Eastern and Central North America*), boneset was a “common home remedy of 19th-century America, extensively employed by American Indians and early settlers. Widely used, reportedly with success, during flu epidemics in 19th and early 20th century. Leaf tea once used to induce sweating in fevers, flu, and colds; also used for malaria, rheumatism, muscular pains, spasms, pneumonia, pleurisy, gout, etc. Leaves poulticed onto tumors. German research suggests nonspecific immune-system-stimulating properties, perhaps vindicating historical use in flu epidemics.” However, Foster and Duke add the warning: “Emetic and laxative in large doses. May contain controversial and potentially liver-harming pyrrolizidine alkaloids.” The herb is extremely bitter to the taste, and therefore disliked by children, according to Alma R. Hutchens, who reports in her book *Indian Herbalogy of North America*: “in these cases a thick syrup of Boneset, ginger and anise is used...for coughs...” I report on the plant’s herbal use for historical purposes only. One should never harvest this native plant! **Similar Species:** Use the connate-perfoliate leaves (see **Leaves**) to distinguish this species from other white-flowering *Eupatorium* locals (and add to your botanical vocabulary!). **Blooming Time:** July – October. **Locations:** Moist and wet areas throughout the state. Cabin John Regional Park, Potomac River and C&O Canal, Bear Branch – Sugarloaf Mountain, Little Bennett Regional Park.

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).

Land Grab at Fort DuPont

The National Park Service is attempting to transfer jurisdiction of land at Fort DuPont in the District of Columbia to the D.C. government. The transaction is part of a plan essentially to privatize NPS land at Ft. DuPont for two announced purposes: to help the owners of the Washington Nationals establish a baseball "academy," and to build a second ice hockey rink (with associated parking) on park land.

In the view of the MNPS, this large, exceptional tract of terrace gravel forest and adjoining wetlands should not be dismembered, especially since there are nearby alternative sites that are not now parkland. The National Park Service should fulfill its charter to protect these lands for their natural and historical significance. If it is public policy to further subsidize the baseball and hockey interests, this should be done honestly and openly.

The District of Columbia chapter of MNPS is fighting this land grab; we hope soon to post legal documents regarding this battle on the MNPS website. Please protest this plan to your own members of Congress (this is a national park, and part of the motive of this maneuver is to circumvent the clear will of Congress). Also please write both the NPS official responsible for this park, Gayle Hazelwood (Director, National Capital Parks-East) at Gayle_Hazelwood@nps.gov and also the Secretary of the Interior, Dirk Kempthorne, at the Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240.

~ Mary Pat Rowan & Philip Blair

Upcoming Native Plant Sale

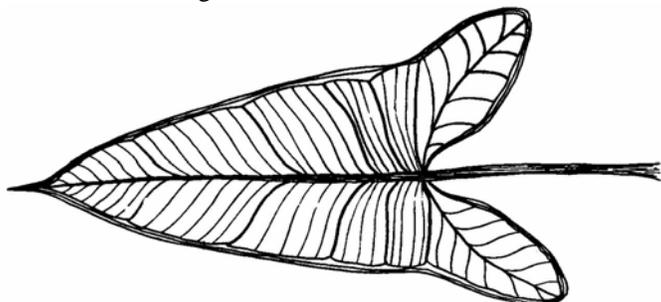
Fall Native Plant Sale at Environmental Concern

Friday, September 12, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Saturday, September 13, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

201 Boundary Lane, St. Michaels, MD

Bring your gardening and native plant questions and enjoy the opportunity to browse Delmarva Native Species offered at Environmental Concern's Native Wetland Plant Nursery! Specific retail plant orders may be placed in advance. For more information call 410-745-9620 or see our website: www.wetland.org



In Memoriam

Originally published on December 17, 2007,
10:30 am in a Cumberland newspaper

Late botanist remembered as a friend and teacher

To the Editor:

Maryland and the surrounding areas have lost a botanical treasure. The passing of Dr. Melvin Brown (Dec. 7, 2007) has created a void in plant knowledge that will be difficult to fill.

First, I must extend my condolences to Mrs. Mary Brown, Melvin's wife and partner in education for many years. She must know that Melvin loved her a great deal. For the past 31 years Melvin Brown has been my friend, a mentor, a teacher, and a colleague. To all he has been an author, professor, architect of arboreta, conservationist, and in general, a plant wizard who was willing to devote time, energy, and money to educate the public about our plant world.

To my students and other students of colleges and universities in the tri-state area Dr. Melvin Brown's name has been familiar to them as the coauthor of the herbaceous and woody vegetation books of Maryland. They soon found out that these books were the best choice to identify local vascular plants.

In particular the forestry program at Allegany College of Maryland owes a great deal to Dr. Brown. Each spring he willingly let us tour his private arboretum and he was always available to me and my students to lend his personal observations about plants.

I always liked to tell my students that Dr. Brown had forgotten more botany than I would ever know. In fact, Melvin never forgot his botany nor lost his love for teaching others about plants. Our field trips this spring will not be the same without Dr. Brown telling us a new plant secret that he had just learned.

Likewise, it will not seem the same without Melvin holding court in a leader's cabin during the West Virginia Wildflower Pilgrimage held at Blackwater Falls State Park in Davis, W. Va. He was highly respected by his peers and I know that he will be sorely missed by the biologists and botanists who worked with him.

This short letter cannot do justice to a man who loved his family and is a poor attempt to describe the contributions that he made to the pursuit of botanical knowledge. I hope that Melvin is happy finding plants in another realm.

Jim Howell
Cumberland

[Ed. note: Dr. Melvin L. Brown, along with Dr. Russell G. Brown, co-authored our state floras, *Woody Plants of Maryland*, 1972, and *Herbaceous Plants of Maryland*, 1984, Port City Press, Baltimore, Md.]

Native News

Virginia Native Plant Society 2008 Annual Meeting September 12–14, Alexandria, VA

“The Potowmack Experience: Flora along the Fall Line”

The diversity of plant communities along the Potomac River, our National River, is the focus of the 2008 VNPS Annual Meeting. The Potowmack Chapter lies in the Fall Line region, where the Piedmont meets the Coastal Plain. Despite the urban location, spectacular local and national parks border the river and protect dramatic falls, fascinating geologic features, meadows, bogs, and marshes all in a brief span of the river. A variety of field trips to outstanding natural areas and forays to gardens and herbariums are planned for the weekend. A dessert reception and presentation on Friday night are highlights followed on Saturday night by the annual meeting, buffet, and keynote speaker. We hope you will join us.

Accommodations: Rooms are being held until **Friday, August 22** at the Courtyard by Marriott, Alexandria Pentagon South, 4641 Kenmore Ave., Alexandria, VA 22304; \$99/2beds/night plus tax and \$10 parking fee. Call **(703) 751-4510** and mention **VNPS Annual Meeting**. Other local hotels include the Comfort Inn (703) 642-3422, Econo Lodge (703) 979-4100 and Best Western (703) 979-4400. ***Field trips will leave across the street from the Marriott and it is where the banquet will be held; we encourage you to stay there.***

Directions to Green Spring Gardens: From I-395, take Exit 3B (Little River Turnpike West, Rte 236). Go 1.25 miles, then turn right on Braddock Road. Stay in the right hand lane and turn right onto Witch Hazel Road, the entrance to Green Spring. Go right at the stop sign to the Horticulture Center. From I-495: Take Exit 52B (Little River Turnpike East, Rte 236). Travel 3.5 miles, turn left on Braddock Road. Follow directions above.

For schedule, registration form, maps, information on restaurants, and links to field trip sites, visit www.vnps.org.

Saturday evening Social hour/Buffer/Annual Meeting and Guest Speaker

Courtyard by Marriott, Alexandria Pentagon South, 4641 Kenmore Ave., Alexandria, VA

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Social hour and cash bar

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Buffet

8:00 p.m. **Keynote Presentation: *Whither Potomac Wildness?*** Proximal to both the Coastal Plain and Piedmont provinces, the tidal-Potomac watershed below the Fall Line retains remnants of an impressive biodiversity once sustained by extensive forestlands. Even as we commemorate lingering examples bequeathed us by history, such as tidal-freshwater marshes, regionally endemic Magnolia Bogs, and pockets of shell-marl forest, the need for conservation looms lest we pass along little in the face of spreading urbanization.

Keynote Speaker: Jim Long is coordinator of the Mattawoman Watershed Society and has been involved in southern Maryland and Potomac River conservation issues for many years. A Ph.D. physicist by training, he has assisted in field studies of Mattawoman Creek and its watershed, including botanical surveys and freshwater mussel assessments, and has led assays of habitat usage by migratory fish. Dr. Long has held numerous Maryland Scientific Collecting Permits, is a longtime, active member of the Maryland Native Plant Society, and was recently awarded the Conservationist of the Year award by the Southern Maryland Audubon Society.



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

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The Maryland Native Plant Society is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible. V8N4J/A08

Membership Dues:

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

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