

# Maryland Native Plant Society CONFERENCE 2018

## *The Times They Are A'Changin'*

### *Threats to Maryland's Native Plant Communities*

Co-sponsored by the Department of Geography and Environmental Systems at University of Maryland Baltimore County and the Mid-Atlantic Invasive Plant Council

## **Saturday, September 15 Field Trips and Workshops**

### **Benjamin Banneker Historical Park – Judy Fulton**

Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum is dedicated to the life and times of Benjamin Banneker, often considered the first African-American man of science. The park's wooded trails harbor a variety of native and invasive plants. Participants will learn how to identify common and uncommon non-native plants, as well as natives that are seen along the way. Easy walk. The park is located near UMBC.

### **Gunpowder State Park, Hereford Area - Dwight Johnson**

On this trip we will explore a variety of diverse habitats, from highland to riparian, along the Gunpowder River, one of most pristine natural areas in greater Baltimore.

### **Gwynns Falls-Leakin Park - Rod Simmons**

This 1200 acre park complex overlies the Baltimore Gabbro Complex - a base-rich mafic rock that gives rise to floristically diverse plant communities and a high number of species. We will see several state-rare sedges, numerous grasses, a diversity of shrubs, understory, and canopy trees, many of which are massive in size, and several natural community types. We will also explore a mafic seepage swamp via boardwalk. This is a relatively unexplored area.

### **Oregon Ridge State Park- Carole Bergmann**

At close to 900 acres, the Oregon Ridge State Park forest has been called Baltimore County's premier public forest. A forest study found that 20 of the 22 forest stands have trees more than 100 years old, and that 84% of all trees are 18" dbh (that's approximately 54" in circumference) or greater. Oaks dominate 80% of the forested acres, but we will see several natural community habitats, a diversity of canopy trees, understory shrubs, ferns and herbaceous plants.

### **Patapsco Valley State Park - Rochelle Bartolomei**

One of Maryland's largest parks, Patapsco Valley State Park extends along 32 miles of the Patapsco River. Rochelle will select an area with a good variety of Maryland piedmont plants for September viewing.

### **Soldiers Delight Natural Environmental Area – R. Wayne Tyndall**

This 1,900 acre of serpentine barren harbors many rare and uncommon plant and animal species. Efforts are underway to restore the natural serpentine habitat by removal and prescribed burning of invading Virginia pine. Wayne Tyndall has been a leader in the conservation and restoration of Soldiers Delight for many years.

### **Plant ID and iNaturalist workshop on UMBC campus – Laura Sebastianelli and Karyn Molines.**

In this workshop, Laura will guide you through the iNaturalist app and web site for on-line nature information sharing, while Karyn will help participants learn how to identify the plants found on the UMBC campus.

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## **Sunday, September 16 Field Trips**

### **Carroll Co location TBA - Bob Ringler**

Naturalist Bob Ringler will decide on a good place for a field trip in Carroll Co based on his exploration near the date of the conference. Participants will be looking down at the plants and up at the birds.

### **Ferns on the Gunpowder - Dwight Johnson**

On this trip along the Gunpowder River just north of Perry Hall, we should see close to twenty fern species, plus other plants. You will learn to identify some common and less common ferns.

### **Gwynns Falls-Leakin Park - Rod Simmons**

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### **Harlem Park Green Project - Chris Swan, Professor, University of MD Baltimore County**

This field trip follows up on Chris Swan's Saturday morning talk. We will tour vacant lot sites that are part of the West Baltimore Wildflower Project, whose goal is to transform vacant lots into low-maintenance, attractive green spaces that bring natural beauty into urban neighborhoods and positively impact the environment.

### **Lake Roland Park - Kirsten Johnson**

We will walk through the park's deciduous forest to the rare serpentine grassland where a restoration project has been started. We should see blackjack and post oak, as well as a variety of composites and grasses. This park is a good example of the management of natural plant communities in a park surrounded by suburban development.

### **Severn Run Natural Environmental Area - Karyn Molines**

This is an undeveloped park protecting the Severn Run watershed. We will look for climbing fern, maleberry, poison sumac, and other interesting species.