

MNPS Welcomes New Treasurer – Kirsten Hoffman

We are delighted to welcome Kirsten Hoffman to the board of the Maryland Native Plant Society (MNPS). Kirsten started working with the board this January and is already contributing significantly to MNPS administration as well as helping with a few projects. Kirsten is a retired architect and, most importantly, a native plant enthusiast. She is a board member of the Green Towson Alliance, where she helped develop a native street tree plan for downtown Towson and training materials for Baltimore County weed inspectors. As a Blue Water Baltimore Tree Steward for her neighborhood, she helped residents purchase, plant, and maintain more than 100 native trees over the past two years. Kirsten completed her Master Naturalist training at Cylburn Arboretum in 2023 and is currently working on a forest stewardship project for the arboretum. Starting in 2022, Kirsten assembled the working group that wrote and helped pass state legislation establishing the Maryland Native Plants Program. As a founding member of the Maryland Native Plant Coalition, she is working on legislation to update and improve Maryland's invasive plant law. Kirsten lives in Towson with her husband, the youngest of her three children, and her two cats. We are thrilled to have Kirsten on the board and are especially grateful to her for stepping up to the role of Treasurer. We look forward to working with her to promote the mission of the MNPS.



Kirsten Hoffman, MNPS' new treasurer, in front of limestone caves at Old Man's Cave, Hocking Hills State Park, Ohio

Mountain Maryland Native Plant Festival - May 11, 2024

NEW GERMANY STATE PARK, GRANTSVILLE, MARYLAND

Come celebrate the critical connection between native plants, people, and wildlife at the Ninth Annual Mountain Maryland Native Plant Festival, Saturday May 11th (10:00AM to 3:00PM), New Germany State Park in beautiful biodiverse Garrett County, Maryland. The main festival sponsors are New Germany State Park, Friends of New Germany State Park, and the Maryland Native Plant Society.

Volunteers, park staff, native plant nurseries, artisans, and conservation groups have teamed up to provide this festival highlighting the importance of native plants in the landscape. Always held on the second Saturday in May, the festival features native plant talks, native plants and craft for sale, displays peopled by natural resource experts, volunteers, and enthusiasts. The festival is FREE but your support of these vendors and groups through your purchases and donations is deeply appreciated!

For more information and updates on the Mountain Maryland Native Plant Festival, visit the MNPS event web page (mdflora.org) or phone the park office at 301-895-5453.



Despite the cold, rainy weather at the 2023 festival, native plant enthusiasts took their time to look through a large variety of native plants to find the perfect one for their garden.

FORMAL PROGRAMS

Jen Johnson, Owner/operator, Native Roots, Inc.-
Restoring Ecological Services with Native Plant Gardening.

Ian Caton, Owner/operator, Wood Thrush Native Plant Nursery -
Super Tough Wildflowers.

Mitch Hall, Director of Landcare Services, Fourth River Workers Guild -
Reading Between the Lines