

Native News

Newsletter of the Maryland Native Plant Society

March/April 2003

Volume 3 Number 2

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Upcoming Monthly Meetings

“A Celebration of our Spring Woodland Wildflowers”

Tuesday, March 25, 7:30 pm

White Oak Library
Montgomery County

Join Rod Simmons, field ecologist, for a presentation on many of the native plants that flower during the months of March, April, and May, including the spring ephemerals. Spring-flowering woodland grasses and sedges, herbaceous plants, shrubs, and small trees will be discussed, with an emphasis on identification, plant associations, and where they can be found in the region.

Directions: Exit the Washington Beltway at New Hampshire Avenue (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.

“Mosses, Liverworts, and Lichens”

Tuesday, April 29, 7:30 pm

Aspen Hill Library
Montgomery County

Leah Oliver, a botanist with NatureServe, will give a presentation on the fascinating world of bryophytes, including their ecology, identification, and importance in maintaining air quality and biological diversity.

Directions: From the Washington Beltway (495) take Connecticut Avenue North to Aspen Hill Road. Turn left onto Aspen Hill Road. Library is about 2 ½ miles on right, just past stoplight at Parkland Drive and Aspen Hill Road. You will see a large parking lot.

Refreshments served and door prizes awarded at each monthly meeting. Potluck refreshments are welcomed.

Please see Upcoming Chapter Events on the back cover.



Polytrichum commune
Hair Cap Moss



Sphagnum species
Peat Moss

Maryland Native Plant Society

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President's Letter

Greetings,

During this wintry cold-spell, I'm inclined to snuggle under a blanket with a good book, a sweater to knit, and a cat on the lap. But it's also the time for my annual search for the first flower of the year—skunk cabbage. (I must admit I search for it in December to be my last flower of the year as well!) If this plant can summon the strength to break through the cold, frozen ground, surely I can get myself motivated to do something besides crave a warm spot by the hearth. Finding this bizarre pocket of a flower does give me pause, for the coming spring days will soon be upon me—when so many things are happening at the same time I get in a tizzy trying to keep up. I try to savor these slightly quieter months, reflecting on what has been done over the past year and looking forward to the future.

I have been involved with the Maryland Native Plant Society since its inception in January 1992. I am impressed with the strength and diversity of the services we provide, functioning solely on our membership dues and volunteer effort. Each year it seems we are able to expand a little bit to fulfill our mission to "increase awareness and appreciation of native plants and their habitats, leading to their conservation and restoration." For the third year, the Board of Directors met for a 'retreat,' more of a yearly evaluation and planning meeting, actually. One of our proud achievements (among many, which you will hear about in coming months) is the expansion of our Chapters, and we hope to further develop new and existing Chapters over the coming year.

Have you noticed over the past few issues of *Native News* that page 3 has featured Chapter Updates? We have four active Chapters (Catoctin, Greater Baltimore, Southern Maryland, and Washington, D.C.) and two inactive (Eastern Shore and Northeast). The objective of chapter development has a history that stems from the Society's initial founding. When we began in 1992, our active members were concentrated in Montgomery County. Many reasons contributed to this, primarily because the Society was started through a close network of people interested in native plants. As with any clique, encouraging a wider and more diverse membership to join your circle of friends is a challenge. The success of our Montgomery County evening programs demonstrates the success of our 'word of mouth' development. But Maryland is much more than Montgomery County.

Our field trips and fall conferences are the main avenues for reaching out to other parts of the state, and we have been mildly successful recruiting new members from outside the metropolitan D.C. region. (FYI: The breakdown of our members by Maryland County, Washington, D.C., and other states follows). What we hope to achieve by forming chapters is to provide a backbone to increase our presence in various geographic regions of the state. But we are caught in a catch-22. How can we increase our presence if we don't have active members in a region? But we can't get active members if we don't have a presence in the region. So our challenge is to try to reach out, offer field trips, work with other active organizations, and ask our current members to help us out.

Each Chapter has a slightly different flavor, which is dependent on the volunteers who are making the Chapter happen. We need member input about what each Chapter should accomplish; ideas are great but warm bodies are better. Here is just a short list of ideas:

- Bring a friend to one of the evening meetings or field trips in your region.
- Put copies of our publications in a public location (library, nature center, community center, office, garden store)—we have extra copies for anyone who asks, just let me know where to mail them. If we can get 100 new locations (we have about 100 nature centers and other sites on our list right now) we can save postage costs by sending items out 'bulk' mail.

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President's Letter Continued

- Download any of our publications from the web site and make more copies to distribute.
- Reprint MNPS brochures, articles, or other publications in other newsletters (with appropriate credit, of course).
- Volunteer to send emails or postcards to Chapter members about upcoming events.
- Volunteer to write press releases or articles about MNPS events for local papers.
- Contact the Chapter Liaisons for other jobs that need to get done.
- Speak at a community event about why you are a member of MNPS. We have a display that is available for Chapter use.

All skill levels are needed, as our Treasurer Jean Cantwell says, "I don't know much about native plants, but I can keep track of money." So as you reflect on why you are a member of MNPS, think about how you might help us reach out to new audiences to spread the word about the importance of native plants and their habitats.

Enjoy the emergence of spring and hope to see you at one of the many programs offered this year.



Karyn Molines

Membership Update

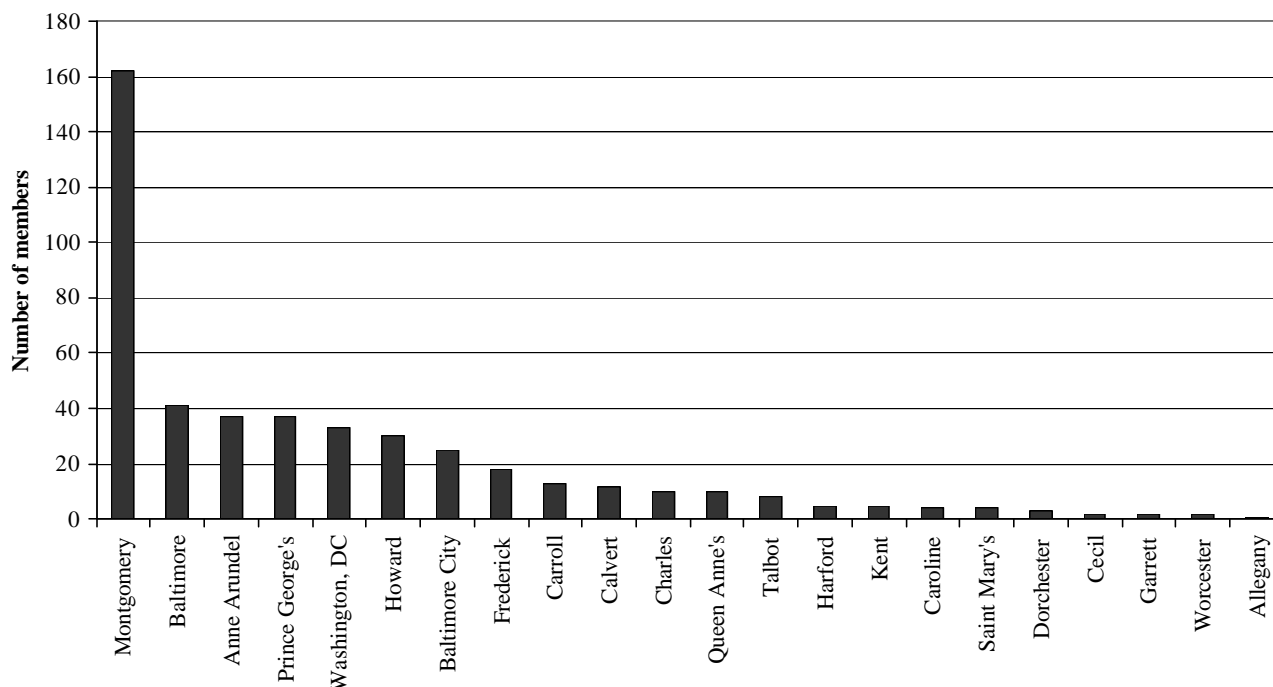
Current MNPS Members (Maryland and Washington, D.C.)

Allegany	1
Anne Arundel	37
Baltimore	41
Baltimore City	25
Calvert	12
Caroline	4
Carroll	13
Cecil	2
Charles	10
Dorchester	3
Frederick	18
Garrett	2
Harford	5
Howard	30
Kent	5
Montgomery	162
Prince George's	37
Queen Anne's	10
Saint Mary's	4
Talbot	8
Worcester	2
Washington, D.C.	33

Members in Other States

Delaware	2	Oregon	1
Illinois	1	Pennsylvania	7
Massachusetts	1	Virginia	16
Michigan	1	West Virginia	2
New Jersey	1		

Members in Maryland and Washington, D.C., January 2003



Chapter Events & Updates

A Look at the Southern Maryland Chapter, 2002

Chapter meetings, 2002 through January 2003:

The Southern Maryland Chapter of MNPS was formed on Earth Day 2002 by a gathering of MNPS members and supporters. This Chapter will focus on Charles, Saint Mary's, and Calvert Counties, although Anne Arundel and Prince George's will be encouraged to be involved as well.

The Chapter's first evening meeting was on July 18, 2002 in Prince Frederick, Calvert County. The Chapter plans to have evening programs approximately once a season. At the first program, Karyn Molines showed slides illustrating the diverse and unique ecosystems found in the region, including Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, Araby Bog, and Myrtle Point.

The Chapter held its second evening meeting on October 24 in Prince Frederick. Mary Alves, Horticulture/Landscape Manager for Historic St. Mary's City, spoke on Native Plants of Calvert County. Her talk showed that if you pay attention to your everyday surroundings, you are bound to see noteworthy natives growing in familiar places, for instance, hemlocks at the transfer station, a Wye Oak descendant at the Calvert Marine Museum, huge hickories at the cemetery, and many more.

The 2003 schedule started with a meeting on Thursday evening, January 23, in Prince Frederick. Marcy Damon, Habitat Restoration Trainer at Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Carolyn Fulton, a master gardener, discussed Bay-friendly landscaping techniques. The slides they showed illustrated the current – damaged – state of the Chesapeake Bay and the principle causes: Sediments and nutrients. They

discussed landscaping practices such as keeping lawn areas to a minimum and having varied, native plants that cause less damage than traditional, lawn-oriented landscaping does.

Field trips have included:

- An August walk through Battle Creek Cypress Swamp led by Karyn Molines, allowing participants to enjoy the relative coolness under the great bald cypress trees, and observe lizard tail, turtlehead, and cardinal flower.
- A November walk exploring the northern side of Parker's Creek led by Marcy Damon. The trail included pawpaw groves, oak and hickory forest, and a forested wetland.
- A winter solstice walk in Chapman Old-Growth Shell-Marl Ravine Forest in Charles County led by Rod Simmons. Winter is the ideal time to see the Potomac River overlooks at Chapman Forest as well as spectacular ravines.

Regular invasive exotic plant removal workdays include:

- The Ruth Swann Park in Charles County (the first Sunday monthly)
- Myrtle Point Park in St. Mary's County (the third Saturday monthly)
- The American Chestnut Land Trust, a non-profit land trust working to preserve the Parker's Creek and Governors Run watersheds in Calvert County is in the process of organizing periodic invasive plant removal workdays.

Other projects:

The Maryland Highway Department contacted MNPS for advice and help in relocating a number of red turtlehead (*Chelone obliqua*) plants that will be displaced in the forthcoming replacement of a bridge on Sixes Road in Calvert County (near Battle Creek Cypress Swamp). On September 13, representatives of the highway department and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources met with Karyn Molines, Mary Stuart Sierra (owner of Lower Marlboro Nursery, a native plant nursery), and others from the Southern Maryland Chapter of MNPS. The number of plants was determined to be small, and the ultimate decision was for Mary Stuart to oversee their relocation to Battle Creek Cypress Swamp. Although the number of plants was small in this case, the initiative shown by the state in seeking advice from MNPS is positive.

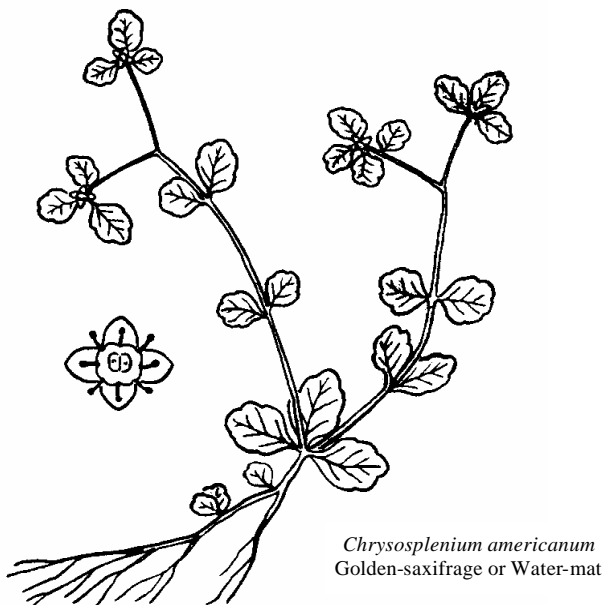
In the future:

The Southern Maryland Chapter encourages St. Mary's and Charles County members to organize and host additional evening meetings. The chapter also hopes to become involved with Calvert County's new Master Gardeners program. The American Chestnut Land Trust is developing a native plant garden with MNPS member assistance.

Submitted by Carolyn Fulton

[Ed. Note: *Chelone obliqua* is highly state rare (ranked S1) with a status of Threatened in Maryland.]

Chapter Events and Updates continue on the back cover.



Chrysosplenium americanum
Golden-saxifrage or Water-mat

Early Spring Field Trips

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (21st in the Series)

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica
Date: Sunday, March 9 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
We will visit **Glover Archibald Park**, which is not technically part of the Fort Circle system, but serves as a north-south corridor connecting the Fort Circle arc to the C&O Canal and the Potomac River. The proposed site for the Washington, D.C. Mayor's residence and the temporary home of the Homeland Security Agency are adjacent to Glover Archibald Park. This park is heavily wooded with a few steep sections. A winter visit will allow a good examination of significant trees and terrain.
Directions: We will meet on Reservoir Road NW near 44th Street NW. Park on Reservoir Road just east of 44th Street.
Bring: Lunch and water. **Note:** Easy to moderate walk. Drizzle or snow fine but canceled if rain is heavy.
Contact: Mary Pat Rowan blair-rowan@starpower.net or 202-526-8821.

A Search for Evergreen Ferns – Sugarloaf Mountain, Frederick County

Leader: Joe Metzger
Date: Saturday, March 15 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Explore the forest and rock outcrops for evergreen ferns. Should see Christmas fern and rock fern.
Directions: Please contact Joe.
Bring: Lunch and water. Dress for the weather.
Note: Moderate walk. Some rock scrambling. Canceled if rain or snow. Call Saturday before 9:00 am if raining, etc.
Contact: Joe Metzger jmetzger50@hotmail.com (preferred) or 410-775-7737.

Civil War Fort Sites in the Washington, D.C. Region (22nd in the Series)

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan and Lou Aronica
Date: Sunday, April 6 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
(Please note the beginning of Daylight Savings Time)
We will return to the forested area **near Bolling Air Force Base** that we visited Jan 12, 2003 to explore the area north of our last visit in the direction of St. Elizabeth's Hospital.
Directions: Access from D.C. or Maryland: From the north, take I-295 south past Suitland Parkway to exit #2—Bolling Air Force Base/Malcolm X Street. Bear right onto exit ramp and turn left at light onto Malcolm X (formerly Portland St.). Drive up hill about one block and park on Malcolm X near 2nd Street SE. From the south, take I-295 from the beltway, proceed past South Capitol Street (no exit) to Malcolm X, exit on right and proceed as above.
Bring: Lunch and water. **Note:** Easy to moderate walk. Drizzle is fine but canceled if rain is heavy.
Contact: Mary Pat Rowan blair-rowan@starpower.net or 202-526-8821.

Glen Echo and Cabin John on the C&O Canal, Montgomery County

Leader: Cris Fleming
Date: Saturday, April 12 **Time:** 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Come explore these two low riverside areas for early spring wildflowers. Among the species we hope to see are the state-endangered Coville's phacelia and few-flowered valerian, state-threatened white trout lily, and uncommon species such as twinleaf and golden alexanders.
Directions: Park at Lock 7 off the Clara Barton Parkway. This parking lot is only accessible from the southbound lane of the parkway. If coming from the south, take the parkway north to the crossover to the south lanes at Cabin John and go south about ½ mile to parking area on the right. If coming from the west, take the Cabin John Parkway from the westbound beltway, after the two parkways merge, the parking lot is about ½ mile south.
Bring: Field guides, binoculars, water, lunch or snack.
Note: This area can be very damp and muddy, so wear appropriate shoes. Walk canceled if pouring rain.
Contact: Cris Fleming 301-657-9289. Reservations required. No reservations by email.

Plant ID at Piney Orchard Nature Preserve, Anne Arundel County

Leaders: Joe Metzger and Cathy Weber
Date: Saturday, April 12 **Time:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Help add to a list of plants occurring naturally at Piney Orchard Nature Preserve.
Directions: Meet at the Piney Orchard Nature Preserve parking lot. From Baltimore or Washington, take I-295 and exit at Rt. 175 east towards Ft. Meade. Piney Orchard Parkway, Rt. 170, begins south of Rt. 175, a right turn coming from the west or Columbia and Ft Meade. From Piney Orchard Parkway, going south past the Food Lion and Ice Rink, make a left turn onto Sandy Walk Way and then an immediate right into the parking lot. From Annapolis, take I-97 to Rt. 32 to Rt. 170 South. Piney Orchard Parkway begins south of Rt. 175. On Piney Orchard Parkway, going south past the Food Lion and Ice Rink, make a left turn onto Sandy Walk Way and then an immediate right into the parking lot.
Bring: Lunch and water. **Note:** Moderate walk.
Contact: Joe Metzger jmetzger50@hotmail.com (preferred) or 410-775-7737.

Patuxent State Park, Montgomery County

Leaders: John Parrish and Rg Steinman
Date: Saturday, April 19 **Time:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Come enjoy walking along the scenic Patuxent River headwaters. The floodplain and adjacent rocky slopes will be carpeted with a magnificent wildflower display. Expect to see these wildflowers in bloom – spring beauty, bloodroot, rue and wood anemone, blue, white and yellow violets, dwarf ginseng, hepatica, trout lily, slender and cutleaf toothwort, early saxifrage, and star chickweed. This cool Piedmont

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valley harbors species more common to the mountains, including Canadian hemlock, dog violet, Canada mayflower, swamp hellebore, trillium, and Greek valerian. Most of our walk will be on trails to avoid trampling the herbs. Total distance of walking loop is less than 3 miles.

Directions: From I-70 or I-495, take MD 97 into northern Montgomery County. Go west on MD 650 for almost 5 miles. Go right on Hipsley Mill Road and proceed almost two miles until you get to the Howard County line at the Patuxent River. Cross bridge and park on right in gravel lot.

Bring: Lunch, water, and camera.

Contact: John & Rg 301-565-2025 or lifeonearth@juno.com.

Gunpowder State Park Wildflower Hike – Hereford Area, Baltimore County

Leader: Dwight Johnson

Date: Saturday, April 19 **Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

This will be a 5-mile circuit or a straight 2½-mile hike (your choice) along the shores of the Gunpowder River between York Road and Big Falls Road. The trail at times will be steep, rocky, and narrow. This is a good walk for wildflower beginners.

Directions: From the Baltimore beltway, go north on I-83 for 12 miles and take Exit 27 west onto Mount Carmel Road.

We will meet at the Park and Ride just west of I-83.

Bring: Lunch and water. Hiking boots are highly recommended.

Contact: Dwight Johnson 410-366-7239.

VNPS-MNPS “Bioblitz” Part I, Glencarlyn Park, Arlington County, Virginia

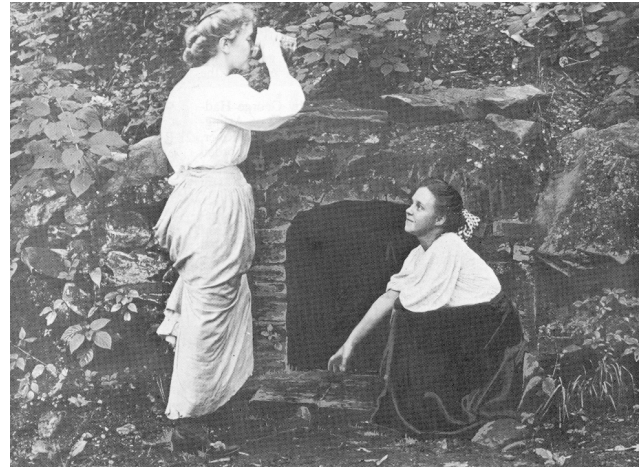
Leader: Rod Simmons

Date: Saturday, April 26 **Time:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Join members of both societies on a field trip and natural resources inventory at one of Arlington’s most beautiful natural places. Historic Glencarlyn Park is a long, wooded complex of springs and converging stream valleys along Four Mile Run. Much of the vegetation is mature, oak-hickory-heath forest with remnant American chestnuts, some of which are fairly large. Numerous old-age stands of oak and hickory occur throughout the park. Wetlands occur in some places. The gravelly slopes and uplands are densely vegetated with mountain laurel and other heaths and are excellent examples of Terrace Gravel Forest. A diversity of wildflowers and other herbaceous plants grow along the woodland floor. The stream valleys have picturesque outcrops of weathered, mica-schist of the Indian Run Formation. Later in the day, we’ll visit the remnant Four Mile Run Magnolia Bog.

“The beauty of the wilderness is similar to Washington’s Rock Creek Park, with deep ravines, wooded bluffs, and tumbling streams, besides the two famous old springs [Carlin Springs]...shaded by ancient oaks and sycamores in the glen.” - Eleanor Lee Templeman, *Arlington Heritage*

The purpose of the two VNPS-MNPS joint “bioblitz” outings this spring is to focus on Terrace Gravel Forest communities, a major natural community type that is common to northern



Carlin Springs

Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Maryland, by recording whatever wildlife we observe, as well as examining other natural features. A flora checklist of the park will be available for all participants. For those interested, after the walk we will meet at the pavilion to go over the observation lists from the day. Those who wish to spend just part of the day are encouraged to attend as well; one can quickly and easily return to parking area from any place in the park.

Directions: **In Virginia**, take Rt. 50 (Arlington Blvd.) east to Carlin Springs Road exit. Take Carlin Springs Road heading north and turn into small parking lot immediately on right (just below intersection of Rt. 50 overpass and Carlin Springs Road). **From Maryland**, take the beltway (495) into Virginia and exit onto the George Washington Memorial Parkway, which will take you to the Rt. 50 west exit. (If coming over Woodrow Wilson Bridge, the GW Parkway is first exit on right. Make left at light onto Washington Street, which will take you through Old Town Alexandria. Continue on Washington St. through Alexandria. Washington St. is the GW Parkway segment in Alexandria.) Take Rt. 50 west to Carlin Springs Road exit. Turn right onto Carlin Springs Road and look for parking lot immediately on right. **From D.C.**, take 14th Street Bridge, Memorial Bridge, or Roosevelt Bridge to GW Parkway and follow above directions.

Bring: Bag lunch for picnic in pavilion.

Water will be provided. **Note:** Easy to moderate walk.

Walk canceled for heavy rain but not drizzle.

Contact: Rod cecropia13@msn.com or 703-256-7671.

Annapolis Rock, Appalachian Trail on the Border of Frederick/Washington Counties

Leader: Joe Metzger

Date: Saturday, April 26 **Time:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Explore the Appalachian Trail from US 40 north to Annapolis Rock. Should see spring wildflowers and maybe large white trilliums. **Directions:** Please contact Joe.

Bring: Lunch and water. **Note:** Moderate walk.

Contact: Joe Metzger jmetzger50@hotmail.com (preferred) or 410-775-7737.

Spring Ephemerals at Flag Ponds, Calvert Co.

Leader: Karyn Molines

Date: Sunday, April 27 **Time:** 1:00 – 5:00 pm

Enjoy a leisurely hike on one of southern Maryland's finest displays of spring wildflowers, including columbine and blue flag (how the park got its name). Perfect for beginners to learn about the different field guides and identification techniques. If we make it to the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, we can search for Miocene fossils.

Directions: From Washington's Capital Beltway (I-95), take Route 4 south into Calvert County. Follow the directions "From Route 4." From the Baltimore beltway (I-695), take Route 301 south to Route 4 south. Follow the directions "From Route 4." From Annapolis, take Route 2 south into Calvert County. Route 2 will merge with Route 4 in Sunderland. Follow the directions "From Route 4." From Route 4, just 10 miles south of Prince Frederick, look for the sign and turn left (east) into the Nature Park.

Please Note: There is a \$6 per car fee (\$4 for Calvert County residents) into the Park.

Note: Canceled if heavy rains. Call (do not email) Sunday morning if weather conditions are questionable.

Contact: Karyn Molines kmolines@chesapeake.net (preferred) or 410-286-2928.

Limestone Bluffs at Snyder's Landing on the C&O Canal, Washington County

Leader: Cris Fleming

Date: Sunday, April 27 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Visit very scenic limestone bluffs on north-facing slopes along the Potomac River in Washington County. This area harbors uncommon plants such as shooting star, dwarf larkspur, spreading rockcress, walking fern, and others. Some climbing up and down steep paths is necessary.

Directions: Meet at C&O Canal parking lot at Snyder's Landing Road about two miles northwest of Sharpsburg. From D.C. area, take I-270 to Frederick, the I-70 west to exit 49 (Alt. 40). Take Alt. 40 west to Boonsboro, left at light onto MD-34 to Sharpsburg (past Antietam Battlefield). In town, turn right on Mechanic Street (one block past MD-65), then turn left on Snyder's Landing Road and continue about two miles to parking lot on right (in small community of houses). Approximately 1½ hours from Capital Beltway.

Bring: Bag lunch and water; binoculars, hand lens, field guides, camera, etc. Wear sturdy shoes as some areas may be wet and some climbing up hills will be needed.

Please Note: Because of the sensitive habitat, this trip is limited to 16 people. Trip is canceled if heavy morning rain.

Contact: Cris Fleming 301-657-9289. Registration is required. Leave your telephone number if leaving a message. No registration by email.

Claytonia virginica
Spring Beauty



Spring Wildflowers at Broadmead, Baltimore County

Leader: Louisa Rogoff Thompson

Date: Weekday in April, TBD **Time:** TBD

Easy walk along the woodland trails at Broadmead Retirement Community. For a few weeks in early spring, sunlight reaches the forest floor, and many small plants come up, store nutrients for the rest of the year, flower, go to seed, and die back, all before the trees leaf out. In return for a banquet of leaves and nectar, insects and birds pollinate flowers and spread seeds away from the parent plant. We'll discover the visual and olfactory cues plants use to attract helpers, and their strategies to keep insect feeding to a tolerable level.

Directions: From Baltimore beltway, take I-83 north, exit #20A onto Shawan Road eastbound. Go about 1 mile to York Road. Turn left (north) onto York Road and go about ½ mile. Broadmead is on the right at 13801 York Road.

Bring: Newcomb's Wildflower Guide if you want to practice keying out plants. **Note:** Meeting place TBA. Trip will be canceled or re-scheduled if it rains.

Contact: Registration required. Please leave contact info at 410-707-2550 or louisathompson@erols.com.

VNPS-MNPS "Bioblitz" Part II, Fort Dupont Park, Washington, D.C. (23rd in the Civil War Fort Sites Series)

Leaders: Mary Pat Rowan, Lou Aronica, and Rod Simmons

Date: Sunday, May 4 **Time:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

We will return to **Fort Dupont** as part of the MNPS-VNPS survey (See April field trip/exchange with the Virginia Native Plant Society). We will explore the upper area of Fort Dupont with significant mountain laurel-heath-chestnut oak portions and move in the direction of Ft. Davis Drive. May be too early to see mountain laurel blossoms but *Rhododendron periclymenoides* and pink lady's slippers should be in full bloom. We will compare Terrace Gravel Forest communities here and at Glencarlyn Park in Virginia in April. This forest rates among the best quality to be found anywhere within a fifty mile radius of Washington, D.C.

Directions: If you arrive on time, park at the parking lot at the Ft. Dupont Park activity center off Randle Circle and we will carpool to Ridge Road. Late arrivals proceed to Ridge Road directly. Randle Circle is on Minnesota Avenue SE at Massachusetts Ave. Access via East Capitol Street and go south on Minn. Ave SE to circle. Or, take I-295 from the beltway north to Pennsylvania Ave SE and turn north on Minn. Ave to circle. If arriving late, follow Ft. Dupont Drive at Activity Center east (up the hill) to Ft. Davis Drive, turn left, proceed to Ridge Road, turn right and proceed 1-2 blocks on Ridge Road and park beyond G Street near church.

Bring: Lunch and water. **Note:** Easy to moderate walk. Drizzle is fine but canceled if rain is heavy.

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

Invasive Exotic Plant Removal Workdays

Ruth Swann Park, Charles County

Dates: First Sunday, monthly (March 2, April 6, and May 4)

Time: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

We will do evergreen invasives at Swann Park including Chinese privet, periwinkle, and Japanese honeysuckle. Learn a remarkably efficacious technique for Japanese honeysuckle. There will also be time for plant identification and a beautiful beach lunch. Excellent progress has been made in the past three years at the 200-acre Swann Park. The ten principle invasives had monocultures over 20 acres with very little overlap: English ivy, ¼ acre eradicated; periwinkle, 1 acre eradicated; *Ailanthus*, the four ½ acre patches virtually eradicated; garlic mustard, 5 acres reduced to 4 acres; stilt grass, 7 acres reduced to 1 acre (controlled); beefsteak plant, 2 acres reduced to ½ acre (controlled); multiflora rose, 2 acres now 1 acre (no seed producing left); wineberry, 2 acres now ½ acre; Chinese privet, 1 acre reduced to ¼ acre. In summary, 10% covered is reduced to 3.5%. In addition, the vertical component (i.e. ½) of honeysuckle was removed. Participating organizations include MNPS and Sierra Club.

Directions: Meet at the Ruth B. Swann Park-Potomac Branch Library parking lot, 20 miles south of Washington beltway (I-495) on Rt. 210 (Indian Head Hwy). Give yourself 30 to 40 minutes from the Beltway.

Bring: Gloves, boots, lunch, and water. Long sleeves and pants recommended.

Contact: Marc Imlay 301-283-0808.



Cornus florida with Yellow-rumped Warbler
By Gary Pendleton

Northwest Branch of the Anacostia, Montgomery County

Dates: Saturdays, March 15 and April 19

Time: 10:00 am – 1:00 or 2:00 pm

Please join us near 4-Corners in Silver Spring to remove patches of the invasive multiflora rose from areas along Northwest Branch.

Directions: From the intersection of 29 (Colesville Road) and University Blvd in Silver Spring, go east on University

and turn (there's only left) on Williamsburg Drive. Stay on Williamsburg at the first fork you come to (bear left), then at the second fork (Williamsburg N. vs. S.) bear left again. Williamsburg turns into Big Rock Road at the bottom of the hill. 10204 Big Rock Road.

Bring: Water and gloves. Veggie lunch provided.

Contact: Jane Osburn 301-754-1564.

All members of MNPS welcome and there is no need to register. Space is limited for non-members of MNPS; please register in advance by phone. No email registration.

Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, Montgomery Co.

Weed Warriors needed for the forested areas surrounding the gardens. You will be given directions to work independently on your schedule, weekends or weekdays. There has been a tremendous amount of work done by volunteers and Brookside staff, but we still need help in maintaining these areas to keep the invasive weed population under control.

Contact: Stacy Parsons 301-962-1417 or

stacy.parsons@mncppc-mc.org

Websites: www.BrooksideGardens.org and/or

www.MC-MNCPPC.org/environment/weed_warriors/intro.shtm

Sligo Creek Park, Montgomery County

Friends of Sligo Creek welcome your help with invasives in this 8-mile tributary of the Anacostia, running from Silver Spring south into D.C. Work is usually organized by section stewards and features protection of ponds, floodplains, upland woods, as well as narrow, urbanized sections. In cooperation with M-NCPPC staff and the Weed Warrior program, Sligo Friends sponsor work parties and many small-group opportunities to work together to uncover Sligo's many treasures and to work out techniques for dealing with the usual range of invasives.

Contact: Sally Gagne sgagne@erols.com or Laura Mol 301-681-9686 for more information.

WEED WARRIORS WANTED

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's (M-NCPPC) Forest Ecologist is assembling a team of volunteers (Weed Warriors) to monitor and remove non-native invasive plant species in Montgomery County Parks, and we need your help! As a Weed Warrior volunteer, you will receive a short training session from the Forest Ecologist in the identification of, removal and control techniques for non-native invasive plants. Weed Warriors can then work at their own pace and choose a schedule that best suits them. Many current Weed Warriors live near a M-NCPPC Stream Valley Park or Regional Park and do their volunteer work while walking their dogs or taking an occasional hike through their neighborhood park. Whether you choose to work individually or in a group, your efforts will contribute to the control of non-native vegetation in the 28,000 acres of Montgomery County parkland.

Contact: Carole Bergmann, M-NCPPC Forest Ecologist, at 301-949-2818 for more info or to sign up.

Announcements

17th Annual Lahr Symposium and Native Plant Sale Native Plants: The Future of Earth's Garden

Symposium: Saturday, March 29, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Native Plant Sale: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Location: U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C.

The best native plant nurseries of the region gather to offer you a wide selection of nursery propagated native wildflowers, trees, shrubs, and more! Registration is not required to attend the plant sale.

For program brochure, fees, and registration form, visit www.usna.usda.gov/Education/17lahr or call 202-245-5898.

Events at Olmsted Woods, Washington National Cathedral

Programs focus on the Olmsted Woods Restoration and Stewardship campaign launched by All Hallows Guild in 1997. The Guild, founded in 1916, is responsible for "the care and beautification of the Cathedral gardens, grounds and woodlands." Each Woods Walk begins at 10:00 am and each Bird Walk begins at 9:00 am. Participants for all Walks meet at the George Washington Statue on Pilgrim Road, just off Wisconsin Avenue on the south side of the Cathedral except where noted. For the tours: Please wear sturdy waterproof shoes. No reservations are required and all programs are free. Programs will be canceled in the event of heavy rain.

Questions: Call the Olmsted Woods info line 202-537-2319.

WOODS WALKS

Thursday, March 13, 10:00 am -- *Frederick Law Olmsted and the Olmsted Woods*. This tour will begin at the South Plaza (Garfield Street entrance to the Woods) and trek up the hillside in keeping with Olmsted's vision. Along the way, we will explore the visionary landscape architect's plans for the Cathedral Close, with particular attention to the Olmsted Woods.

Thursday, March 20, 10:00 am -- *Challenges of Urban Woodland Restoration*. There is today much talk about "invasive exotics" and "native plants." Come and hear about the differences and an outline of the philosophy behind the woodlands restoration project.

Thursdays: April 3, 10, 17, 24, and May 8, 15, 10:00 am -- *Wildflower Walks*. Join us for this series of walks designed to track the gradual "greening" of the Olmsted Woods. Tours will focus on spring ephemerals, wildflowers, native plants, budding trees, and other vernal surprises. Please note that Bird Walks precede the tours on May 8 and May 15.

BIRD WALKS

Thursdays: May 8 and May 15, 9:00 am

As the Woods undergoes restoration, a guiding principle is the inclusion of groundcovers, shrubs, and trees attractive to birds and other wildlife. Please join experienced birder Sheila Cochran at the George Washington Statue on these morning walks.

Wear sturdy shoes and don't forget your binoculars!

U.S. Botanic Garden's Orchid Festival

The U.S. Botanic Garden is going to include tropical butterflies in its orchid festival this year. The exhibit will be at the Smithsonian (Arts and Industries Building) and runs now until May 26. A link to information on the festival is: www.usbg.gov/whats-happening/exhibits/Orchid-Show

Arbor/Earth Day Event

Carrie Murray Nature Center, Baltimore City

Saturday and Sunday, April 5-6, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Visit the nature center's many animals including birds of prey, the Raven's mascot, reptiles, and Ripley the porcupine. Also visit the center's Insect Zoo. There will be a nature walk on Saturday, if weather permits. Free tree seedlings will be available while supplies last. On Sunday, please join in a trash cleanup in Leakin Park. More plans to be scheduled. For more info, please call Lloyd Tydings at 410-396-0808.

Directions: From the Baltimore beltway take the Security Boulevard Exit 17 toward Woodlawn. You'll pass shopping centers and a few stoplights. Turn left at the stoplight onto Forest Park Avenue. At the first stoplight make a right onto Windsor Mill Road. Just past the Leakin Park entrance is the (marked hidden) entrance to Carrie Murray. The parking lot is just downhill from the Center.

Events at Adkins Arboretum

Wednesday, March 12, 10:00 am – Noon

Pruning Basics for Ornamental Shrubs and Trees

Learn basic techniques for pruning shrubs and trees to improve their shape, manage their size, and encourage their vigor. After 30 years as grounds superintendent for the Aspen Institute, Board President Jack Covert now shares his knowledge and experience as a horticulture consultant in Centreville. His own garden attests to his great love of plants and skills as a gardener. This class will review proper pruning cuts and recommended tools. You'll have a chance to practice these skills on various trees and shrubs in the Arboretum's gardens. Dress for the outdoors; bring gloves and pruning tools. Fee: \$5 members, \$8 general public.

Wednesday, March 26, 10:00 am – Noon

Spring Ephemerals

Spicebush, bloodroots, spring beauties, pink lady slippers—these are just a few of the lovely native plants blooming on Delmarva in early spring. Join Master Gardener and native plant enthusiast Margaret Carter for a look at these wonderful plants. Learn where and how they grow, how they benefit wildlife, and which ones are suitable for cultivation in the home landscape. Fee: \$5 members, \$8 general public.

Wednesday, April 9, 10:00 am – Noon

Native Carnivorous Plants,

With Some Australians Thrown in for Good Measure

Join Doug Darnowski for an up-close look at some of the Delmarva's little-known and misunderstood flora: the native carnivores. Assistant professor of biology at Washington College, Darnowski is the author of *Triggerplants* and has conducted extensive research on carnivorous plants, both

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locally and around the world. Fee: \$5 members, \$8 general public.

Wednesday, April 23, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Mushrooms throughout the Year

Morels, chanterelles, porcini, truffles, milky beefsteaks, LBMs, JARs, and JADRRS—learn about these and other wild mushrooms and their shapes, colors, beauty, edibility, toxicity, and medicinal uses at this talk and slide presentation by Jon Ellifritz. A fungi fanatic for more than 20 years, Ellifritz is a member of the Mycological Association of Washington, D.C., and has served as foray chair since 1991. Fee: \$5 members, \$8 general public.

Docent-led walks will take place at 2:00 pm on March 1 and 15, and April 5 and 19. Enjoy a walk through the woodlands and meadows with a trained guide who will field your questions about nature, ecology, and the Arboretum. Call 410-634-2847 for details. Free for members, \$5 for the general public.

Nature's Glorious Gardens:

A Spring Native Plant Symposium

Friday, May 16, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Join garden writer Rick Darke and native plant expert Kim Hawks for an informative look at the ornamental and ecological benefits of using native plants in the landscape. Registration fee is \$65, \$55 if registered before April 22. For more information or to obtain a brochure, call 410-634-2847. Visit www.adkinsarboretum.org for more info or email to adkinsar@intercom.net. **Directions:** From U.S. Route 50, take U.S. Route 404 east toward Denton. Turn north onto MD Route 480 then make an immediate left onto Eveland Road. The Arboretum is two miles ahead, on the left.

Environmental Concern, Inc.

The Wetland Journal: Back Issues

No wetland library is complete without the *Wetland Journal*. The *Wetland Journal* was a quarterly publication featuring practical articles on several wetland topics, including wetland education issues, restoration, and research. Written in a style that is useable by both the wetland professional and the informed lay person or student, with the goal of providing a forum for exchanging results, information, and experiences which can benefit others in the wetland field. The *Wetland Journal* ceased publication in 2001. Back issues are still available. Purchase the Complete Library (31 issues) for \$100.00. Individual back-issues may be purchased for \$11.00/copy, or save by purchasing Back-Subscription for \$30.00 (U.S.) and receive all four back-issues of the 1994-2000 *Wetland Journal*. Also, Back-Subscriptions for 1993 and 2001 are available for \$15.00 (U.S., only two issues). See the complete listing of all articles in back-issues of the *Wetland Journal* www.wetland.org/jrnlback or for more information, visit Environmental Concern at www.wetland.org.

Annual Native Plant Sale, Hershey, Pa.

Saturday, May 3, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

It will be held outdoors at the Derry Township Park and Recreation Center at 605 Cocoa Avenue in Hershey, Pa. All plants offered are Pa. natives or cultivars of natives, and have been chosen for their adaptability to local conditions and their attractiveness to wildlife. Plants are strong-growing stock, which are potted in 4-inch pots. Prices average \$3.50 and discounts are available to conservancy members and for quantity orders. We highly recommend pre-ordering plants for the best selection. Pre-order forms will be available in March. To receive a pre-order form or more information, please call 717-566-4122 or email us at manadaconservancy@earthlink.net. You will also find descriptions of the plants available and a downloadable order form on our website at www.manada.org. Please note that all plants (including pre-orders) will be available for you to pick up during the day of the sale, and we are unable to ship them.

Welcome New Members!

The following are new members of the Society: Biohabitats, Christel Cothran & Ellen Schmitt (Jones Falls Watershed Association), Jeffrey Davis, Sonja Hemmes, Stan Hopkins, Robert Keller (Natural Landscapes), Robert Mardiney, A. MacDonough Plant, Michael Quinlan, Jackie Roesner, Marie Thorn, Chris Upton, and Lisa Walsh.

We also had 43 members renew in the past two months.

Your support is very important to us and your confidence in our work is deeply appreciated. Thank you to everyone!

PLEASE NOTE: Hopefully you received your Membership Directory with the January/February *Native News*. There were two (not the only ones, I'm sure!) mistakes. On the inside back cover, the Membership Committee email is incorrect, it should be memberships@mdflora.org and the Botany/Monthly Meetings email address should read cecropia13@msn.com. Please make these corrections in your copy. If you are not in the Directory, it could be that you were not a current member as of December 2003, or you requested not to be listed in the Directory. We plan to provide a Directory update several times this year, so if there are any corrections to your record, please let us know.

Upcoming Board Meetings

The Society's Board of Directors is tasked with setting Society policy and managing the finances. We meet on a bimonthly schedule, and invite any interested members to attend. The 2003 Board meetings are tentatively scheduled as follows. Please check with Karyn Molines, President, or Jane Osburn, Secretary to verify date and location closer to the actual meeting time.

Monday, March 17: Wheaton Regional Park; 6:30 pm

Sunday, May 18: Brookside Gardens; 1 pm

July 20 or 21: Irvine Nature Center

Sunday, September 21: Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary; 1 pm

November 16 or 17: Audubon Naturalist Society

Native News

Brickbats & Kudos

Brickbats

- Brickbats to the Bush administration's "wildlife czar," Allan Fitzsimmons, for promoting "fuzzy biology" instead of science-based protection for our country's endangered species and their habitats. According to Fitzsimmons in the fall 2002 issue of *Markets and Morality*, "on balance, this part of the world has seen an increase in biological diversity...the International Union for the Conservation of Nature estimates that since 1600, 109 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, invertebrates, and vascular plants have become extinct in what is now the continental U.S...but at least 4,500 non-indigenous species have established free-living populations in the United States over the past few hundred years."

Of course, woolly adelgid, kudzu, zebra mussels, brown rats, purple loosestrife, fire ants, and thousands of other alien species do not constitute a "balance" in nature or in any way make up for the extirpated species. Rather, they are regarded by the Dept. of Interior as "the biggest threat to endangered species after habitat destruction" and cost the U.S. economy well over \$100 billion each year. (January/February 2003 *Sierra*)

- Brickbats to President Bush (R) for his "premier environmental initiative" to relax regulation of industrial clean air rules, a policy that will take effect after a 50 to 46 Senate vote on a \$385 billion spending bill earlier this year. Further adding to serious environmental problems like global warming and acid rain, this provision will "enable industrial polluters to upgrade their plants – and likely increase their emissions – without having to install the costly antipollution equipment required by law." A provision of "\$15 million for the Army Corps of Engineers's controversial Yazoo Pump project in central Mississippi" was also attached to the bill. "The huge project – which involves building the world's largest hydraulic pumping plant – would drain 200,000 acres of wetlands that is home to wintering waterfowl and rare plants." Another rider to the spending bill "would prohibit court challenges to a Forest Service management plan for the Tongass National Forest in Alaska." (*Washington Post*, January 23, 2003)

The National Academy of Sciences is studying how this weakening of clean air standards will affect public health.

Ozone levels in the Washington metropolitan area were recently classified as "severe" by the EPA because of increasingly heavy amounts of pollution in the atmosphere, greatly exacerbated by the region's high traffic volume (including numerous SUVs) and air-borne pollutants from coal-burning power plants in the midwest. The Washington area and Baltimore are two of the ten regions in the country with air pollution bad enough to be classified as "severe."

Kudos

- Kudos to "Nightline" anchor Ted Koppel for trying to prevent the construction of "McMansions" next to his home in Potomac, Maryland, which is well-sited to preserve the terrain and natural and historic features, from exceeding size restrictions. Both Koppel's property and the adjacent housing development overlook the Potomac River and were part of a 44-acre cattle farm ten years ago. Koppel purchased 16 acres and paid significantly more for the land as part of an agreement with the developer of the adjacent property to "protect" the land and restrict all the planned houses to 10,000 square feet (already a huge size). Later, when construction began, Koppel became alarmed when "several mammoth houses began to rise" and an ensuing legal battle began.

This situation is "emblematic of America's recent obsession with the megahouse," especially in places like Potomac where many of the houses are oversized. A 14,000-square foot home on River Road was recently featured in a New York Times article about the "hulking homes of the American suburbs." (*Washington Post*, December 26, 2002)

- Kudos to Governor Glendening (D) for recently preserving 27,000 acres of Eastern Shore forest and farmland. Glendening has preserved more than 310,000 acres during his eight years governor. (*Washington Post*, December 19, 2002)

- Kudos to Jim Kuhn, one of the owners of the historic Murphy Farm adjacent to Harpers Ferry National Park, and the Trust for Public Land for working out a deal to preserve the farm from a development that would have included "180 houses, a 130-foot water tower, and a sewage treatment plant." The Trust for Public Land purchased the farm for about \$2 million, "far less than developers would have paid," and will donate it to the National Park Service. (*Washington Post*, November 18, 2002)



Camptosorus rhizophyllus
Walking Fern

Chapter Updates Continued

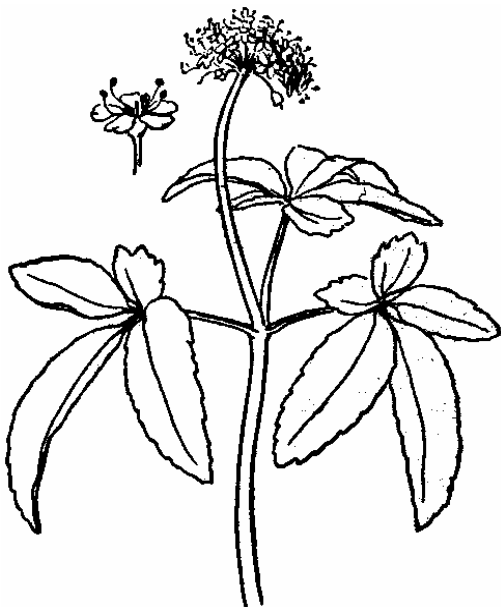
Greater Baltimore Chapter

Our chapter meets the 3rd Wednesday of every other month (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sept, & Nov). People should check the website for details, and they can also call Irvine Nature Center at 410-484-2413.

Phoenix Pond, on the Gunpowder River and North Central Railroad Trail, is a remarkable place to observe spotted salamanders breeding. This happens at night, in mid-March, for a few days soon after the pond thaws. Because the exact timing cannot be predicted we cannot schedule a field trip, but if you are interested in going, contact Louisa Thompson at louisathompson@erols.com or 410-707-4482. We may schedule a daytime walk for this site later in spring or summer to explore its plants and overall ecology.

We would also like to coordinate one or more field trips in a series on How Nature Works: Habitats, Communities, and Services. This series invites participants to share their knowledge of how ecosystems function, including native and invasive plants, wildlife, geology and soils, hydrology and stream quality, and the impacts of various kinds of human land use. Novices are welcome, on the condition that they ask every "stupid" question that comes to mind, to keep the experts talking! We'll check on various parks and find people with various kinds of expertise to participate. Possible locations are the Valley View Trail at Patapsco Valley State Park, Catoctin Mountain Park, and Cromwell Valley Park.

Planning continues for the Native Plant Arboretum at Maryland Cooperative Extension's Clarksville facility. Planting will begin this spring. Volunteers will be needed for planning, creating signage, occasional maintenance, publicity, and leading programs there. Anyone interested in joining in this project should contact Wanda MacLachlan at wt4@umail.umd.edu, 410-531-5973, or 301-596-9478.



Panax trifolius
Dwarf Ginseng

Upcoming Chapter Events

(Please see **Early Spring Field Trips** on page 5 for more info.)

**Catoctin Chapter Field Trip,
Sugarloaf Mountain, Frederick County**
Date: Saturday, March 15 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Greater Baltimore Chapter's March Program
Date: Wednesday, March 19 **Time:** 7:30 pm

Location: Irvine Nature Center

We'll be joining the Irvine Nature Center for their lecture on rain gardens and low impact development given by Carol Ann Barth. The lecture will be at 7:30 pm and the steering committee will meet at 6:00 pm. There will be a charge for the lecture at the Irvine member rate (probably \$5). The bookstore will be open from 7:00 to 7:30 pm.

Directions: From I-695 (Baltimore Beltway) take the Greenspring Ave exit north. Irvine is on the left @ 1 mile north of the beltway.

**Baltimore Chapter Field Trip,
Spring Wildflowers at Broadmead**

Date: Weekday in April, TBD **Time:** TBD

**Baltimore Chapter Wildflower Hike,
Gunpowder State Park – Hereford Area**

Date: Saturday, April 19 **Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Southern Maryland Chapter's April Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 22 **Time:** 7:00 pm

Location: Phillips House in Prince Frederick

Ted Graham, Vice President of the board of the American Chestnut Land Trust, will discuss ACLT's purpose, lands, and activities, including the work with MNPS toward creating the native plant garden there.

Directions: From Rt. 2-4 in Prince Frederick (Calvert County), turn east onto Duke Street (one block south of Rt. 231). Turn left into Library parking lot. Park in upper lot and take the walkway to the Phillips House.

**Catoctin Chapter Field Trip, Annapolis Rock,
Appalachian Trail, Frederick/Washington Co.**

Date: Saturday, April 26 **Time:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Greater Baltimore Chapter's Earth Day Event

Date: Saturday, April 26 **Time:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Our Earth Day event will be the Garlic Mustard Challenge in the Avalon Area of Patapsco Valley State Park.

Check website for details.

**Southern Maryland Chapter Field Trip,
Flag Ponds, Calvert County**

Date: Sunday, April 27 **Time:** 1:00 – 5:00 pm

Greater Baltimore Chapter's May Program

Date: Wednesday, May 21 **Time:** 7:30 pm

Location: Irvine Nature Center

The topic is Ask the Experts, and we will have experts available to cover native plant ID, plant communities and habitats, native plants for ornamental and wildlife gardens, and using native plants to provide services such as stormwater management.