



Maryland Native Plant Society, Inc.

2013 Annual Report

Our mission is to promote awareness, appreciation, and conservation of Maryland's native plants and their habitats. We pursue our mission through education, research, advocacy, and service activities.

2013 - THE YEAR OF THE HEATH



Trailing arbutus, *Epigaea repens*, at Sugarloaf Mountain.
Photo by Melanie Choukas-Bradley

New Research Grant Program: Our First Award Goes to An Urban Biodiversity Project

Our first-ever research grant, in the amount of \$2000, went to Anna Johnson, a PhD candidate at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County. The project takes place in a West Baltimore neighborhood with high levels of vacancy and demolition that is currently the focus of a number of urban ecology projects connected to the Baltimore Ecosystem Study. Starting in the summer of 2014, vacant lots are to be cleared and fenced, then sown with native seed mixes of differing levels of functional and phylogenetic diversity. Starting in 2015, data will be collected related to diversity, biomass, plant fitness, and pollinator visitation rates. The project team is partnering with the MD Department of Safety and Corrections to train crews of pre-release inmates to perform weed removal, seed broadcasting, and other tasks. Ideally, the project will continue for 5-10 years.

Field Trips



Loch Raven Watershed, Baltimore County, July 2013
Photo by K Johnson

See our website for lists of plant species recorded on many Society field trips. Cris Fleming and Bob Yacovissi are our plant list editors.

January	Fort Bunker Hill, DC – Mary Pat Rowan Flag Ponds Nature Park, Calvert Co – Karyn Molines
February	Ruth Swann Park – Marc Imlay US National Arboretum – Mary Pat Rowan. [Cancelled – weather]
March	US National Arboretum, DC – Mary Pat Rowan Ellicott City property near Enchanted Forest, Howard Co – Heidi Pringle
April	Ft Dupont, DC – Mary Pat Rowan Flag Ponds Nature Park, Calvert Co – Karyn Molines Ruth Swann Park, Charles Co – Marc Imlay Carderock area of C&O Canal Nat'l Historical Park, Montgomery Co – Marney Bruce Leakin Park, Baltimore City – Kirsten & Dwight Johnson, Charlie Davis, co-sponsored by Natural History Society of Maryland Savage River State Forest, Garrett Co – Sunshine Brosi
May	Ft Chaplin, DC – Mary Pat Rowan Native Plant Garden at Friends School, Baltimore City – Kay McConnell Northwest Branch Trail, Montgomery Co – Marney Bruce Ellicott City property near Enchanted Forest, Howard Co – Heidi Pringle Gunpowder St Park, Hereford area, Baltimore Co – Dwight Johnson
June	Sugarloaf Mountain, Frederick Co – Melanie Choukas-Bradley Oxon Run Bog, Prince Georges Co – Mary Pat Rowan Elk Ridge Nature Preserve, Garrett Co – Liz McDowell Gunpowder State Park, Perry Hall area, Baltimore Co – Dwight Johnson
July	Loch Raven Reservoir Watershed, Baltimore Co – Dwight Johnson and Charlie Davis, co-sponsored by Natural History Society of Maryland
October	Fort Totten, DC – Mary Pat Rowan Greenbelt Forest Preserve, Prince Georges Co – Rod Simmons & Damien Ossi Andelot Farm, Kent Co – Sylvan Kaufman. co-sponsored by Adkins Arboretum
December	Fort Bayard, DC – Mary Pat Rowan [Cancelled – weather] Chapman Forest, Charles Co – Rod Simmons, joint with VA Native Plant Soc'y, Botanical Soc'y of Washington, Mattawoman Watershed Ass'n, Chapman Forest Foundation

~ Three Heath Family Members ~



Rhododendron atlanticum
Dwarf azalea. Photo by K Johnson



Monotropa uniflora
Indian Pipe. Photo by K Johnson



Vaccinium stamineum
Deerberry. Photo by Ginny Yacovissi

2013 Programs and Workshops

	Montgomery Co	Western Mountains	Eastern Shore
Jan	Oak Hybrids of Our Region- Rod Simmons		
Feb	Introduction to Maryland's Heaths – Chris Puttock	Citizens Restoring American Chestnuts – Katia Engelhardt and Steve Keller	
Mar	The Ecology of Wavyleaf Basket Grass – Vanessa Beauchamp		
Apr	Heath Diversity In Maryland – Rod Simmons	Urban & Suburban Meadows, video by Catherine Zimmerman	
May	The Path from Heath to Gardens – Donald MacKay		Movie Night and Early Bird Walk
Jun	Maryland's Natural Areas – Kerry Wixted	Heaths of the Allegany Plateau- Liz McDowell	
Jul	Ungulates and Landscapes – Steve Parks		
Aug	Geology and Natural History of Maryland – Ned Tillman	Matt Fitzpatrick	
Sep	Native Prairie Coastal Restoration – Doug Gill		
Oct	Mountain Wildflowers, Pollinators & Climate Change – David Inouye	Pest Vulnerability of Elms in Washington, DC – Mitch Hall	Learn About Lupines and Invasive Plants – Sara Tangren
Nov	Annual Meeting and Members' Share		

Conference 2013 at Frostburg State University

“The Threatened Natural Communities & Rare Plants of Maryland’s Mountains”

Thanks to our conference organizers, Western Mountains Chapter Chair, Liz McDowell, and MNPS member, Dr Sunshine Brosi of Frostburg State University, 2013 saw one of our most successful conferences ever.



Menziesia pilosa, Minnie-bush, at North Cherry Creek Heath Family. Photo by Kirsten Johnson

Speakers

- **The Special Natural Communities of Western Maryland** – Ed Thompson, Forest Ecologist, MD Department of Natural Resources Wildlife & Heritage Service
- **Rare Grasses, Sedges and Rushes of Western Maryland**, Wesley Knapp, Eastern Regional Ecologist, MD Department of Natural Resources Wildlife & Heritage Service
- **Bryophytes, Recreation and Rarity: New River Gorge and Cooper’s Rock West Virginia**, Susan Studlar, Visiting Associate Professor, University of West Virginia
- **Lichens of the Allegheny Plateau and Western Maryland**, James Lendemmer, Researcher, Institute of Systemic Biology, The New York Botanical Garden

Liz McDowell organized a silent auction of crafts, books and other items. The silent auction is our major fundraising event for the year.

Field Trips: Saturday	Field Trips: Sunday
Allegheny College Arboretum, Jim Howell and Justin Bower	Cranesville Swamp, Sue Studlar and Sunshine Brosi
Fort Hill, Ed Thompson and Wes Knapp	High Rock Wildland, James Lendemmer and Liz McDowell
Mt Aetna Tract, Sunshine Brosi and Mitch Hall	North Cherry Creek Bog, Kevin Dodge and Rod Simmons
Wolf Swamp, Kevin Dodge and Cris Fleming	Rock Lodge. Jessie Harris and Cris Fleming
Elk Ridge Nature Preserve, Liz McDowell and Carole Bergmann	
Finzel Swamp, Rod Simmons	
New Germany St Park, Dwight Johnson	

Marilandica: Carolyn Fulton, editor.

Three issues published.



Advocacy

MNPS is frequently asked support the conservation efforts of other organizations and community groups. In deciding whether to do so, we look to our mission: "to promote awareness, appreciation, and conservation of Maryland's native plants and their habitats" We also consider whether we have expertise specific to the issue. Thus, conservation of natural areas where we have conducted field trips or have other specific knowledge takes a high priority.

- The Society supported efforts of Mattawoman Watershed Society to protect the watershed and advocate for smart growth in Charles County by co-signing various letters and comments on county and state proposals.
- We submitted comments in support of a proposal by the MD Department of Natural Resources to expand Maryland's legislatively designated Wildlands.
- We submitted comments to MD Department of Natural Resources in opposition to a proposal to create off-road vehicle trails at Sideling Hill.
- We submitted written comments to the Montgomery County Council, and Board member Ken Bawer testified at a hearing in support of full protection of the Ten Mile Creek Watershed from development.
- We commented on a bill in the Maryland Senate concerning liability for damage to trees from natural gas leaks.
- We commented to the Montgomery County Council in support of two bills related to preservation of canopy trees in the county.
- We joined with other organizations in signing comments prepared by the Clean Water Coalition concerning federal legislation and Maryland Department of the Environment and the Environmental Protection Agency proposed actions.

2013 Financial Summary: Matt Cohen, Treasurer
Karyn Molines, Membership Chair

Total Assets December 31, 2013: \$52,690

Total Income 2013: \$25,705

Donations and member dues: \$16,181

Sales, conference fees, and miscellaneous: \$9,524

Total Expense 2013: \$26,419

Conference, educational meetings and field trips: \$7,127

Publications (website and *Marilandica*): \$11,409

Research grant: \$2,000

Insurance, other overhead, supplies, and miscellaneous: \$5,883

2013 Board of Directors

Kirsten Johnson, President

Ginny Yacovissi, Secretary

Matt Cohen, Treasurer

Marney Bruce, Vice-President

Marc Imlay, Vice-President

Matt Bazar

Ken Bawer

Carole Bergmann

Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Cris Fleming

Carolyn Fulton

Beth Johnson

Lou Aronica, Emeritus

Joe Metzger, Emeritus

Liz Jones

Brett McMillan

Karyn Molines

Chris Puttock

Mary Pat Rowan

Matt Salo

Rod Simmons