



Maryland Native Plant Society, Inc.

2014 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.

2014 - THE YEAR OF THE ROSE FAMILY




Rosa carolina

Field Trips and Conservation Projects

Field trips are our core activity. We believe there is no substitute for outdoor experience to learn field skills and to appreciate the importance of conservation. In 2014 the Society sponsored a record of 44 field trips and conservation activities, plus additional field trips at the conference. Cris Fleming and Bob Yacovissi continue to edit plant lists from field trips and post them on our website. We now have lists for 49 locations in Maryland and surrounding jurisdictions including, in many cases, lists from more than one visit to the same location.

Demand for our field trips has grown significantly in the last several years, to the point where we frequently must limit registration in order to give participants a worthwhile experience. In those cases, early registration is open only to members.

List of Field Trips and Projects (See separate list for conference field trips.)

Jan	Fort Bayard, DC – Mary Pat Rowan Carderock area of Great Falls Nat'l Park – Matt Cohen Exploring Elk Ridge Nature Preserve in Winter – Liz McDowell
Feb	Fort Totten, DC – Mary Pat Rowan Ten Mile Creek – Ken Bawer Winter Greens at Kings Landing Park – Karyn Molines. Co-sponsored by Battle Creek Nature Education Society and Calvert Co Div of Natural Resources Woodworth Park, Cheverly – Matt Salo. Co-sponsored by Cheverly Green Infrastructure Committee Robert E Lee Park Restoration Project – Dwight Johnson. Co-sponsored with RE Lee Park Nature Council
March	<p>Fort Dupont/Fort Stanton Connector, DC – Mary Pat Rowan</p>  <p>Lunch stop at Fort Dupont/Fort Stanton Connector</p> <p>Loch Raven Reservoir Watershed, Baltimore – Dwight Johnson and Charlie Davis. Co-sponsored with Natural History Society of Maryland Flag Ponds Habitat Survey – Karyn Molines. Co-sponsored by Battle Creek Nature Education Society and Calvert Co Div of Natural Resources</p>
April	Carderock area of Great Falls Nat'l Park – Cris Fleming Shepherd Parkway, DC – Mary Pat Rowan Savage River State Forest Invasive Removal – Ron Boyer. Co-sponsored with Savage River Watershed Association Flag Ponds Habitat Survey – Karyn Molines. Co-sponsored by Battle Creek Nature Education Society and Calvert Co Div of Natural Resources Governor Bridge Natural Area – Karyn Molines. Turkey Run Park, VA – Matt Cohen Elk Ridge Nature Preserve – Liz McDowell Watkins Regional Park – Matt Salo and Joe Mudd
May	Carderock area of Great Falls Nat'l Park – Marney Bruce RE Lee Park, Baltimore Co – Dwight Johnson, co-sponsored by RE Lee Park Nature Council Fort Chaplin, DC – Mary Pat Rowan Flag Ponds Habitat Survey – Karyn Molines. Co-sponsored by Battle Creek Nature Education Society and Calvert Co Div of Natural Resources Ellicott City property near Enchanted Forest – Heidi Pringle. Co-sponsored by Natural History Society of Maryland Gunpowder State Park Hereford area – Dwight Johnson Sugarloaf Mountain – Melanie Choukas-Bradley. Cancelled.

List of Field Trips, continued

June	Northwest Branch – Marney Bruce Fort Dupont, DC – Mary Pat Rowan Patapsco Valley State Park, McKeldin Area – Bob Ringler Flag Ponds Habitat Survey – Karyn Molines. Co-sponsored by Battle Creek Nature Education Society and Calvert Co Div of Natural Resources Little Bennett Regional Park – Carole Bergmann Rosaryville State Park – Chris Puttock and Selwyn Ramp. Co-sponsored with Chesapeake Natives and Audubon Naturalist Society
July	Western Mountains Flower ID Workshop, Garrett Co – Liz McDowell West Baltimore Wildflower Project Tour – Anna Johnson and Chris Swann Flag Ponds Habitat Survey – Karyn Molines. Co-sponsored by Battle Creek Nature Education Society and Calvert Co Div of Natural Resources Exploring Elk Ridge Nature Preserve in Summer – Liz McDowell Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary – Karyn Molines. Co-sponsored by Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary
Sept	Fort Slocum, DC – Mary Pat Rowan
Oct	Fort Totten, DC – Mary Pat Rowan Cheverly Euclid Park – Randy Phoebus and Matt Salo. Co-sponsored with Cheverly Green Infrastructure Committee Seneca Creek State Park, Montgomery Co – Ken Bawer Elk Ridge Nature Preserve – Liz McDowell
Nov	Greenmount Cemetery, Baltimore – Chris Partain. Fort Stanton, DC – Mary Pat Rowan Rock Creek Park Boundary Bridge Area – Melanie Choukas-Bradley Sugarloaf Mountain – Melanie Choukas- Bradley
Dec	Fort Dupont/Fort Stanton Connector – Mary Pat Rowan Carderock area of Great Falls Nat'l Park – Matt Cohen Ferry Hill area of C&O Canal Nat'l Historic Park – Rod Simmons and Carole Bergmann. Co-sponsored with Virginia Native Plant Society and Botanical Society of Washington



Volunteers clear Virginia pines from the serpentine area of Robert E Lee Park, Baltimore Co.



Karyn Molines, left, organizes a habitat survey at Flag Ponds Park, Calvert Co.

Three Grants Awarded for Native Plant and Ecological Research

Once again, MNPS received a number of worthy grant proposals, and equally fortunately, we had received enough generous donations in 2014 that the Board decided to fund three of them.

Lauren Hull, a graduate student at Frostburg State University, is analyzing mountain bugbane (*Actaea podocarpa*), a species threatened by ecological and human pressures. The MNPS grant will provide equipment for surveying and documenting the plant populations, as well as outreach to increase public awareness of the importance of conserving this and other species. Additional funding is provided by FSU's Department of Biology.

The impact of deer and non-native invasive plants on forest ecology is well known to our members. We awarded a grant to Andrew Landsman, a PhD student at the University of Delaware and a biologist with the National Park Service (NPS). The multi-year project examines the cascading ecological effects of overabundant herbivores and invasive plants on the structure, composition and nativity of forest understory vegetation, with a particular focus on web-building spiders that are highly dependent on vegetative diversity for web placement and availability of insect prey. The MNPS grant will cover the costs of a pilot study and preliminary analyses, as well as equipment that will continue to be used in future years. Support is also provided by NPS, University of Delaware, Hood College and other sources.

We awarded a grant to Tamara Heiselmeyer, a graduate student at Hood College, for her work on the effects of insects on wavyleaf basketgrass (*Oplismenus undulatifolius*) (WLB). Her objectives are to determine if insect herbivory is occurring on WLB and to study ground-dwelling insects in invaded and non-invaded stands. The MNPS award, along with a Hood Research Grant, will pay for equipment for the project.



Rose family member, *Geum canadense*, white avens, in flower (L) and winter rosette (R)

Update on 2013 Research Award

Recipient: Anna L. Johnson, Graduate Student, University of Maryland-Baltimore County.

The West Baltimore Wildflower Project started in spring 2014 with the construction of attractive fences and the sowing of native seeds in 25 vacant lots, with 5 additional lots designated as controls. Much of the labor was supplied by pre-release inmates from Maryland prisons. This multi-year study is comparing lots with various seed mixes, and also testing the effect of annual reseeding.

The photos below were taken during a July visit to the experimental sites.



West Baltimore is an area with many vacant buildings and lots.



Fences demarcate the experimental lots but do not prevent entry.



Project leader Dr Chris Swann, MNPS President Kirsten Johnson, and grant recipient Anna Johnson.

Conference 2014

Diverse Flora and Habitats of Cecil County and the Tri-state Area

Cecil College, Northeast, MD

For the first time ever, we held our annual conference in northeastern Maryland, a geologically complex region that includes piedmont forests, serpentine barrens, and coastal wetlands all within driving distance of the charming town of Northeast. Over 100 attended.

~ Saturday Morning Speakers ~

- **World-class Ecosystems with a Heart of Stone: What the Piedmont Serpentine Barrens Reveal about Continental Collision, Extinct Megafauna, Ancient Customs and Much More.** Roger Latham, Research Ecologist and Conservation Biologist
- **Restoration at a Local Serpentine Barren.** Mike Bertram, Friends of State Line Serpentine Barrens
- **Flora and Ecology of Cecil County and its Environs.** Wesley Knapp, Eastern Regional Ecologist, MD Department of Natural Resources Wildlife & Heritage Service
- **Enhancing Biodiversity with Native Plantings.** Anna Johnson, PhD Candidate, University of Maryland – Baltimore County, 2013 MNPS Grant Recipient

~ Saturday Evening Speaker ~

- **Flora and Ecology of Delmarva Seasonal Ponds.** William MacAvoy, Botanist, Species Conservation and Research Program, Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife

Liz Jones organized a silent auction of crafts, books and other items. We keep our conference registration fee low, and thus the silent auction is our major fundraising event.

Field Trips: Saturday	Sunday
Pilot Serpentine Barren, Nature Conservancy Preserve, Cecil Co. - Wes Knapp, Conference Speaker, Roger Latham, Conference Speaker	Susquehanna Lock 12 Area – Tim Draude, PA botanical consultant
Mt Cuba Center, Hockessin, DE – Carole Bergmann and Mt Cuba staff	State Line Serpentine Barrens – Members of the Friends group
Cecil College grounds - Members of Cecil College Horticulture Club	Rocks State Park, Harford Co – Dwight and Kirsten Johnson, Sam Jones
Susquehanna State Park, PA - Janet Ebert and Jack Holt, Botanical Consultants	Elk Neck State Forest, Cecil Co – Rod Simmons
Elk Neck State Forest, Cecil Co - Rod Simmons,	Lum’s Pond State Park, DE – Karyn Molines
Nottingham Serpentine Barrens, Nottingham, PA - Cris Fleming and Matt Bazaar	
White Clay Creek St Park, PA – Dwight and Kirsten Johnson	
Lum’s Pond State Park, DE – Karyn Molines	



Conference Field Trip to Mt Cuba Center. Photo by Carole Bergmann

2014 Programs, Workshops and Other Events

The Society held regular programs in Montgomery County and Allegany County.

	Montgomery Co	Western Mountains (Allegany Co)
Jan	Introduction to the Rose Family – Chris Puttock	
Feb	Maryland Biodiversity Project – Bill Hubick and Jim Brighton	Palatable or Prohibited? Conservation Concerns with Edible and Medicinal Plants – Sunshine Brosi
Mar	The Mysterious Biology of Native Orchids – Doug Gill	
Apr	Highlights of the Maryland Botanical Heritage Work Group Report – Kirsten Johnson	Building Diversity, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Services in Residential Gardens – Mike Raupp
May	Decline of Orchid Populations in the Catoctin Mts – Wes Knapp	
June	Amelanchier of the Potomac Gorge – Chris Frye	
July	The MD Amphibian and Reptile Atlas – Sue Muller	Wildflower ID for Beginners – Liz McDowell
Aug	Herbal Uses for Native Plants – Holly Shimizu	Wildflowers of Western MD – Liz McDowell
Sep	Deer Overabundance- Unintended Ecological Consequences – Charles Rhodehammel	
Oct	A Year in Rock Creek Park – Melanie Choukas-Bradley	MD’s Invasive Ornamental Invasive Plant Ban Law – Kerrie Kyde

Marilandica: Carolyn Fulton, editor.

Two issues published.



Advocacy

In deciding where to direct our advocacy efforts, 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 specific, relevant expertise. Thus, conservation of natural areas where we have conducted field trips takes a high priority.

- Board Member Ken Bawer testified to the Montgomery County Council in favor of limiting development in the Ten Mile Creek Watershed.
- MNPS is a member of the Choose Clean Water Coalition, a group of organizations sharing the goal of restoring the rivers and streams leading to the Chesapeake Bay. As such, we occasionally sign on to the Coalition's letters and petitions to various government bodies pertaining to clean water issues.
- We submitted a letter to the US Army Corps of Engineers opposing plans to install a chain link fence on the Ireland Trail in the Forest Glen Annex in Silver Spring.
- MNPS member Dwight Johnson serves on the board of the R.E. Lee Park Nature Council and its Environmental Committee, advocating for protection of the serpentine area in the park and conducting a plant survey of the park.
- We signed on to a petition of the National Environmental Coalition on Invasive Species in support of bills that would strengthen regulatory tools to prevent the introduction of invasive species.
- We signed on to several letters prepared by the Smart Growth Alliance for Charles County pertaining to land use in Charles Co, particularly the Mattawoman Creek Watershed.

2014 Financial Summary: Matt Cohen, Treasurer
Karyn Molines, Membership Chair

Total Assets December 31, 2014: \$57,845

Total Income 2014: \$31,354

Donations and member dues: \$22,077

Sales, conference fees, and miscellaneous: \$9127

Total Expense 2014: \$26,192

Conference, educational programs, and field trips: \$8379

Publications (website and *Marilandica*): \$7980

Research grants: \$4443

Insurance, other overhead, and miscellaneous: \$5390

2014 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

Liz Jones

Brett McMillan

Karyn Molines

Chris Puttock

Mary Pat Rowan

Matt Salo

Rod Simmons

Lou Aronica, Emeritus

Joe Metzger, Emeritus



Spiraea alba, white spiraea