

# Middle Patuxent Environmental Area

# 2015

## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

No experience necessary, one-time volunteers are welcome.

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, 9-11:30 AM

### Garlic Mustard Pulling & Seep Upkeep March 24 / Trotter Road Entrance

Volunteers, help pull garlic mustard along our trails. Our goal is to maintain previously cleared areas, plus seek out and eliminate any new or remaining satellite mustard invasions. Come visit the spring seep area to continue with our prior volunteers' work by cleaning off, repairing, or removing deer-exclusion shelters and by re-checking areas cleared of Multiflora rose, Royal empress tree, privet and other non-native invasive plants. The seep area was historically rich with American woodcock activity and efforts continue there to restore proper Timberdoodle feeding cover.

### Garlic Mustard Pull & Spring Wildflower Hike April 28 / South Wind Circle Trailhead

This event coincides with the blooming of numerous Virginia bluebells and many other spring ephemerals that are seen along the wooded path. A guest speaker helps identify and discuss these beautiful, short-lived flowers. We conclude at the verdant spot where Cricket Creek flows into the Middle Patuxent River. Although we see less mustard each year, be prepared for a morning of vigorous garlic mustard removal.

### Milkweed Planting & Butterfly Talk May 26 / Trotter Road Entrance

Come out this day and help plant beneficial milkweeds and also learn about the Monarch Waystation Program. Learn two easy things that you can even do at home to help Monarchs! For the past few years we have conducted events to teach about Monarch Butterflies and some years, we haven't any to show people.

### Barberry & Basketgrass June 23 / South Wind Circle Trailhead

Non-native, invasive plants are a real threat to our ecosystems and our habitat restoration efforts. Come hear Dr. Vanessa Beauchamp, Assistant Professor of Biology at Towson University, speak about the ecology of Wavyleaf basketgrass, a relative newcomer and very challenging species, and a citizen-science initiative to map its current distribution. The remaining time is spent dealing with our nemesis, Japanese barberry.

### Vine Cutting & Tree Shelter Repair September 22 / South Wind Circle Trailhead

Hundreds of native trees and shrubs have been planted by our volunteers and our meadows are also surrounded by mature stands of native hardwood trees. These majestic meadow neighbors and our volunteer planting sites are succumbing to the ill effects of several different invasive vines. Come navigate the meadow edges and de-vine the mature trees. Then progress to maintenance on a small glade of Cedar trees and/or a riparian buffer planting site.

### Autumn Olive Cutting October 27 / South Wind Circle Trailhead

Autumn olive shrubs are an unwelcome remnant of the game farm that once existed in this area. On this morning come continue our efforts to rid the trail edges of this woody invader. Olive is a formidable foe so we use a variety of methods over the course of several events. To reward you for your vigorous efforts, we've invited Sara Tangren to teach about autumn tree identification and the reasons for the different colors of fall foliage.

### Autumn Olive Cutting #2 November 24 / South Wind Circle Trailhead

To close out another successful season of volunteer events we again tackle the problem of invasive Autumn olive. Progress is being made in selected areas along trails although there is always plenty more to be dealt with. Work focuses in the same area as last month.

### Information:

Aylene Gard, Master Gardener, 410-992-9889 or  
Jeff Claffy, Assistant Natural Resources Manager, MPEA, 410-313-6209  
or [jclaffy@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:jclaffy@howardcountymd.gov).



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## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROJECT



The Conservation Stewardship Project, a joint program of the Howard County Master Gardeners and the Howard County Recreation & Parks, targets the problem of controlling invasive exotic species in the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA). Volunteer work dates occur monthly from March through November, skipping July and August. Each date includes an educational component concerning the target invasive species or work area for the day.

The MPEA, established in 1996, is 1,021 acres in size and contains a diversity of habitat types. There are upland and bottomland hardwood forest, fields, wetlands, ponds and riparian habitats. The primary components of the MPEA's mission are natural resources management, education, research and recreation.

### Driving Directions:

#### South Wind Circle Entrance to MPEA

Route 29 to Route 108 west towards Clarksville, or Route 32 to Route 108 east. Turn onto Trotter Road to South Wind Circle (about 1 mile). Enter the circle and proceed to trailhead on left (opposite Misty Top Path).

#### Trotter Road Entrance to MPEA

From Route 29 at Route 32: Take 32 west to the Great Star Drive exit. Turn right onto Great Star Drive. Then make a right onto Summer Sunrise. Continue to Trotter Road and make a left. Proceed about 1 mile to the parking area on the right just beyond the small traffic circle.

From Route 29 at Route 108: Take Route 108 west and continue past Centennial Lane. Proceed past Harpers Farm Road to Trotter Road and make a left. Continue to the parking area on the left. If you reach the small traffic circle, you've gone too far.

Please carpool.



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