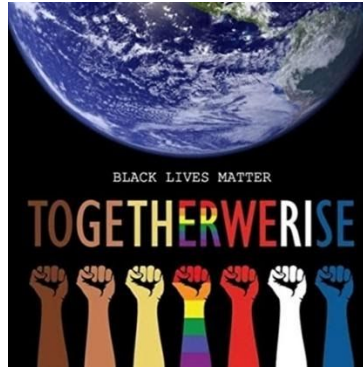


NATURAL PLACES NEWS LISTSERV

August 10, 2020

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Welcome to the Maryland Natural Places NEWS Listserv! This announcements-only listserv comes from the Natural Places Committee (NPC) leadership with official news and announcements. It will arrive in-between monthly Natural Places Committee meetings. To send items for consideration for sharing, please send message [here](#).

QUICKLINKS

[Join Natural Places News Listserv](#) [Listsers FAQs](#) [Send Message to Natural Places News Editor](#)

Unsubscribe Send any message to MD-NATURAL-PLACES-NEWS-signoff-request@lists.sierraclub.org

If you have an item for **public discussion on the Natural Places Forum**, please post your question or comment to md-natural-places-forum@lists.sierraclub.org

IN THIS EMAIL

- Next NPC Meeting
- Why Halting Invasive Plants Matters
- Some Upcoming Events
- Action Items

[Protest](#) at Blohm Park in Gaithersburg **Stream Renovation Tue Aug 11 noon-1pm**, email Bob novaport88@yahoo.com

- Natural Places Resources



SAVE THIS STREAM



(Protest is not Sierra Club event)

NEXT MEETING NATURAL PLACES COMMITTEE

August 15, 2:00-4:00 pm online. [The Natural Places Committee meeting on August 15th at 2pm](#) will be a zoom call featuring the renowned stream restoration expert Rod Simmons, who will lead us in a presentation about how we can preserve our beautiful streams. We would love to hear about your

favorite stream. We are also updating our [Natural Places Preservation Toolkit](#) . Looking forward to meeting you at a Sierra Club event! Catch up on the Wildlife Trafficking issue in July's Previous Minutes: [July](#) [June](#) [May](#) [April](#).

How Can We Win Against Invasive Plants?

by Dr. Marc Imlay



<https://content.yardmap.org/learn/invasives/>

*Especially at this warm, humid, time of the year, invasive plants are growing a mile-a-minute, killing native trees, and crowding out native flowers with their monoculture/single species agenda. This month expert naturalist and former Natural Places Committee chair Dr. Marc Imlay is sharing his updated article on **Non-Native Invasive Species Control** from the [Natural Places corner](#) of the Maryland Sierra Club Chapter website, which is available in its entirety [here](#).*

Non-native invasive plants are **covering all our natural areas** in the region. The **quantity of native plants and animals lost** to competition with non-native species is huge; the amount is greater than that lost from all other causes, excepting direct development in our terrestrial habitats and water pollution in our aquatic habitats.

Five **programs** are especially emphasized for **successful control** of non-native invasive plants:

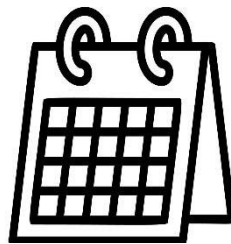
1. manual removal,
2. the use of carefully targeted herbicides,
3. [host-specific biological controls](#),
4. early detection/rapid response for removal, and
5. development of a core of responsible leaders to ensure that in subsequent years all the successful projects are carried on by responsible entities, such as weed warrior teams and Natural Places Committee outings.

Non-native invasive species of plants such as **English Ivy, Japanese Stilt grass, Porcelain Berry** and **Kudzu** are covering the natural areas that we in the conservation movement have worked so hard to protect from habitat destruction, erosion and water pollution. Just as we are making progress on wetlands, stream bank stabilization, and endangered species, these **plants from other parts of the world have typically covered 20-90% of the surface area of our forests, streams and meadows**. Many of us feel demoralized and powerless to combat these invaders that have few natural herbivores or other controls. A typical park is 50-500 acres and has over a **hundred species of native plants** let alone the hundreds of native

species of insects, mushrooms, snails, reptiles, mammals and birds that depend upon the plants prior to being **covered by monocultures of 5-10 alien species**.

Of the 15 top non-native invasive plant species in the mid-Atlantic region, four (**Purple Loosestrife, Japanese Knotweed, Mile-a-minute, and Garlic Mustard**) now **have one or two non-native insects or fungi that feed on them**. They were brought over after being tested for **host specificity** in Eurasia and then tested in quarantine conditions in the United States. Typically, about 50 such bio-control agents control these species in their native countries so if one or two can control them here that is amazing. In actuality, **bio-controls work about 30% of the time** reducing the invasive species to about 10% of its former abundance. The problem of bio-controls **harming non-target organisms is only about 3%** compared to 50% before the new rules of proving host specificity went into effect about 20 years ago.

Volunteer weed removers are also critical to the public recognition of the importance of **control**, and eradication where possible, **of invasive plants** by all of us **pulling together**. You also can help with **legislative advocacy** for laws to **ban invasive plants** and **protect native landscaping**. Together we can take back and preserve natural places and provide more habitat for all types of wildlife. Take our Invasive Species Quiz! Answers later in the newsletter.



SOME UPCOMING EVENTS

Be sure to check for other exciting Sierra Club events on our calendar at <https://www.sierraclub.org/maryland/calendar>

Sat 8/15/20 10:00 AM	Reversing Global Warming: Drawdown Introduction
Sat 8/15/20 11:00 AM	Vision Zero in DC and Maryland (a virtual event)
Sat 8/15/20 2:00 PM	Natural Places Monthly Meeting with Stream Restoration Speaker
Mon 8/17/20 8:00 AM	Ancestral Knowledge Summer Camp-Woods Wise Day Camp (Aug 17-21) \$295 Greenbelt
Tue 8/18/20 8:00 AM	Public hearings on the I-495 and I-270 Draft EIS!
Tue 8/18/20 7:00 PM	Pollution and Public Health in Southern Maryland: Community Forum
Tue 8/18/20 7:00 PM	Prince George's County Environmental Book Group
Wed 8/19/20 7:00 PM	Panel Discussion, "Blowout" (2019)
Sat 8/22/20 4:00 PM	More Nature Finds Near Home
Mon 8/24/20 8:00 AM	Ancestral Knowledge Summer Camp-Woods Wise Day Camp (Aug 24-28) \$295 Greenbelt

ACTION ITEMS

Natural Places Committee Planning 4:00pm to 5:30pm. [Register](#)

Wildlife Trafficking: [Here](#) are the Katherine Chou at the Center for who your legislators are

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Members/District>. Please [send a letter ASAP to your Senators and Representatives, urging them to support](#) the PAW and Fin Conservation Act HR4348, and to work on a solution to Wildlife Trafficking.

Invasive vs. Native Plants: See article in this issue. Discuss [Invasive list](#) for possible upcoming advocacy.

Stream Restoration: Upcoming speaker on this topic at NPC August 15 [meeting](#) discussed above . Read our expert presenter's Letter to Editor (LTE, common advocacy strategy) attached below about how stream preservation can be done well or done terribly. For this upcoming meeting, what are your favorite Maryland streams?

Voting: You can avoid confusion about the process for voting in November and risk of exposure to COVID-19, by [applying online for an absentee ballot](#). If needed, update or create your voter registration at the same time. [Apply Now](#).

Even with mail-in voting, Maryland is short thousands of election judges. Apply to be an election judge [here](#).

The **Sierra Club** Board of Directors has **voted to endorse Joe Biden for President**, and the announcement is being made today: <https://www.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2020/08/sierra-club-endorses-joe-biden-for-president>

I-495/I-270 Expansion Plan Natural Places in Maryland are threatened by two gigantic development projects that are not tied to everyday mass transit. Write a letter to show your concerns. Also read more about a high-tech train planned near Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge and other sensitive areas such as the National Park Service, and USDA Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, at [Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Maglev Project](#). Greenbelt and Bowie are also affected; photos of affected areas can be seen [here](#). The information page from the Maryland Transit Administration can be found [here](#). Change.org petition [here](#). Please contact your state and federal legislators on this rapidly changing issue.



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Meetings are every Tuesday from

slides from our July meeting from Biological Diversity. You can find out

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Good News

Formation of MD Sierra Film Club in partnership with the DC Environmental Film Festival. Watch “**Blowout**” on Amazon Prime or Tubi TV and register to watch and participate in the Expert Panel Discussion August 19 [here](#).



HR 1957 Outdoors for All Act passed both houses of the US Congress with bipartisan support and was signed into law by the president as the **Great American Outdoors Act**. Thank you for your letters! This law provides \$900 million per year in guaranteed funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund to restore our national parks.



Celebrate the [centennial of women's suffrage](#) by attending some virtual events that raise the voices of past and present women who are American changemakers, [including Stacey Abrams, Melinda Gates, and other stars](#).



Opportunity to Update Natural Places Preservation Toolkit: If you'd like to join our work to explore, enjoy and protect natural places, pick one of the following teams to work on, or let us know your ideas! Contact Lily at lily.fountain@mdsierra.org. See current Toolkit needing update at www.sierraclub.org/maryland/land-preservation-tool-kit. Please let us know which of the following three areas you would like to work on: 1. Programs to **avoid development**, such as *easements*, buying land for *conservation*, *forest conservation plans*, *endangered species* and *rare habitat surveys*, compliance with National Pollution Elimination System, establish *greenways*, and education about *smart growth* regulations. 2. Programs to **reduce the impact of development**, such as *low impact development*, *stormwater retention* regulations, model *ordinances on pollinator-friendly yards*

and *rainscapes* to reduce storm-water runoff. 3. **Threats to natural areas** such as certification by the Forest Stewardship Council program, non-native invasive species control, erosion and sediment control, off-road vehicle damage control, damage control for deer overpopulation. 4. **Parks Project:** Provide access information and *description of Maryland parks* to promote the outdoors for everyone. 5. **Native Plant Ordinances in Maryland:** Help find, collate and post good ordinance that already exist so people do not encounter difficulties when they “go native.” 6. **Meeting Plan** Help arrange speakers and discussion topics at weekly planning meetings. Next meeting: August 11 at 4pm (or adjust to attendees schedules). 7. Take **minutes**, be the **timekeeper**, help with the chat or **co-host** during zoom meetings.

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Natural Places Resources



OR



Click [here](#) for a link to Native Plant Landscaping and Invasive Removal Resources.



Click [here](#) for a link to websites, film and videos, legislation, articles, blogs and reports by scrolling down to **Plastic Pollution Resources**.



Click [here](#) for a link to Dr. Doug Tallamy’s wonderful new talk on the importance of having native plants in your yard with amazing slides and photography. Want to write a short review of his book for the next Natural Places News. Contact lily.fountain@mdsierra.org .

Click here for a link to stream restoration resources.



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