

## NATURAL PLACES NEWS LISTSERV



September 19, 2020

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### Next Meeting of Natural Places Committee

On October 17th, 2-3:30 pm, the Natural Places Committee will discuss the international advocacy **Campaign for Nature** with the goal of conserving at least 30% of land and water by 2030—which is why it is also called the 30 X 30 Campaign! [This campaign](#) is a visionary initiative to try to [preserve 30 percent of America's lands and coastal waters by the year 2030](#) -- an intermediate goal toward eventually protecting 50 percent of the earth's surface for Nature. It is considered by many biologists as necessary to counter an increasing crisis of species and biodiversity loss -- and also the climate crisis.



Our first speaker is Chris Yoder, long time Sierra Club Public Lands activist and expert on Natural Lands. Our second speaker is Luke Chesek, who serves on the City Council of Mount Rainier, MD, where he is writing an ordinance to create a native plant network throughout the city, one piece of his strategic vision to build a more sustainable city. He will discuss native plant corridors and greenways, one of the pieces of the Campaign.

You will leave this presentation with tools to help preserve public lands. We need your voice to shape policy here in Maryland and to participate in the national decisions about our protected lands! Register [here](#).

### Upcoming Events

Not too late to join the **Invasive Plants Expert Panel Saturday September 19, 2-4pm**. Register [here](#),

zoom url: <https://zoom.us/j/95451784396> Meeting ID: 954 5178 4396 One tap mobile +13017158592,,95451784396#

**Water Health and Sustainability Forum** *Tuesday September 22, 7-9pm.* Panelists will explore the threats to the health of our local marine ecosystems, and the far ranging effects of water health degradation. They will also discuss ways to preserve and sustain our water resources and build a better system for future generations of Southern Marylanders. Register [here](#)

**Maryland Native Plant Society:**

**09/29/2020 7:30 PM MNPS Program (Tuesday): [Native Grasses For Use in Home Gardens and Native Meadows](#)** To register, click the on this link: <http://www.mdflora.org/event-3954648>

**10/08/2020 7:30 PM MNPS Program, Western Mountains Chapter (Thursday): [Grass Identification For Dummies Like Us: How To Get Started Figuring Out Grasses](#)** To register, click the on this link: <http://www.mdflora.org/event-3979082>

[More Nature Finds Near Home.](#) Got questions or ideas about where to go to connect with nature near home? Join us for an hour of show-and-tell with others who seek solace among the wild things.

**Natural Places Committee Stream Team Work Meeting, Sept. 23 6:30pm.** Natural Places Committee is sponsoring this Stream and Water Issues Work Meeting for members interested in learning about and changing how our stream issues are managed, focusing on managing stormwater by more sustainable, effective means and preserving stream valley ecosystems and water quality. At the meeting, participants will discuss developing a fact sheet on stream restoration issues. At the August Natural Places Committee meeting environmental scientist and ecological restoration specialist Rod Simmons gave a [powerpoint presentation](#) and described problems with some of the standard techniques used for dealing with stormwater and pollution issues in Maryland. Participants will be sent a draft prior to the meeting to review ahead of time. Register [here](#)



## **Opportunities for Action**

1. **US Congressional Resolution for 30x30 Campaign for Nature:** Resolutions have been introduced in both Houses of Congress which would not have the force of law if they pass, but they make a strong statement about the country's goal; both say: A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate [House] that the Federal Government should establish a national goal of conserving at least 30 percent of the land and ocean of the United States by 2030. Sierra Club has enthusiastically joined the 30 x 30 campaign.

In addition to attending the Natural Places Committee Panel discussion on this issue at our October 17th meeting, another way to promote 30 x 30 is to get **more supporters in the US Congress for the two resolutions.** So far there are NOT many cosponsors for the House resolution -- H. Res. 835. The GOOD news is one of Maryland's reps is on H. Res. 835 (as of 9/15/20): [Rep. Jamie Raskin \[D-MD-8\]](#) (deserves a "thank you"). Both of Maryland's Senators are on the Senate version, S. Res. 372:

[Sen. Ben Cardin \[D-MD\]](#)

[Sen. Chris Van Hollen \[D-MD\]](#)

The bad news is LOTS of Maryland legislators are NOT yet on. But there is GREAT potential for more. [All those who helped the great American Outdoors Act](#) seem likely to sign on -- if asked by a few constituents. With COVID-19 making most Congressional staff work remotely, it may be harder to reach some, so we are recommending contacting legislators via using ALL THREE of the methods here:

1. Call DC office leave message, requesting cosponsorship for H. Res. 835.
2. Call the district office, talk to a person or leave a message.
3. Engage in direct email correspondence with environmental staff --may take several tries. PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF! BUT if you actually know a local staffer -- of course, as always, go with whom you know.

Here, below is a script of WHAT TO SAY when phoning or in an email:

IF THE LEGISLATOR HAS ALREADY SIGNED ON:

I would like to thank the Congressperson for cosponsoring H. Res. 835, the Resolution about conserving at least 30 percent of the land and ocean of the United States by 2030.

IF YOU ARE ASKING THE LEGISLATOR TO SIGN ON:

As a citizen concerned about the loss of biodiversity in our country and throughout the world, and knowing the way nature conservation can help combat the climate crisis, I am asking your boss to please sign on as a cosponsor of H. Res. 835, which expresses the "sense of the House that the Federal Government should establish a national goal of conserving at least 30 percent of the land and ocean of the United States by 2030."

This visionary resolution does not yet have many cosponsors, but I hope that he will be willing to help by signing on to H. Res. 835, with Rep. Deb Haaland's office. Senators Van Hollen and Cardin have cosponsored the Senate version.

[Something along those lines..... pretty short and sweet.. Adapt to YOUR words.)

If no answer in two days -- send a follow up email -- "Did you get the request ----?" And also call the DC office at 202-225-xxxx (insert legislators phone extension) asking them to give a message to \_\_\_\_\_ (insert name of legislator and/or aide). Next day, call the district office.

*Persistence pays. Constituent pressure works.* Find out your representative's phone number [here](#). Find out who your representative is [here](#).

ANY interest indicated by staff? Here is info for the ONE Maryland rep who we think is MOST LIKELY to say yes quickly: Anthony Brown, and the reason is that he is on the Natural Resources Committee along with the champion of the resolution New Mexico's Deb Haaland. Another Democratic Natural Resources Committee member said yes, on our first try. Anthony Brown: 202-225-8699; Largo 301-458-3600. Aide: Hunter Ryan, [hunter.ryan@mail.house.gov](mailto:hunter.ryan@mail.house.gov).

Other "possibles" are Congressmen Ruppertsberger, Sarbanes, Trone, and Mfume.

For background, check out [Congresswoman Haaland's short summary](#) of the legislation.

And we in Sierra Club need to keep in mind we consider 30 x 30 protection truly just an INTERIM STEP on the way, eventually to *NATURE NEEDS HALF*. Thanks for your help on this journey!

For more information contact Vicky Hoover, Sierra Club Senior Wilderness volunteer, 30 x 30 team, 415-928-1038, [vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org](mailto:vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org).

2. **Notify your Nursery about prohibited Invasive Plants:** Please check if your local nursery is selling Tier 1 or Tier 2, and let them know they are susceptible to fines if they sell Tier 1 or don't have a sign for Tier 2 plants. Bring along a copy of the [state list of invasive plants](#) to share:

### **Tier 1 Plants – May NOT be sold**

*Corydalis incisa* Incised fumewort

*Euonymus fortunei* wintercreeper

*Ficaria verna* fig buttercup or lesser celandine

*Geranium lucidum* shining geranium

*Iris pseudacorus* yellow flag, pale yellow iris, water flag



*Lonicera maackii* Amur or Bush honeysuckle \*increases risk of Lyme disease by 10-fold  
**Tier 2 Plants – Plant may be sold, Tier 2 warning sign required.**

*Aralia elata* Japanese angelica tree

*Berberis thunbergii* Japanese barberry \*increases risk of Lyme disease by 9-fold

*Cytisus scoparius* Scotch broom

*Euonymus alatus* Burning bush or winged euonymus

*Ligustrum obtusifolium* border privet

*Nandina domestica* Nandina, sacred bamboo

*Phyllostachys aurea* golden bamboo

*Phyllostachys aureosulcata* yellow groove bamboo

*Pyrus calleryana* Callery pear

*Tetradium daniellii* bee bee tree

*Wisteria floribunda* Japanese wisteria

*Wisteria sinensis* Chinese wisteria

*Wisteria x formosa floribunda x sinensis* hybrid

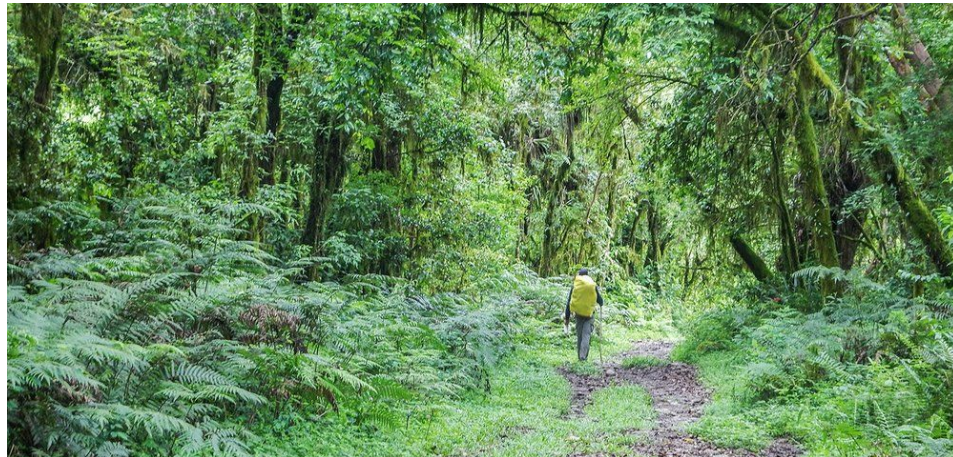
### **Reading List**

**Environmental 911:** Got a development issue you don't know how to handle? Here's a free resource, an oldie but goodie by Richard Klein, "How to Win Land Development Issues"

<https://ceds.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/HTW.pdf>

### **Decreasing biological diversity reported in UN report Global Biodiversity Outlook**

5 <https://www.cbd.int/gbo/gbo5/publication/gbo-5-en.pdf>



**Being for solar doesn't mean being against agriculture.** Some folks were surprised to learn Sierra Club Maryland supports solar power on the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve. In order to have enough fossil fuel free electricity for low income Marylanders and to help maintain farmers, this compromise position was taken. Read the full statement and important amendments and fact-checking from Sierra Club Maryland [here](#).

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