

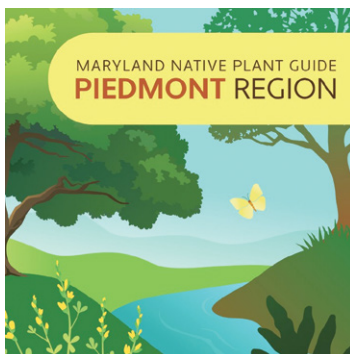
MNPS Works on Behalf of Native Plant Protections

Federal protections for wetlands and 88 million acres of public land have been stripped in the last several years, especially in 2025, while emission standards and climate monitoring have been decimated. As these critical federal protections have been reduced, it has become even more imperative that states and communities ensure strong local safeguards for natural areas. The Maryland Native Plant Society (MNPS) has been working to do just that through state legislative advocacy, support for natural landscaping professionals and homeowners, education, community building, and sharing our joy at the wonders of nature.

For the 2026 session of the Maryland General Assembly, we have helped write legislation and provided meticulously researched testimony for a dozen bills, in collaboration with the Maryland Native Plant Coalition. To get updates on actions you can take, subscribe to the Coalition's free newsletter at mdnativeplantcoalition.substack.com/about. As part of the Coalition, we also worked with the Invasive Plant Advisory Committee (IPAC) to evaluate and prohibit the sale of invasive species across the state (See Page 2).

Additionally, the MNPS board contributed to the development of the **Maryland Native Plants Program**. Here, we highlight some of the recent outputs from this impactful and informative program. The beautiful and informative **Maryland Native Plant Guide: Piedmont Region** book was published in November and is now available for purchase at www.mdflora.org/publications. MNPS board members contributed expertise, articles, plant lists, and photos to this guide and are currently helping with the **Maryland Native Plant Guide: Coastal Plain Region**.

Also arising from the Maryland Native Plants Program is the very useful **Commercial Maryland Native Plant List**, which provides a definitive list of plant species native to the Mountain, Piedmont, and Coastal Plain regions based on the Maryland Plant Atlas. In addition,



only plants that are appropriate for sale in nurseries are included in this list. This plant list is useful to both landscapers and private gardeners. tinyurl.com/commercialplantlist.

As part of the Maryland Native Plants Program, the MD Department of Ag in collaboration with the MD Extension and MNPS, has developed a list of Maryland's Best Native Plant Nurseries. Plant wholesalers and retailers who sell many species on the Commercial Maryland Native Plant List and apply for certification, can display this logo and benefit from Maryland's Best marketing at no cost. Find certified retailers at rebrand.ly/certifiedretailers. If your local garden center has not been certified, please encourage them to apply.

Perhaps more familiar to our readers are the activities relating to MNPS' main focus: celebrating the state's amazing diversity of native plants and communities. To accomplish this, we offer a monthly speaker series, publications including our bi-annual newsletter *Marilandica*, an invasive plants field guide, a booklet on using native plants for landscaping, a clickable map of native plant nurseries, field trips, active MNPS Chapters, and loads of useful information on our website. Every year, the Society awards roughly \$10,000 in grants for research relevant to Maryland's native plants. Additionally, each year we select a plant family or other taxonomic group to focus on: 2026 is the MNPS "Year of the Sedge" (Cyperaceae). This issue of *Marilandica* features two articles on sedges, and the always popular Plant Match (Page 11) showcases sedge anatomy. We also plan to offer a workshop on sedge identification in late June.

None of what we do would be possible or meaningful without YOU – our amazing members who hold vast knowledge, are doing amazing work, are kind, are fun, and love plants as much as we do. Let's face it—*plant people are wonderful*. Thank you for being a part of the MNPS community. Wishing you joy, light, strength, and peace.

The Editors

More Sedges...

The focus of this issue is on sedges in the genus *Carex* but there are many other sedge family members in Maryland, including these three.

Left to right: River Bulrush (*Bolboschoenus fluviatilis*), photo by W.A. McAvoy; Woolgrass (*Scirpus cyperinus*), photo by C. Niciporciukas; Smooth Sawgrass (*Cladium mariscoides*), photo by W.A. McAvoy.

