



NEWS ITEMS

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Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 18 and follow-up Sunday, September 19 we will hold our Third Annual Sweep the Creek.

We are doing it again; rain or shine. We hope to get another big crowd this year. We plan to clean the entire creek of trash in one day—or one day and a little bit more. For the first time, we are holding the trash pick-up in Section 9 (Wheaton area) on Sunday. Over the years, many people throughout the park who observe the Sabbath on Saturday have asked us to hold some of our events on Sunday. So, if you observe a Saturday Sabbath, or if you can't come on Saturday for some other reason, join us Sunday in Section 9.

There will be hidden treasures for the kids to find. For the location near you go to <http://www.fosc.org/SweepCreek2004.htm>

- Meet at the sign-in table to pick up supplies and instructions.
- Bags and gloves will be provided, along with water to drink.
- Wear long sleeves and long pants for best protection.
- Bring waterproof boots or heavy-duty/waterproof gloves, if you have them.

At 11:30 come to our All-Creek Sweep Celebration, with prizes (most trash, weirdest item, and more), refreshments, speakers and **FREE FRISBEES**. Gather at the playground at Sligo Parkway and Kennebec Road (between Maple Ave. and Piney Branch Road).

Note: The Sweep is on for Saturday 18th at 9:00 a.m. unless we have high water conditions or heavy rain that day. Check the website home page for updates www.fosc.org.

Tuesday, September 21 at 7:15 p.m. Program Meeting: The Birds of Sligo.

If you are a birder, aspire to be a birder or just want to know more about birds, you've got to come to this meeting. It promises to be a very interesting session. What migratory and year-round birds do we have in Sligo and what can we do to protect and improve their habitat? Two experts on birds will talk and entertain questions. Gail Mackiernan, who is surveying Sligo Creek Park for the Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas Project, will tell us about "The Breeding Birds of Sligo Creek: who, when and where -- an update from the ongoing Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas." Peter P. Marra, Senior Scientist with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, will then describe his research to determine the impact of West Nile Virus on our birds. You can find more detail on our web calendar at <http://www.fosc.org/cgi-bin/calendar.pl>

An Evening With Councilmember Perez, Wednesday, September 22, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

The Sierra Club invites you to join them for their monthly environmental seminar: An evening with Montgomery County Councilmember Perez. Come to the Bethesda Library, 7400 Arlington Rd., Bethesda (short walk from Bethesda Metro).

Councilmember Perez is now more than halfway through his first term on the Montgomery County Council. The Sierra Club endorsed candidate Perez and was pleased that his voting record through March earned him an 80% on the Sierra Club's recent scorecard. Although elected to the Council by the District 5 residents of Takoma Park, Wheaton, Kensington, and parts of Silver Spring, the Sierra Club feels that he has worked for the good of the entire county. He serves on the Council's Health and Human Services Committee and also on the Transportation and Environment Committee, where he is lead Councilmember on the Environment. Considering his federal and nongovernment civil rights background, what insights has he gained through work as a legislator? What would you like to ask him about the county's future?

For more information contact Anne Ambler, Chair, Sierra Club, Montgomery County Group at anneambler@comcast.net.

Walk in the Park with Gary Hevel Saturday October 2 at 2:00 p.m.

Bugged because you don't know enough about insects? Come on out Saturday afternoon, October 2nd at 2:00 p.m. Gary F. Hevel, an entomologist with the Smithsonian Institution, will lead a slow walk in the Kemp Mill area, discussing insects and observation techniques. He will also present a small sample of specimens found during his four-year backyard insect collecting experience. Come to the Kemp Mill Shopping center on Arcola. We will meet at the entrance to Sligo Creek Park at the far end of the parking lot. To be re-scheduled in case of heavy downpour.

For more information or directions contact for more information or directions: Laura Mol 301 681 9686 or lauramol@zzapp.org.

News and Announcements

Native Plant Lovers Came Out In Doves to Walk with John Parrish

Botanist John Parrish's fame is spreading. Over 40 enthusiasts met on the path near the Kemp Mill Shopping Center August 15th to walk with him in the north-most section of Sligo Creek: He pointed out native plants—many we didn't know we had until he did his inventory.

Among plants that still exist in Sligo, John found wild strawberry, wild ginger, and in the sections below Piney Branch, saprophytic Indian pipes. A few more plants may inevitably appear, but John's list—now on the website—marks the formal close of a magnificent achievement. Already it has been useful

by informing whether a questionable plant is actually native to Sligo, and by narrowing down the choices when we identify plants. The inventory points out the urgency of our attack on invasives. We have to get rid of the invasives eating our native plants. John's inventory is at <http://www.fosc.org/PIHerb2.htm>

News from the Invasives Front

General Gagne reports that two fierce invasives—Japanese Knotweed and Mile-a-Minute—are being held at bay. There's a chance we can keep them from getting established in the park. A third plant—Stilt Grass—may be gaining on us.

Also, please note that you can join the battle on Kudzu. See below.

- *Friends of Sligo* had removed most of the known Japanese Knotweed and then someone discovered roughly a half acre in the athletic field off Wayne at University. Four volunteers went to work on it but it was futile. Then Carole Bergmann came to the rescue. She will look for money for the Park to handle it. Thank you, Carole!
- The Mile-a-Minute crusade is moving forward, thanks to Marty Aument and crew in Kemp Mill, and to the Golf Course staff, who mobilized when they learned they had the plant bordering nearby Dallas Avenue, and got rid of it. We're left with two more big fields, which will have to wait for next year. Please report any Mile-a-Minute you see below Colesville Road as soon as possible, before seeds develop further.
- Stilt Grass may join the list of major problems. In areas with only a small amount of grass, we're experimenting with a weed eater. If anyone has a gasoline-powered Weed Eater to lend for use on small, scattered areas, the machine would be welcome during the week after the Sweep. Call Sally, 301-588-2071. sgagne@erols.com
- There are two increasingly large patches of kudzu oozing forth on each side of the first hiker/biker bridge upstream from Park Valley Road. You can join other *Friends of Sligo Creek* on Saturday September 25th from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. to attack Kudzu. *Friends* authorized by Park & Planning will follow up and apply herbicide to roots.

Free Native Plants for Your Yard

The developer building two houses right at the headwaters of Sligo Creek has agreed to let people dig up native plants at the property before he comes in with heavy equipment. So we have the weekend and at least Monday and Tuesday of next week to go dig. The property was lush with native plants, many of which have already been rescued by neighbors and *Friends*. What's left? A nice Amelanchiar and a Dogwood; a few Spice Bush; lots of Ash and Ironwood seedlings, some sedges, and lots of Sensitive Fern and New York Fern. There

is surely a lot more Jack in the Pulpit, but it's faded, so if you find little bulblets that don't seem to be garlic, they're probably Jacks. Usually there are many small ones if you find one larger one.

Please check in with Ed Murtagh or Leah Haygood before you come to get plants. Leah is willing to show the site during the day if you arrange a time with her (301-593-0012). Ed's number is 202-365-6526. He is usually available during the week after 4:00 p.m.

Directions to the property: Going north on Georgia Avenue, cross University Blvd and make a right on Arcola. Turn right onto Channing and drive to the dead end. If you walk straight ahead you are at the site at the end of Blue Ridge.

Friends of Sligo Creek will Spread the Word at Takoma Park Street Festival, October 3

Friends of Sligo Creek will have an information table at the Takoma Park Street Festival. Come on by! Held in Old Town from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the festival brings vendors, crafts people, community activists, and musicians to Takoma Park each year. From the Metro, walk up Eastern Avenue till you see the festival crowd ahead, then just plunge in. There is lots of stuff for kids to do. Come by Metro. There is no parking available.

Potomac Conservancy Reception Planned in Takoma Park

A reception to benefit the Potomac Conservancy will be held Sunday, October 10 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., rain or shine, at the home of Ken and Betsy Shields, 8 Columbia Avenue in Takoma Park. Find out what you can do in your backyard and neighborhood to make a difference. And learn more about the Potomac Conservancy's efforts to protect the health, beauty, and enjoyment of the Potomac River and its tributaries. Meet Conservancy staff and fellow members at this fun, casual event. There will be finger foods from area restaurants and an open bar with soft drinks, juices, beer and wine. Suggested tax-deductible donation: \$25.00 per person. Space is limited and RSVP's are strongly encouraged! Call 301 608 1188, ext. 206 or email Tim Siegel at siegel@potomac.org.

Directions: The Shields' home is the beautifully converted old Takoma Park City Hall and police station just off Carroll Avenue and around the corner from the Savory Care. Parking is available on the street.

Special Weed Warrior Training Planned for *Friends of Sligo Creek*

We are gearing up for invasives work and Carole Bergmann has agreed to make a special presentation for all of us who want Weed Warrior training--but we need to have at least 10 people. This is the first All-Sligo training event. The training will be held on Columbus Day, October 11th at the Long Branch Community Center from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Please go to our web calendar and RSVP. <http://www.fosc.org/cgi-bin/calendar.pl?config=calendar.cfg&Month=10&Year=2004>. We need you.

- We want active Weed Warriors in each section. Every time we send out a crew to cut invasive vines, we have to have a Weed Warrior in the group.
- If you are already a Weed Warrior, you don't need the training. But we want a list of all *Friends of Sligo Creek* Weed Warriors, so please let us know that you have had the training. Email ahoffnar@earthlink.net.
- If you can't make this date, you can attend the regular monthly training, which is held on the last Wednesday of every month.

New Web Page on Water Quality

Mike Smith, our Water Quality Committee Chair has created a new web page for the Water Quality Committee, including a table of water quality data measured at three sites along Sligo. Check it out!
<http://www.fosc.org/WaterQualityCommittee.htm>

Do you know the Name and Contact Person of Your Neighborhood Association?

Sally and others met with Carole Bergmann and other Park personnel recently, and have the Park's blessing, advice and go-ahead to launch our program to control invasive plants. To help us advertise our program to watershed residents, we are compiling a list of watershed neighborhood associations. Do you know the name of your association, and, even better, do you know the name and contact person of your association? If so, send it to Sally at sgagne@erols.com.

If Not Ivy, Then What? Free Lecture at Brookside Gardens

Wednesday, September 15, 10 :00 a.m to 11:30 a.m. at the Visitors Center Adult Classroom, Phil Normandy of the Brookside staff will talk about potential substitutes for ivy. Brookside Gardens announces that the talk will be slide-illustrated and provide suggestions for woody and perennial plants can be used instead of ivy. Just remember that nothing is an EXACT replacement, but there are many better behaved alternatives available that may be less work to boot!"

More From Brookside Gardens: Interesting Trips

Two trips that may interest members of *Friends of Sligo Creek* are coming up in October. They have nominal costs and require registration. You can register on line at www.brooksidegardens.org.

- Jack Seely, Pope Farm Facility Manager, M-NCPPC, will lead a tour of the historic facility on Wednesday, October 6 from 10:00 a.m. till noon. Meet at Pope Farm. Historic Pope Farm provides trees, shrubs, annuals, and perennials for the parks in Montgomery County. Come for a behind-the-scenes look at this 200-acres facility, including a guided tour of the greenhouses and production fields. You will get a map with directions to the farm when you register. \$15, registration code 50.
- Joe Howard, Montgomery County Forestry Board and Carole Bergmann, Forest Ecologist, M-NCPPC will lead this fall's Champion Tree tour on Wednesday, October 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The tour will focus on upper Montgomery County. You will see the magnificent Flora's Oak, which is a challenger to the new national champion white oak in Virginia; the champion ginkgo at the historic Stevens House in Poolesville; the state champion silver pendant linden; and Montgomery County's biggest Douglas fir. All together about a dozen champion trees will be visited, including the new national champion bigleaf magnolia in Garrett Park. You'll get a copy of the Montgomery County Register of Champion Trees. Bring a bag lunch for a picnic in a park along the way. Registration fee includes bus transportation and drinks. Bring a big lunch. Fee \$29, registration code 51.