



Plummers Island Adventure

Wednesday, April 15, 2020

10am-2pm

Plummers Island, Montgomery County, MD

Join the Beltway Chapter on a field trip to the floristically diverse and exceptionally scenic Plummers Island bedrock dome, glades, and forest high above the Potomac River in Montgomery County, MD. We should see a wide variety of spring ephemerals, ferns, native grasses and sedges, and native shrubs and trees. Ecologist Rod Simmons will lead us through this area which will be crawling with a diversity of herps, insects, and lepidopterids.

Rod is the Natural Resource Manager and plant ecologist with the City of Alexandria; a Research Collaborator with the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution; and a member of the Virginia Botanical Associates.

Some things we'll see during this field trip include: Chinquapin Oak, giant Black Walnut, Sycamore, Northern Red Oak; lots of Sugar Maples (some Black Maple); lots of nettles, Canada Waterleaf, Wild Blue Phlox, Wild Ginger; a patch of native Ostrich Fern on a high, ancient alluvial bench; cool native shrubs and trees like Leatherwood, Wafer-ash, Eastern Hop-hornbeam, Cockspur Hawthorne, and others; native Spiderwort, Miami Mist (and other Phacelia spp.), Jeffersonia, Blue Cohosh, and many others; a diversity of native woodland grasses and sedges; tons of Paw Paw; an abundance of wildlife; and plenty of increasing invasives too for management discussions!

Wear sturdy shoes you don't mind wearing over the often-muddy crossing on the narrow, rocky "land bridge" between the floodplain and the island. Please note that most of the walk traverses rolling, fairly open forest along trails, though some steep grades will occasionally be encountered. Bring a bag lunch and water. We'll have lunch atop the knoll at the cabin overlooking the river. There are no restrooms on the island.

Our island adventures is limited to 30. To register, please contact Alonso Abugattas, Beltway Chapter Co-Chair at aabugattas@arlingtonva.us. Carpooling is advised.

Session canceled if rain. For questions regarding weather on the day of the session, contact Alonso Abugattas at 571-274-7403.

Directions: Park and meet at the C&O Canal Lock 10 parking lot just east of the American Legion Bridge (Capital Beltway) along the Clara Barton Parkway. It's minutes from Arlington and Fairfax counties via the George Washington Memorial Parkway and the Capital Beltway.