

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2025 Frederick County Master Naturalists and Nature Council Newsletter

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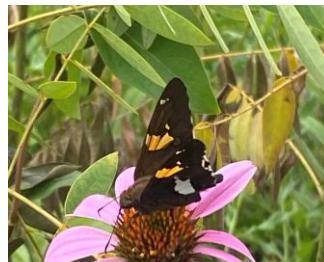
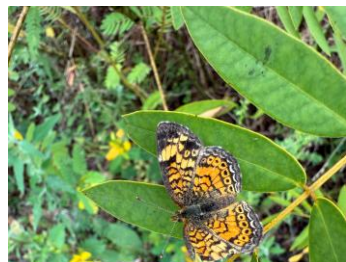
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#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2025

What beautiful weather we have enjoyed these past few days, and, while those days may be getting shorter, you can just feel the energy and excitement for the upcoming programs and projects we have lined up for this fall. We kick off the autumn season with a new Master Naturalist Training Class and the annual Native Plant Sale at Fountain Rock. Soon after, Frederick County will host the Nature Summit at Catoctin Creek Park, followed by the Native Seed Swap at Fountain Rock. There are numerous opportunities for volunteering and advanced training hours – be sure to enter them into the new system and provide a copy to Kelly! Together, Master Naturalists and Nature Council members look forward to the new year celebrating the amazing volunteers that support the parks, nature centers and community. Hello Fall!

#### Annual Butterfly Count at Catoctin Creek Park

Hot and humid weather certainly did not deter enthusiastic naturalists from participating in the Frederick County Nature Council Annual Butterfly Count at Catoctin Creek Park on Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. Several groups comprised of more adults than children scoured the pre-established “zones” throughout the park in search of observations, identification and catch & release of several species of Lepidoptera as well as a few other critters. While a final “sweep” of the park was not performed due to the extreme heat, the total number of butterflies observed was 71 and total number of species was 15, which, with the exception of 2022 and 2024, is lower than previous years. Multiple factors may be contributing.



## Fountain Rock Native Plant Sale

Currently accepting orders through September 14th! If you haven't already logged in to view the wonderful variety of native herbaceous flowers, grasses and ferns offered at this year's Fountain Rock Native Plant Sale, you won't want to wait much longer! Orders are placed (and paid for) online for plants which will be available for pick-up on Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 2pm at Fountain Rock Park. As almost every gardener will attest...you can never have enough native plants! Visit [naturecouncilfc.org](http://naturecouncilfc.org) for the link to the sale. Please help spread the word.... this is the primary fundraiser of the year!



## Master Naturalist Class Fall 2025

We are looking forward to welcoming several new master naturalist candidates who will begin their classroom instruction at Fountain Rock Nature Center on Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. Classes will run Fridays from 8:00am to 2:30pm through December 5<sup>th</sup>. Stop by and say "Hi!"



## Catoctin Creek Butterfly Meadow Garden Project

Now with the temperatures cooling off a bit, it's a great time to spruce up the native plant gardens at the parks. Catoctin Creek Park boasts a Monarch Way Station which Master Naturalists installed and registered officially in 2019. This year the Frederick County Nature Council has approved significant funds to rejuvenate and expand this garden! A small group is working on Wednesday mornings from 8:30am to 11:00am to prepare the area for planting. Join us! Current efforts include plant identification, weeding, removal of invasives, soil amendment, path delineation and mulching. Not much of a weeder? Plan to join us at 9am – noon on Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday September 21<sup>st</sup> (if needed) to add sixty new plants to this beautiful space. Please contact Dana Collingwood if you are interested in helping! ([dana.collingwood@gmail.com](mailto:dana.collingwood@gmail.com))

## Mobilize Frederick Story Walk - Mobilizefrederick.org

Together with Mobilize Frederick, the Frederick County Nature Council is proud to sponsor a new bilingual Story Walk about the wonderful benefits of trees for use in the Frederick County Public Schools and Parks. Watch the Mobilize Frederick space for details!



## Nature Council Update

Consider joining us for our final two meetings of 2025 on September 15th and October 20th. We will be making plans for the annual volunteer appreciation and Master Naturalist graduation event on January 10<sup>th</sup> and looking forward to upcoming programs and projects in 2026. Meetings are held monthly on the third Monday via Zoom with no meetings during the months of November and December. Please refer to the Nature Council website at [naturecouncilfc.org](http://naturecouncilfc.org) to be added to the distribution list with the link. Please note that Nature Council is currently seeking volunteers to assist with the Catoclin Creek Park Butterfly Meadow Garden, Nature Council communications (website, social media, advertising), assistance with the Quarterly Webinars on Zoom, and coordinating a Student Nature Anthology with Frederick County Public Schools. Interested? Curious? Join us!



**Our Mission:** To provide support and advocacy for the Fountain Rock and Catoclin Creek Parks through Stewardship, Volunteerism, Membership and Fundraising Opportunities.

## Frederick County Nature Summit



On Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, the Frederick County Nature Summit will be hosted at Catoclin Creek Nature Center from 8:00am to 4:00pm. Join individuals from across the state of Maryland for stimulating presentations and hands on workshops focused on current, relevant nature and environmental topics. Keynote speakers include Kerry Wixted and Tim Olson. Continuing education credits are TBD. Refreshments will be provided. Stay tuned in email for details on how and where to register. The registration fee is \$50.00 for members of Maryland Recreation and Parks Association and \$60.00 for non- members. Interested in volunteering for the event? Please contact Kelly Crittenden.

### Native Seed Swap

Saturday November 1<sup>st</sup>, from 9am to noon, Master Naturalist and Nature Council member Deb Portney will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Native Seed Swap at Fountain Rock Park. Watch for details in email and Facebook. If you have native plants and can harvest the seeds prior to the event, please feel free to bring those along, ensuring they are marked with the scientific name, date and location collected, and common name (optional). This event was extremely popular in its inaugural year offering a tremendous variety of native plant seeds available for winter sowing. We hope to see you there!

### Volunteer Opportunities

- Assist with the Fountain Rock native plant sale – sorting on Friday September 19<sup>th</sup> and order fulfillment on Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup>. Check your email for a message from Tiffany Wrinkler with the link to the SignUpGenius for times available.
- **Wednesday mornings from 8:30am to 11:00am at Catocin Creek Park to help prepare the Butterfly Meadow Garden for Planting on the mornings of Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup> and (if needed) Sunday September 21<sup>st</sup>.**
- Lamb's Knoll Saw Whet Owl Banding – contact Andy Brown directly (443-624-3687)
- **Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> Day of the Faeries at Fountain Rock Park – assist with crafts and programs – contact Kelly Crittenden**
- Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> between 7:30am and 5:00pm – assist with the Frederick County Nature Summit (set up, clean up, check-ins, directions, refreshments) – contact Kelly Crittenden
- **Assist Frederick County Nature Council with communications – website, mailchimp and/or social media (Facebook), advertising, etc.**
- Assist Frederick County Nature Council with webinar management – we'll train you!

### Advanced Training Opportunities

**Nature Council Zoom:** Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm Paula Becker of the Wildlife and Heritage Service within the Maryland Department of Natural Resources will present, "Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species of Maryland". No cost! Register at [naturecouncilfc.org](http://naturecouncilfc.org). Please note that beginning in December, the quarterly advanced training Zoom presentations will be scheduled on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm! Next training will be held on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Fountain Rock Park Nature Series:** (fee \$7.00, Register at [recreater.com](http://recreater.com))

Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm - 5:00pm Vultures

Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm – 5:00pm Hummingbirds

## Announcements – Save the Dates and Mark Your Calendars!

Wednesdays 8/27, 9/3, 9/10, 9/17, 9/24 mornings from 8:30am – 11:00am, work days at Catoctin Creek Butterfly Meadow Garden (dana.collingwood@gmail.com)

September 3<sup>rd</sup> – Advanced Training Zoom Presentation by Paula Becker on Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species of Maryland. (naturecouncilfc.org)

September 5<sup>th</sup> – Fall 2025 Master Naturalist Training Class begins at Fountain Rock

September 14<sup>th</sup> – Fountain Rock Native Plant Sale Orders Close (naturecouncilfc.org)

September 15<sup>th</sup> – Frederick County Nature Council meeting via Zoom (naturecouncilfc.org)

September 19<sup>th</sup> – Plant Sale Sorting Day at Fountain Rock Park (Tiffany/SignUpGenius)

September 20<sup>th</sup> – Plant Sale Pickup at Fountain Rock Park

September 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> – Planting Days at Catoctin Creek Park Butterfly Meadow Garden.

September 27<sup>th</sup> – Day of the Faeries at Fountain Rock Park (Recreator.com)

October 1<sup>st</sup> Nature Summit at Catoctin Creek Nature Center

October 20<sup>th</sup> – Frederick County Nature Council meeting via Zoom (naturecouncilfc.org)

November 1<sup>st</sup> Native Plant Seed Swap

January 10, 2026 – Volunteer Appreciation Event, Master Naturalist Certificate Presentation to Interns, and Master Naturalist “Graduation” Celebration – Browning Building (Inclement weather date is January 24, 2026)

## Book Club

In September at our next regular meeting we will discuss Raising Hare: A Memoir, by Chloe Dalton.

Then the next two book selections will be about wolves:

For November: A Woman Among Wolves: My Journey Through Forty Years of Wolf Recovery, by Diane Boyd

For January 2026: American Wolf: A True Story of Survival and Obsession in the West, by Nate Blakeslee

Questions? Interested? Contact Master Naturalist Lynne Marquess at lynne@marq3.net

# Fourth Annual **NATIVE PLANT SALE**

Hard-to-find sun, shade and  
groundcover plants selected by  
Maryland Master Naturalists

## **ORDER ONLINE:**

**Starting Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Through Sept 14<sup>th</sup>**

*naturecouncilfc.org/  
plant-sale*

## **ORDER PICKUP:**

**Saturday, Sept 20<sup>th</sup>  
10 am – 2 pm**

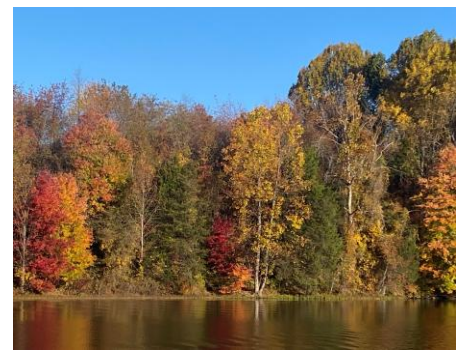
8516 Fountain Rock Ct,  
Walkersville, MD 21793



Hosted by the  
Frederick County Nature Council  
and Fountain Rock Maryland  
Master Naturalists

*“Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall.”*

*-F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby*



*The next quarterly issue of the Frederick County Master Naturalist and Nature Council newsletter will be issued on November 17, 2025. Please submit any materials you would like to have included by November 14<sup>th</sup>. Errors, corrections, omissions? Contact Dana Collingwood (dana.collingwood@gmail.com)*