

# Smoke Signal



## MOYAONE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

THE MOYAONE RESERVE • LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

VOLUME LXIV

OCTOBER 2024

NO. 10

### ***A Note from the Moyaone Association Board of Directors***

This month we have a brief message:

THANK YOU to our awesome volunteers. The many folks who help in small and big ways make the Moyaone Reserve a wonderful place to live. Board members, committee chairs and members, regular and occasional volunteers, participants at community events, residents who treat our roads and neighbors gently, YOU ALL make our community vibrant.

Wow! We had a great turnout at the October board meeting, with about 20 Moyaone Association representatives showing up.

The board worked to increase the number of Moyaone landowners who pay fees. Paper invoicing of those who had not yet paid fees has brought in roughly \$5500.

Your board and committees have been hard at work scrutinizing spending, planning for the future, and knocking out numbers for the FY2025 budget. We hope you will be pleased with the budget proposal we mail out next month.

**Mark your calendars. December 7 at 3 pm is the Moyaone Budget Meeting** (followed by treats afterwards). Those Moyaone Association members in good standing (homeowners who've paid 100% of the consolidated fee of \$820) can vote.

— *The Moyaone Association Board*

### **EVERYBODY WELCOME 4th Annual Moyaone Community Halloween Celebration**



**Saturday, November 2, starting at 4:30 pm**  
*Including: Spooky Appetizers, Treat Trail, Spooky Games  
and lots more!*

#### **HELP NEEDED** (it takes a village):

- + We need homes willing to host 50+ trick or treaters (ideally in the Bonds Retreat --> Cactus Hill loop).
- + We need adults in costume for Treat Trail.

Contact Karen Heys to help, or to be added to the evite.  
301-832-5550 • [karen@karenheys.com](mailto:karen@karenheys.com)

### **Moyaone Association Board of Directors**

*President* — Paola Addamiano-Carts  
[President@Moyaone.org](mailto:President@Moyaone.org)

*Vice President* — Mike Nelson  
[VicePresident@Moyaone.org](mailto:VicePresident@Moyaone.org)

*Secretary* — Karen Heys  
[Secretary@Moyaone.org](mailto:Secretary@Moyaone.org)

*Comptroller* — Linda Witkin  
[Comptroller@Moyaone.org](mailto:Comptroller@Moyaone.org)

*Director-at-Large* — Holly Wagner  
[DirectorAtLarge@Moyaone.org](mailto:DirectorAtLarge@Moyaone.org)

# Accokeek Volunteer Fire Department Working for the Community

— Judy Allen-Leventhal

The Accokeek Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD) has been an essential part of the community for many years. Initiated originally in 1932 when local residents, among them Alice and Henry Ferguson, realized the critical need for emergency fire services. That was more than 90 years ago, and many things have changed since then; but reliance on the resources of our AVFD has not.

As you may know, for some time tensions between the Accokeek Volunteer Fire Department and the County's Fire Chief, Tiffany Green, and her leadership group, have been ongoing. The challenges are not limited to the Accokeek volunteers but are County-wide impacting all the existing 33 Prince George's County volunteer fire departments. Recently, the Greater Accokeek Civic Association cosponsored a town hall with the AVFD to explore the situation and challenges. A comprehensive slide presentation was prepared by the AVFD which outlined the AVFD background and their administrative challenges with the County — challenges both perplexing and appalling — ones that require community support to help resolve. (A copy of that AVFD Power Point is available on the GACA website <https://accokeekcivic.wixsite.com/website>.)

In a nutshell, the AVFD has four outstanding requests of the Prince George's County Fire Chief: 1) Receipt of a computer terminal for an AVFD command vehicle. The AVFD paid the \$8,000 required to purchase the computer and gave the funds to the County in April 2024. No information about the order has been provided by the Fire Chief nor has the AVFD money been returned; 2) The AVFD wants to purchase a tanker to transport water to areas without fire hydrants (such as the Moyaone Reserve). The estimated cost for the tanker is between \$600,000 and \$800,000; and the AVFD has raised the funds to purchase this equipment, with no County funds being involved. All that is now needed is the approval of the County Fire Chief, yet it is not forthcoming after many months; 3) The AVFD needs a new ambulance, the cost of which is estimated at \$300,000. Again, the AVFD is not asking for funds from the County, just the approval of the County Fire Chief to make the purchase; but the County Fire Chief wants to spend our tax dollars on an ambulance instead; and 4) The event hall of the Accokeek VFD is publicly listed as a warming and emergency shelter to be available in the event of a community emergency; however, in order to be a viable shelter in an emergency, a commercial generator is needed; this is also an unanswered request made to the County Fire Chief. Given the growing climate risks seen nationwide, this is an AVFD resource of critical community concern.

The AVFD contributes millions of dollars to the County in volunteer services and equipment; the volunteers are as fully trained as their professional counterparts and are pleased to work in unison with them. Even so, the County Fire Chief does not respond to any of the commonsense requests outlined above. There is no offer to meet to discuss

these items and not even a response of "yes" or "no" for action/purchase. The lack of communication is both disrespectful as well as administratively incompetent. And more critically, the situation endangers the health/safety of all who are serviced by the AVFD including the volunteers themselves. The conundrum is multifold.

To underscore the seriousness of the situation, the problem is not an isolated issue with the AVFD but includes all Prince George's County's 33 Volunteer Fire Departments: all have experienced similar roadblocks with the County Fire Chief and her leadership team. This is especially perplexing because the County's Volunteer Fire Departments all purchased their own land, built their own stations, acquired their own fire equipment — and did so with funds they raised without County financial assistance. While the County may want to have a paid, career fire department, the current path to that end seems unreasonable and unaffordable — even counterproductive given the enormous ongoing contributions made by the volunteers in their service and funding. Essentially, the volunteers contribute millions of dollars each year to ensure the safety of the County and its residents. The situation is confounding, perplexing, and, in the final analysis, dangerous.

Beyond confusion and frustration, we do know one thing: the larger community needs to bring the dilemma and challenges to light. A list of Prince George's County officials responsible for fire and emergency services is available on the GACA website (<https://accokeekcivic.wixsite.com/website>). Please reach out to them or to others you may know (e.g., State District 26 officials) to bring this situation to their attention. A template letter from which you can draft your own personal communication is also posted on the GACA website. Whether it be by letter, email, telephone, please show your support of the AVFD who work every day, as they have since 1932, to ensure your safety and that of our community.

As AVFD President Glenn Sherman asked at the September 18, 2024 Town Hall, "Help us so we can help you." Thank you.

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## Fall 2024 Highway Clean-Up

Sponsored by GACA, Greater Accokeek Civic Association in cooperation with the Alice Ferguson Foundation

**SATURDAY, October 19, 2024**

**10 A.M. TO NOON**



Meet at the GACA Welcome Center in the Weis Shopping Center, located between Accokeek Drug and Subway, at 9:30 a.m. or any time between 10 and noon to pick up trash bags, vests, and gloves. Dress appropriately for the weather and to pick up trash. This is a great way for students to earn Community Service Hours.

For more information contact Dan Donohue 301-641-8770.



## Scenic Easements in the Moyaone Reserve and Resident Responsibilities

The letter below from the National Park Service is from November 2023, but the information concerning residents with scenic easements is still correct. Easement holders have responsibilities to commit to the adherence of these scenic easements. More information is on this website page from the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, which includes an interactive map showing the easement for your particular property:

<https://mountvernon.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=51e2c457bca04e21a00e049c91f4e88f>

Questions about easements and requests for tree removals should be directed to: [PISC\\_Easements@nps.gov](mailto:PISC_Easements@nps.gov).

Caring for the trees on your property helps to protect the viewshed. Mikaila Milton, Biologist with the National Park Service, reminds residents to water the trees near their homes. Even large established trees need water during periods of micro droughts. High temperatures and dry conditions make trees more vulnerable to stress and dehydration. See also the information on tree diseases provided by Mikaila Milton on page 9 of this issue.



### United States Department of the Interior

National Capital Parks-East  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Interior Region 1- National Capital Region  
1900 Anacostia Drive, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20020

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1.A.1. (NCR-NACE)

November 1, 2023

Dear Resident:

It has been some time since we reached out to residents with scenic easements held by the National Park Service (NPS). We would like to provide a reminder to long-term residents as well as new partners in viewshed preservation of the importance of these easements in preserving the wooded and rural composition of the land in Piscataway Park.

The NPS works in partnership with easement holders to uphold the terms of each easement in preservation of the important viewshed from Mount Vernon. The creation of Piscataway Park, managed by National Capital Parks – East (NACE), pioneered the use of scenic easements on private property, and for over 50 years our partnership has resulted in Piscataway Park being a wooded and pastoral gem, which is now part of the new Southern Maryland National Heritage Area. As the regional and national spotlight turns to Southern Maryland, it is up to us to continue our partnership in land conservation. Our continued success will be accomplished through everyone’s ongoing commitment to the adherence of these scenic easements, which “run with the land”, and are binding on every subsequent owner of the property with disclosure of each easement required by realtors.

Thankfully, Piscataway Park is fortunate to have committed community members and dedicated organizations who are devoted to this ongoing preservation mission, including the Alice Ferguson Foundation, Accokeek Foundation, Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association, Moyaone Association, and other easement holders. A useful tool to help you understand your responsibilities to the easement associated with your particular property, is the interactive map tool developed by the Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association: <https://mountvernon.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=51e2c457bca04e21a00e049c91f4e88f>. This map allows you to look up the easement recorded for your property. We also encourage you to contact us for information regarding the easement regulations.

We look forward to enjoying our continued mutual efforts in preserving Piscataway Park. For questions about easements and requests for tree removals should be directed to [PISC\\_Easements@nps.gov](mailto:PISC_Easements@nps.gov).

Sincerely,

*Michael Commisso*

Michael Commisso  
Deputy Superintendent, National Capital Parks - East

INTERIOR REGION 1 • NORTH ATLANTIC-APPALACHIAN

CONNECTICUT, DELAWARE, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, KENTUCKY, MAINE, MARYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS,  
NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA, RHODE ISLAND, VERMONT,  
VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA

## Vivian Mills

Longtime Moyaone resident Vivian Mills passed away on October 2 after a lengthy illness. Vivian and her husband, Richard, bought their property in Poplar Hill in 1962 and built a house on it in 1980. A native of North Dakota, Vivian cherished living in the deep woods of Maryland and was pleased to share her observations on flora, fauna, and the changing seasons with anyone who cared to listen.

She had a long professional career in the nonprofit field, founding and leading a variety of national and local organizations, conducting fundraising and development, rescuing organizations in crisis, and working in myriad ways to make a better world for everyone. An expert in nonprofit board excellence, she sought to instill her values of honesty, transparency, and integrity via workshops, seminars, and retreats, as well as through more informal interactions.

She is survived by her two sons. Memorial contributions in her name may be made to the Shenandoah National Park Association, 2097 U.S. Hwy. BSN 340, Luray, VA 22835; [snpbooks.org](http://snpbooks.org).

## Pulse of the Pool Slows for Winter

We were able to put the pool cover on and begin the winterization process! Thanks to the following volunteers for lending their helping hands:

The Bennett Family (Than, Brooke, Jude, Brell, Hope, and Parker)

Dave Cremer

Marc Cruz

Rhonda Hanson

Kent L. Hibben

John and Lynn Hollyfield

The Kirkup Family (Ben, Crisson, and Elliot)

John and Betty Mitchell

Bill Robertson

Hsin-I Russell

The Shotwell Family (Tina, Elsalore, and Ginny)

The Vincent Family (Chris and Gavin)

Even though the pool is closed, your friends and neighbors on the Moyaone Association Board of Directors and its committees are volunteering their free time and working all year round on planning, improvements, and the budget. Save the date for the Moyaone Association's Budget meeting on December 7.

If you have any suggestions or see areas for improvement, please reach out to any Board or Pool Committee member to arrange some time to discuss. We are also recruiting 2025 Pool Committee members. The Pool Committee meets the third Tuesday monthly at 5:30 pm between the months of February and October. Please send an email message to [moyaonepool@gmail.com](mailto:moyaonepool@gmail.com) indicating your interest.

ALL AGES READ TOGETHER'S HALLOWEEN HOEDOWN

Join AART for their 12th annual, all ages country Halloween Hoedown fundraiser!

Saturday, October 26th  
River Farm, Leesburg VA | Doors open at 5:00 pm

Visit the event page to purchase tickets and see sponsorship options!  
<https://bit.ly/aarthoedown2024>

Fellow Moyaoner Michelle Sullivan is the Executive Director of **All Ages Read Together**, a nonprofit providing free preschool to low-income children who do not qualify for publicly funded programs and cannot afford private preschool.



All  
Ages  
Read  
Together

The Halloween Hoedown is the organization's signature fundraiser and is an extremely fun event for all in an amazing venue with all the proceeds going to the program. She would love to have members of the community attend!

## 26th District Dialogue Series

Mark your calendars! The 26th District Dialogue Series will take place on Thursday, October 19, 1–4 pm at the Oxon Hill Library, 6200 Oxon Hill Road, Oxon Hill. Join an open conversation on health and public safety. The event is hosted by Delegate Jamila Woods and the 26th District Team: Senator C. Anthony Muse, and Delegates Veronica Turner and Kris Valderrama. For more information, please contact: [jamila.woods@house.state.md.us](mailto:jamila.woods@house.state.md.us).

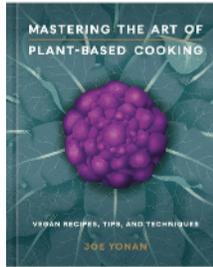


"Uprooted." Watercolor art by Moyaone artist Frances Taylor.

# VEG

## NEW COOKBOOK ON PLANT-BASED CUISINE

**Joe Yanan**, the two-time James Beard Foundation Award-winning food and dining editor of *The Washington Post*, is a champion of plant-based cooking. He blends his local roots with a passion for fresh ingredients and sustainability. Yanan is known not only for his own inventive recipes but also for highlighting the creative work of other talented chefs.



In his just-released book, *Mastering the Art of Plant-Based Cooking*, Yanan elevates plant-based cuisine to new heights with inventive, globally inspired recipes from a variety of authors. With the goal of transforming the way people think about plant-based cooking, the cookbook serves as both a comprehensive guide for beginners and a source of inspiration for seasoned cooks. "Something for everyone" is an underlying theme.

One especially versatile recipe from the book leverages a can of coconut milk and whatever veggies, herbs, and spices you have on hand in the creation of a delicious Nearly-Any-Vegetable Coconut Soup. It's a great launching pad for a move towards a more planet-friendly diet.

<https://tinyurl.com/y5nn3p2p>

### Sinfully Delicious Pecan Pie Bars



These decadent bars were very popular at the May brunch potluck, and are just as perfect for an autumn treat. Vegan and gluten-free, too.

<https://minimalistbaker.com/pecan-pie-bars-vegan-gluten-free/>

**Dear Herbie,**

Do most commercially available plants and/or vegan products naturally contain nutrients such as amino acids, proteins, micronutrients, gut fibers hemoglobin, fats, iron, niacin, selenium, vitamins B6, B12 (and more) that are the essential building blocks of the human body as found in meat?

— I don't think so :)

**Dear "I Don't Think So,"**

First of all, proteins are made up of amino acids so where you find one, you will likely find the other. So, yes! Plants do contain protein. Plant-based proteins come from nutrients in the soil that plants absorb, and some plant foods like beans, lentils, tofu (soy), nuts, and seeds are good sources of protein.

**Micronutrients and macronutrients:**

Yes! The vegan diet is rich in antioxidant vitamins and phytochemicals. These include niacin, selenium, B6, and more. While B12 is readily available in nutritional yeast, seaweed, and many fortified foods, some vegans do take B12 supplements just to be sure.

**Gut fibers:**

Yes! Whole grains, whole fruits and vegetables, legumes, and nuts are the main sources of fiber in any diet — so vegans would typically have no difficulties here.

**Hemoglobin:**

Hemoglobin is manufactured by our bodies and is made up of iron and protein, each of which is readily available in plants such as legumes, soybeans, nuts and seeds, dark-green leafy vegetables, brassicas (broccoli, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, etc.), potatoes, certain mushrooms, and whole grains, among others.

**Fats:**

Essential fatty acids, including omega-6 fatty acid and omega-3 fatty acids, are polyunsaturated fats. These healthiest of fats are plentiful in the vegan diet (found in the oils of seeds, nuts, avocados, olives, soy, cocoa, and many more). Among the fats to avoid are saturated fats which, while found mostly in animal foods (meat, dairy, and eggs), are also found in coconut and palm oils. Most important to be avoided are trans fats, the majority of which are artificial and added to vegetable oils to make them solid at room temperature. So yes — many fats!

As you can see, a vegan diet can supply all the essential building blocks of our bodies.

So now you can think so! :)

— Yours truly,  
Herby (and friends)



## Fundraising Event Calendar Set for 2025

- Chili Cook-off*            March 8, 2025 (always the 2nd Saturday in March)
- Pool Party*                June 28, 2025 (always the last Saturday in June)
- Moyaone Challenge*    September 6, 2025 (always the Saturday after Labor Day)
- Oktoberfest*              October 4, 2025 (always the first Saturday in October)

### Moyaone Challenge 2024

This year's event on September 7 was a success. Everyone had fun. Thank you to members of the Fundraising Committee and the volunteers who came to help! Without the participation from the community, this event would not be possible. The numbers were low this year (net income \$94.67). We hope to improve participation for next year.

After the beautiful medals (created and donated by Janet Parker) were awarded, we had a pickleball demonstration. This event was taught by BJ Park, community member and pickleball master. Several Moyaoners had a chance to play and learn the complicated scoring of the game. We hope to add a pickleball competition to the 2025 Moyaone Challenge.

— Betty Mitchell  
Co-Chair, Fundraising Committee



*PHOTOS: (top left) Completing the road race challenge; (top right) Medal winners at the awards ceremony; (bottom) On the pickleball court.*



**Accokeek Artists Plan Active Winter Schedule**



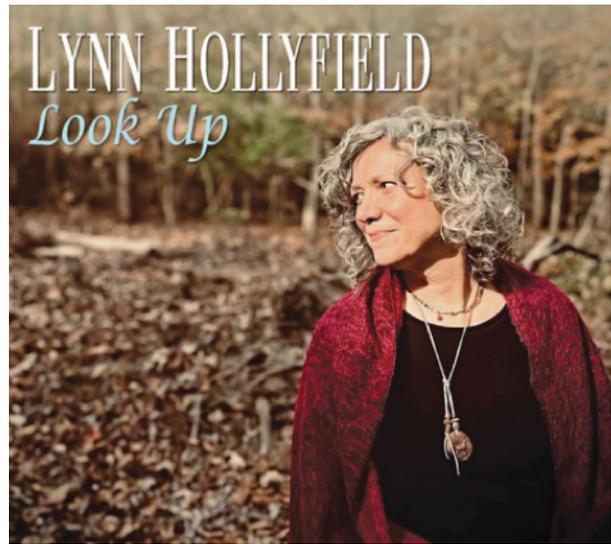
The Accokeek Artists Alliance (AAA) had a successful day at the LaPlata Farmer’s Market Fall Fest in September — and thanks to everyone who stopped by!

Our popular Winter Market is now being planned for November at the Wagner Center (2311 Bryan Road). Hours are 3–6 pm on Friday, November 22, and 11 am–6 pm on Saturday, November 23. We will again have a Silent Auction of fabulous local art that will end at 5:30 pm on Saturday. There will also be a reception on Saturday, November 23 from 4 to 6 pm, where we hope to see everybody!

Look for some great sculptures by John Massey at the silent auction. The Masseys are moving north to be closer to their grandkids so John has many sculptures available. Contact Linda Massey at [lemmassey@gmail.com](mailto:lemmassey@gmail.com) if interested. Many of us have great cedar lathe sculptures by John in our yards.

AAA Member Daniel Wise’s current show at the Mattawoman Creek Art Center in Smallwood State Park is fantastic and not to be missed! This show is open Fridays and weekends from 11 am to 4 pm through October 26.

Looking ahead, AAA is planning a ‘Sip and Share’ general meeting on January 19, 2025, and planning to repeat the popular Valentine’s Day art exchange on February 8. We welcome new members, who can join via the website at



**Lynn Hollyfield and Friends to Perform at Two Autumn Concerts**

**Southern Maryland Traditional Music and Dance Fall Concert in Chaptico. Friday, October 25 at 7 pm**

Lynn Hollyfield will be performing live at the Christ Church Parish Hall, 37497 Zach Fowler Rd., Chaptico, MD. Doors open at 7 pm and the concert begins at 7:30 pm. Lynn Hollyfield will be promoting the new album *Look Up* with bandmates: daughter Keely Hollyfield (harmony vocals), Dave Abe (fiddles, mandolins: acoustic/electric), Steve Wolf (bass), and Jimmy Brink (percussion). [www.lynnhollyfield.com](http://www.lynnhollyfield.com). Complimentary refreshments will be offered. Admission is \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members, and children under 17 are free. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door. This concert was made possible in part by a grant from the St. Mary’s County Arts Council, and the Maryland State Arts Council. See the website for more details. Info: [smtmd2@gmail.com](mailto:smtmd2@gmail.com), <https://www.smtmd.org/#/concert/>

**SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, November 17, 4–6 pm. Lynn Hollyfield and Friends Concert: CD Celebration**

Lynn Hollyfield with Keely Hollyfield, Dave Abe, Steve Wolf, and Jimmy Brink, along with special guests will perform to celebrate Lynn’s new CD, *Look Up*. Moyaone Wagner Community Building, 2311 Bryan Point Road. Details to follow or email: [lynn@lynnhollyfield.com](mailto:lynn@lynnhollyfield.com)



**October at the Alice Ferguson Foundation**

**Happenings at Hard Bargain Farm**

Fall field trips and overnight experiences are officially under way. In September, our educators spent time in Western Maryland for the Allegany Outdoor School, where 7th graders complete field studies such as investigating stream health determined by macroinvertebrates and water quality testing.



Beginning this week, we are thrilled to welcome fifth graders from Prince George’s County for their two-day, one-night experience. From nature hikes and exploring the garden to milking a cow and rolling down the Ferguson Farmhouse hill, our team is dedicated to connecting curious minds to the natural world and instilling a love for the environment in the hearts of our future generations.

Follow our adventures on social media! You can find the Alice Ferguson Foundation on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X/ Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

**Elevate Your End-of-Year Gathering with AFF**

Our stunning environmental campus offers a unique and sustainable setting for your next special celebration. Whether it’s a team retreat or festive holiday soirée, we are eager to host your event in harmony with nature.

**Thinking about a 2025 Event? Special offering for Sunday, October 5, 2025!**

We'll have the tent, tables, and chairs all set – just bring your linens and catering and you're ready to go. Ideal for a vow renewal, family reunion, or any special celebration!

Learn more about our rental facilities and begin planning your year-end or 2025 festivities [here!](#)

**Now Hiring Environmental Educators**

Do you love being in nature? Share your love of the outdoors with the youth of today! We’re hiring part-time and full-time environmental educators for the upcoming school year. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

**Office Volunteer Needed**

Do you have spare time and skills to share? We’re in search of a dedicated volunteer to lend a hand with mailings and other tasks around the office, 1–2 times per month. Email us at [volunteer@fergusonfoundation.org](mailto:volunteer@fergusonfoundation.org) and we’ll be in touch!

— Alice Ferguson Foundation (AFF), 2001 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek; [fergusonfoundation.org](http://fergusonfoundation.org). Photos: AFF.

**2024 AUTUMN SHORELINE CLEANUP**

Join us on the Potomac shoreline at Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park. Help collect shoreline waste with the local community and protect our sacred wetlands. All ages welcome.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
3400 Bryan Point Rd

<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>SEPTEMBER 29</b> 11:30 - 1:30PM	<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>OCTOBER 12</b> 10 - 12PM
<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>OCTOBER 13</b> 10:30 - 12PM	<b>TBA</b> <b>NOVEMBER</b> XX - XX

accokeek.org/volunteer

**Accokeek Foundation Fall Cleanup**

If you're looking for a Fall volunteer opportunity, join Accokeek Foundation's shoreline cleanup! Please join us to spend time cleaning up the shoreline of the Potomac River. This volunteer opportunity is also a chance to meet members of the local community and enjoy the beauty the river has to offer.

— The Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park is located at 3400 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek; [info@accokeek.org](mailto:info@accokeek.org)

## Tree Diseases to Watch Out For in the Mid Atlantic

### BEECH LEAF DISEASE

Beech leaf disease (BLD) was first detected in Ohio in 2012. The Maryland Dept. of Agriculture has since confirmed the presence of beech leaf disease in 8 counties in Maryland. This disease causes dieback and eventual death of American beech trees.

BLD first attacks the buds of beech trees, leading to leaf damage that is identified by dark banding between leaf veins. Starting low on the tree and then moving into the canopy, the disease causes branch dieback and can eventually lead to tree mortality over several years, especially in younger trees. Treatment options for BLD are still in development.

### SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) (*Lycorma delicatula*) was first identified in the U.S. in 2014, in Berks County, Pennsylvania. Since then, it has spread throughout the northeastern US. Because SLF adults are highly mobile, their presence in a forest does not guarantee that they are attacking the plants they rest on. For this reason, it is difficult to determine how SLF is influencing tree mortality. Current research suggests SLF stresses but does not kill trees and is more of a threat to trees already stressed by other infections or pests.

This invasive insect has a diverse diet and has the capacity to damage a variety of tree species. It is known to prefer the non-native tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) as a food source, and research has demonstrated that females with access to tree of heaven deposited nearly 7 times as many egg masses than those without access (3). Therefore removing tree of heaven will be helpful to slow the spread of SLF. Continued monitoring will be required to determine how SLF is spreading.

### OAK DECLINE AND OAK WILT

Oaks are a dominant part of eastern forests and a common genus of trees found in the Mid-Atlantic region. In response to declines in oak populations across the country in recent years, The National Park Service forest health monitoring program will be working with researchers at Virginia Tech starting in 2024 to determine if oak mortality in the region is unusually elevated and if it is related to certain habitat conditions or if it varies over time (2).

#### Oak Wilt

Rare in our area at this time, oak wilt is caused by a fungus (*Bretziella fagacearum*) carried from tree to tree by insects. Various oak species react differently to the disease, but the fungus can colonize the vascular system of the tree and cause dramatic leaf wilting, sometimes leading to tree mortality (6).

First discovered in the US almost a century ago, oak wilt is scarce in the region, but could pose significant concern if it begins to spread (7).

#### Oak Decline

Oak decline is caused by multiple stressors. One significant stressor on oaks and other trees is the frequent occurrence of micro droughts – short, several-week periods with no rain. With increasing temperatures, these yearly micro droughts add up to a major stressor. Other factors – changes in forest dynamics, tree age, exposure to invasive pests – heavily influence tree health (4).

These factors can wear down the trees' ability to recover and increase oak susceptibility to secondary factors such as Armillaria root rot fungus, two-lined chestnut borer beetle (*Agilus bilineatus*), and bacterial leaf scorch (caused by *Xylella fastidiosa*). While these secondary stressors may be the ultimate cause of death, these diseases affect trees that are already stressed.

The best thing homeowners can do for the oaks and other large trees within their landscaped areas is to water if it's been a week without rain. Trees need at least 25 gallons of water per week, the

equivalent of 1-1/2 inches. Hoses turned on a slow drip overnight work, as does moving a slow-dripping hose around a tree every hour or so (5).

### PESTS ON THE HORIZON

#### Elm Zigzag Sawfly

An emerging pest in the Mid Atlantic is the elm zigzag sawfly (*Aproceros leucopoda*). NPS has yet to document this invasive insect in our parks, first recorded in Virginia in 2021, followed by seven nearby eastern states by 2023. They are most common in the Shenandoah Valley (2).

Elm zigzag sawflies damage native and non-native elms alike by eating through the fleshy parts of leaves and significantly defoliating trees (8). This damage can weaken trees and make them susceptible to other stressors. Continued monitoring will reveal how elm zigzag sawflies are affecting elms in the region.

#### Beech Bark Disease

Beech bark disease was introduced to the US in the 1930s via its insect vector, the beech scale insect (*Cryptococcus fagisuga*), which was present on imported European beech saplings.

The beech scale insect feeds on the bark of the beech tree, creating cracks that allow a native canker fungi (*Neonectria faginata* and *Neonectria ditissima*) to enter and colonize the bark, cambium layer, and sapwood of the tree. This disease causes severe cankering on beech trees, deformation of the stem, and eventual tree death. Most beech trees will die within 10 years of infestation. The first sign that beech bark disease is present is scattered clumps of the scale's white wooly wax coating on the trunk and limbs.

There are few control options for BBD. Ornamental beeches can be sprayed with insecticides (consult an arborist) to stop the scale. There is no practical control method for a forest setting. Some trees have been proven resistant to the scale, providing a possibility that resistance levels may be increased in beech trees for the future (9).

#### What's a homeowner to do?

Native Insects are beneficial to the entire ecosystem, from birds that consume them as food, to plants that require insects for pollination. Native insects can also help keep pest insect populations in check. Promoting and protecting native plants in our forests and gardens provides one mechanism to limit pest insect populations. Visit your local native plant nursery to bring beneficial native plants to your yard (10,11).

Removing invasive plants such as Ailanthus can also help limit the spread of invasive pests while providing more habitat for beneficial native plants and the insects that feed on them. For information on invasive plant identification, effective removal methods, and native replacements visit the Alien Plant Invaders fact sheets (12).

References:

- 1) <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/beech-leaf-disease-maryland/>
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- 7) <https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=9aec8460770d46aa9d073ae7ec2c783e>
- 8) <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/elm-zigzag-sawfly>
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- 11) <https://mdflora.org/nurseries.html>
- 12) <https://www.invasive.org/alien/factmain.htm>