Hello MPEA Friends & Volunteers!

Like it or not we are well into autumn. If you like to enjoy the wonderful colors of fall foliage while it is still shimmering on the trees now is the time to get outdoors and see it. Fairly soon the only leaves to see will be on the ground. Another colorful phenomenon that has passed us by is the Monarch butterfly migration. A few late travelers came through this month, actually enough of them that it kind of gives hope that their situation may not be as dire as we're told. Nevertheless, plant more Milkweeds (Asclepias sp.) for the Monarchs!

Managed Hunt

This year the signs posted around the property announcing the managed hunt dates are a little different. Instead of the yellow color which many people may have grown accustomed to the signs are now orange. The material is sturdier too. Point being that the signs are out there but you might not have noticed because aesthetically they are a big departure from the past. It's a good thing you can get the hunt dates for the MPEA right here. Thursday, October 30th is the next date we will be closed until noon.

Potpourri

There is a little bit of everything going on in the area. Most visible is the delivery of trail repair materials along the service road. Amy & Sarah have done an awful lot of shoveling and carting around of rock and soil to keep the trails in good shape. Yet, there is plenty more left to do. We'll get the materials used and out of the way as soon as we can but keep in mind that soggy weather slows us down immensely. Other places you may notice changes nearby the trail are the two areas where volunteers have been focusing on invasive plant removal. There is a spot where Autumn olives (Elaeagnus umbellata) are being removed and another location where removal of Japanese barberry (Berberis thunbergii) is getting attention. There's no need to tell you exactly where, you'll be able to see for yourself on your next stroll down to the river.

A Big Event

Davey has also been very productive this month. For starters, he has resumed hosting the Tuesday and Friday afternoon volunteer events. All are welcome to help so stop by the Trotter Road entrance at 3:30 if you have a chance. Next, Davey hosted the biggest volunteer event to date in the environmental area. On a Sunday, early in the month, NINETEEN families participated in a trip to the MPEA coordinated by the Columbia Families in Nature group. Very positive feedback was received and the group has already requested a return visit. To learn more about Columbia Families in Nature take a peek at: http://www.columbiafamiliesinnature.org/. Closing out the month Mr. Rogner also lent a hand removing invasive plant pests at a volunteer event on Columbia Association property in River Hill.
Interesting Links

Have you ever heard of a venomous primate? Did you ever think about what it is like to be bit by one? Well, no need to wonder any longer. Just read this man’s story:


For more information about Slow Lorises check out The Little Fireface Project:

http://www.nocturama.org/

I hope to see you out in the MPEA,

Jeff

Whoever said that Milkweed was too ugly to plant? If milkweed isn’t pretty enough for your yard, you may be a plant snob! Davey snapped this photo of Common milkweed (Asclepias syriaca) in Clegg’s Meadow.

Also found along a meadow trail were these Fly agaric (Aminita muscaria) mushrooms.

All photos credit Davey Rogner.
The Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA), established in 1996, is 1021 acres in size and contains a diversity of habitat types. There are upland and bottomland hardwood forest, fields, wetlands, ponds, and riparian (riverine) habitats. The primary components of the MPEA's mission are natural resource management, education, research and recreation. Successfully delivering our mission depends on the efforts of volunteers such as you!