

# ***Botanical Society of Washington – 2008 Field Trip***

## ***Susquehanna River Gorge***

***(Harford Co., Maryland)***

***Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> – Afternoon***

***Preliminary Announcement — Details to follow***

The Susquehanna River, flowing southward into Chesapeake Bay from New York and Pennsylvania, now has many dams, but still offers a few undammed areas in its lower reaches, including a short stretch of Piedmont gorge in northeastern Maryland, below the Conowingo Dam. The river here is at or near sea level, increasingly blending with the freshwater tides of uppermost Chesapeake Bay. This area offers both similarities and contrasts to the Washington-area Potomac Gorge in bedrock geology, ecology, and flora and fauna. Maryland's Susquehanna State Park provides an easy access to the Gorge's rich flora.

The Botanical Society of Washington plans to visit this area April 26, midway into the spring wildflower season. One distinctive species that we should see in flower there then is the generally midwestern nodding trillium (*Trillium flexipes*), represented along the lower Susquehanna by populations formerly considered by some to be a different species, *Trillium gleasonii*.

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***For this trip***, we will meet, tentatively at 1:00 pm, at a specified site in the Park, which is located on the west side of the Susquehanna, shortly north of the I-95 bridge. Allow 2½ hours from Washington to the park.

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### ***Background information:***

- ❖ Park Information:
  - <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/maps/susquehannabrochure.pdf>
- ❖ Topo map of area:
  - <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=39.58832&lon=-76.11295&size=1&u=4&datum=nad83&layer=DRG>
- ❖ *Trillium flexipes*:
  - [http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/woodland/plants/wh\\_trillium.htm](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/woodland/plants/wh_trillium.htm)
  - [http://biology.mcgill.ca/undergra/c465a/biodiver/2002/drooping-trillium/trillium\\_flexipes.htm](http://biology.mcgill.ca/undergra/c465a/biodiver/2002/drooping-trillium/trillium_flexipes.htm)

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Check the BSW web site (<http://www.botsoc.org/>) for the season's schedule, as well as other meeting notices and field-trip announcements.

– *Larry Morse, BSW Field Trip Chair, 2008*  
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31Mar08