

**THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate release:

January 17, 2006

For more information, contact:

Marion Joyce, Manager, Community Outreach and Media Relations
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
The Montgomery County Planning Board
301/495-4600, 240/676-4108 cell

Marion.Joyce@mncppc.org

**EXPLORE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN NATURE AND U.S. HISTORY:
“INSECTS AND THE CIVIL WAR”**

SILVER SPRING, MD -- The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) staff invites nature lovers, history buffs and all inquisitive teens and adults to explore the link between bugs and war at a special presentation of “Insects and the Civil War,” Friday, February 17, 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Locust Grove Nature Center, 7777 Democracy Boulevard, Bethesda.

Guest speaker Dr. Gary Miller, a research entomologist with the USDA and a student of the Civil War, explains the relationship between soldiers and insects such as fleas, flies and beetles.

“It’s a little known fact that during the Civil War, twice as many soldiers died from insect-related disease as died from direct battle,” said Locust Grove Nature Center naturalist Geri Drymalski. “Join us for a fascinating discussion and PowerPoint program that will add a new perspective to your understanding of Civil War tribulations and battles.”

Reservation and online payment for this special program are available at www.ParkPASS.org for \$10 per person. More information on Locust Grove Nature Center special events and programs is available at www.locustgrovenature.org or 301-299-1990.

Locust Grove Nature Center offers educational programs all year long, and visitors can hike the trails, or explore hands on exhibits inside the nature center. Nature exhibits and displays of interest to adults and children of all ages are available. Year-round group programs are offered for schools, scout troops, birthday parties and other organized groups for a nominal fee. Reservations are required for naturalist-led programs.

Additional upcoming adult programs include: U.S. Botanical Gardens model train display, hiking with kids, and an adult hike to the shale barrens.

In addition to Locust Grove Nature Center, M-NCPPC operates three other nature facilities in Montgomery County: Brookside Nature Center in Wheaton Regional Park, Wheaton; Meadowside Nature Center in Rock Creek Regional Park, Rockville; and Black Hill Visitors Center in Black Hill Regional Park, Boyds. For more information, the web addresses are www.brooksidenature.org, www.meadowsidenature.org, and www.blackhillnature.org.

###