

# NATURE TRAIL vine pulling project 08.25

We had the best turnout for the nature trail all summer. Suzanne W, Neva L, Laura C, Katherine R, Nina T, John Sweeney and Michael Meredith worked cutting vines, while Anne Potter came to evaluate the signs. The trail is looking much better, but, we still need more participants to make this President's Project a success. See you...



## Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)

Spicebush is a medium-sized, native shrub in the laurel family (Lauraceae). It has a rounded habit and grows up to 15 feet. Spicebush can tolerate dry to wet soils and prefers to grow in part to full shade. It can be found in every county in Maryland, but it grows best in basic soils.

In the spring, bright yellow clusters of flowers grace its branches. It provides an early nectar source for small pollinators such as bees, flies and even ants. Some plants have male flowers while others have female flowers. Therefore, it is important to have at least one of each to get pollination in your yard. Eventually, alternating elliptic leaves will emerge in late spring. In the fall, the leaves will turn a bright yellow color and will contrast sharply with its red fruits. The bark is gray in color and is dappled with white bumps known as lenticels.

...at the next Nature Trail Activity, scheduled for Sept. 22 at 9 a.m.