

2011 Rare Species Trading Card Series



*Barking treefrog*  
*Hyla gratiosa*



*Chaffseed*  
*Schwalbea americana*



*Kate's Mountain Clover*  
*Trifolium virginicum*



*Cottongrass Fen*

## Cottongrass Fen

2011 Series

This plant community is named after its dominant plant- Cottongrass (*Eriophorum virginicum*). Cottongrass fens are considered to be **Vulnerable** on a global scale. These communities are open, acidic and occur in areas that range from being temporarily flooded to saturated peat wetlands. Young cottongrass fens are associated with beaver wetlands while older types are typically shallow and sandy.



Photo Credits: Pete Stango

Photo Credits: Chris Frye

## Chaffseed

2011 Series

**MD Status:** Extirpated  
**Global Status:** Globally Rare/  
**Vulnerable**  
**Habitat:** Savannas

Chaffseed was last seen in Worcester Co, Maryland in 1893. Chaffseed is considered to be a hemi-parasite or a plant that partially depends on another plant for food. Chaffseed is fire dependent and can still be seen in pine barrens and savannas outside of Maryland. This species is likely gone from Maryland due to habitat loss and fire suppression.



Photo Credits: Wes Knapp

## Kate's Mountain Clover

2011 Series

**MD Status:** Threatened  
**Global Status:** Vulnerable  
**Habitat:** Shale barrens

Kate's mountain clover is a rare clover endemic (native) to shale barrens. This clover, at one time, was thought to only exist on Kate's Mountain in WV but has since been found in Virginia, Pennsylvania and Maryland. This species is threatened by habitat loss and invasive species.



Photo Credits: Chris Frye

## Barking Treefrog

2011 Series

**MD Status:** Endangered  
**Global Status:** Secure  
**Habitat:** Wetlands

The Barking treefrog is a plump treefrog named for its distinctive bark-like call. Unlike most treefrog species, Barking treefrogs are good at burrowing and often seek shelter underground during the day. Barking treefrogs live in rare plant communities known as Carolina Bays and are threatened by habitat loss.



Photo Credits: Scott Smith



Lance Merry

*Ironcolor Shiner*  
*Notropis chalybaeus*



*Northern Goshawk*  
*Accipiter gentilis*



*Frosted Elfin*  
*Callophrys irus*



*Dwarf Wedge Mussel*  
*Alasmidonta heterodon*

## Dwarf Wedge Mussel

2011 Series

**MD Status:** Endangered  
**Global Status:** Highly Globally Rare/Rare  
**Habitat:** Creeks and rivers

Dwarf wedge mussels are small, freshwater mussels found in slow-moving streams and rivers. This small mussel is found in only about 70-80 streams world-wide, 10 of which are in MD. Mussel larvae are parasitic on fish during the early stages of their life cycle. This species is threatened by water pollution, invasive species, development and stream impoundments.



Photo Credits: N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

## Northern Goshawk

2011 Series

**MD Status:** Endangered  
**Global Status:** Secure  
**Habitat:** Mature forests

The Northern Goshawk is a rare breeder in Maryland. Timber harvest in the early 1900s removed much of the habitat used by Northern Goshawks, but the return of the forests over the last 70-80 years has led to the return of Northern Goshawks.

Northern Goshawks are powerful raptors that hunt American crows, Red squirrels, rabbits and Ruffed grouse.



Photo Credits: David Brinker

## Frosted Elfin

2011 Series

**MD Status:** Endangered  
**Global Status:** Vulnerable  
**Habitat:** Open woods, forest edges and clearings

Frosted elfins are small butterflies with a wingspan of 1-1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches. Males have a long, oval dark spot on the leading edge of the forewing (front wing). Frosted elfins lay their eggs on buds of the State Threatened Lupine in addition to Indigo and Blue false indigo. Frosted elfins are limited by habitat loss and loss of their host species.



Photo Credits: Jen Frye

## Ironcolor Shiner

2011 Series

**MD Status:** Endangered  
**Global Status:** Apparently Secure  
**Habitat:** Freshwater Streams and Swamps

Ironcolor shiners are small minnows with a prominent black stripe along the side of their body and a black mouth. Ironcolor shiners prefer slow moving streams with deep pools. This fish feeds on small aquatic insects and other invertebrates.

This species is threatened by non-native fish introductions and habitat loss.



Photo Credits: Lance Merry



Luke Roberson

*Blackbanded Sunfish*  
*Emmeacanthus chaetodon*



*Black Skimmer*  
*Rynchops niger*



*Loggerhead Sea Turtle*  
*Caretta caretta*



*Pitch Pine-Heath Peat Woodland*

## Loggerhead Sea Turtle

2011 Series

MD Status: **Threatened**

Global Status: **Vulnerable**

Habitat: Open ocean/Shallow coastal areas

The Loggerhead Sea Turtle is named after its large head. Adults can grow up to 200 lbs and feed on mollusks, crustaceans and fish. The most significant threats to Loggerheads are coastal development, commercial fisheries, and pollution



Photo Credits: John White

## Blackbanded Sunfish

2011 Series

MD Status: **Endangered**

Global Status: **Apparently Secure**

Habitat: Freshwater Streams and Swamps

The Blackbanded Sunfish is a small, silvery-white fish with distinctive dark vertical bands. It inhabits naturally acidic streams and swamps on Delmarva Peninsula. This fish feeds on small aquatic insects, crustaceans, and zooplankton and spawns in nests below aquatic vegetation. This species is threatened by non-native fish introductions and habitat loss.



Photo Credits: Luke Robertson

## Pitch Pine-Heath Peat Woodland

2011 Series

This is an acidic swamp community. This woodland can be found in areas that are temporarily flooded or permanently wet. The wet conditions cause Pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*) in this community to be stunted and gnarled while it grows with Mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) and Great laurel (*Rhododendron maximum*). The underlying bedrock is Pottsville sandstone. This community is

**Highly Globally Rare.**



Photo Credits: Pete Stango

## Black Skimmer

2011 Series

MD Status: **Endangered**

Global Status: **Secure**

Habitat: Open, sandy beaches

Black Skimmers are rare breeders in Maryland that have a unique bill designed for catching fish. The red and black bill is knife-thin while the lower part extends past the top. Black skimmers skim their bill through the water to catch fish.

A beach replenishment project has been underway on Skimmer Island to restore Black Skimmer nesting habitat on the Eastern Shore.



Photo Credits: Danny Bales