

THE TURK'S CAP

Volume 15, Number 1
Spring 2012

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DELAWARE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
www.delawarenativeplants.org

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NATURAL QUOTES

"It is the genus that gives the character
and not the characters that make the
genus.

Carol Linnaeus (1707-1778)

Use the online links in this
newsletter to access the
world wide web of native
plant information.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

The Delaware Native Plant Society is open to everyone ranging from the novice gardener to the professional botanist. One of the primary goals of the society is to involve as many individuals as possible.

The DNPS is working on some significant projects at this time. We have completed four reforestation projects in the Prime Hook area, at Blackbird Creek in New Castle County and Cedar Creek in Sussex County where we have installed tree tubes around newly sprouted seedlings, and are performing annual management of the sites. Help is also needed at our native plant nursery at the St. Jones Reserve with the monitoring and watering of plants along with many other nursery activities.

For more information, visit our website at www.delawarenativeplants.org. Our very informative, up-to-date website has all the contact information for the Society, along with a section on native plants, volunteering, and links to other environmental and plant related organizations.

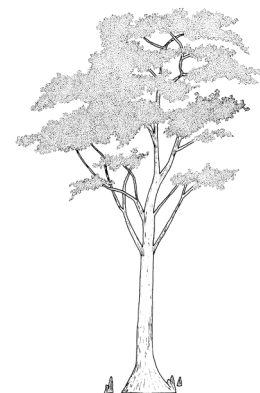


Springtime at Newcroft

Note: In the online version,
blue links go to additional
information.

The DNPS Vision

The purpose of the Delaware Native Plant Society (DNPS) is to participate in and encourage the preservation, conservation, restoration, and propagation of Delaware's native plants and plant communities. The Society provides information to government officials, business people, educators, and the general public on the protection, management, and restoration of native plant ecosystems. The DNPS encourages the use of native plants in the landscape by homeowners, businesses, and local and state governments through an on-going distribution of information and knowledge by various means that includes periodic publications, symposia, conferences, workshops, field trips, and a growing statewide membership organized by the DNPS.



Notes from Newcroft

The long, warm winter has created an unwelcome invasion of honeysuckle at Newcroft. After battling with one stand of that, I'm ready to get back to my reading. My travels to botanic gardens in Europe usually presented a statue of the Swedish Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778). Exploring books in our Delaware library system about the Father of Binomial Nomenclature, I discovered "The Compleat Naturalist: A Life of Linnaeus" by Wilfrid Blunt 1971. He resolved the jumbled classification of the natural world. Through his *Systema Naturae*, first published in 1735, he brought order to all recorded knowledge about living things, distinguishing and naming 7,700 plants and 4,400 animals in his lifetime.

The application of binomial nomenclature is now governed by various internationally agreed codes of rules, of which the two most important are the [International Code of Zoological Nomenclature](#) (ICZN) for animals and the [International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants](#) (ICN) for plants. The Nomenclature Section held just before the 18th International Botanical Congress in Melbourne, Australia in July 2011 saw sweeping changes to the way scientists name new plants, algae, and fungi. For the first time in history the Code now permits electronic-only publication of names of new taxa; no longer will it be a requirement to deposit some paper copies in libraries. See pg. 5 for the Washington Post article "*Botany's new rules allow English to replace Latin in describing species*" by Adrian Higgins.) Read more about the current [Code](#) here.

Now, back to the garden at Newcroft and my struggle with Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*). Nice that the Japanese have given us so many lovely *japonica* species, but this is one we could do without in our landscapes and cultivated gardens.

Cindy Albright, editor

Design for the Nature of Today's Garden

Article by Margo McDonough in the News Journal 3/25/12

Rick Darke will talk about "Design for the Nature of Today's Garden" on Tuesday, April 10, at UD's Townsend Hall. Sponsored by the [UD Botanic Gardens](#), the lecture is a kick-off event for the gardens' spring plant sale, which is April 27-28.

Homeowners can't spend a lot on chemical fertilizers and herbicides or new trees and shrubs. Likewise, local and state governments can't devote much money or time to maintaining parks and natural areas. Rick Darke doesn't see anything bleak in this picture; rather he chooses to focus on the opportunities that exist in contemporary gardening.

"There has never been a more interesting or exciting time to be involved in the design of outdoor spaces," says Darke, a University of Delaware alumnus who heads a Pennsylvania-based landscape consulting firm. His books include *The American Woodland Garden* and *The Wild Garden: Expanded Edition*.

"There has been a sea change in how we approach our green spaces," adds Darke. "This new trend embraces the dynamic nature of living landscapes and identifies conservation, functionality and viability as primary goals." For example, he has become better at choosing the "right plant for the right place."

To save both time and money, Darke lets the wind, water, birds and animals dictate — through seed dispersal — what new plants get added to his yard. He still buys plants but more often he enjoys these seedlings that arrive spontaneously. Of course, you might not be thrilled with where the wind dropped your new beech tree — perhaps it's growing between flagstone pavers or in front of your prized red-twig dogwood. That's where judicious editing comes in, notes Darke. Feel free to transplant seedlings to different locations in your yard and to give away excess seedlings.

Into the Woods (again)

*Trees are growing again to restore one of Delaware's lost forests**

A year ago, an article appeared here about The Nature Conservancy's 908 acre Pemberton Forest Preserve's Ponders Tract located near the Redden/Ellendale forest in DE, one of the largest wooded areas remaining on the Delmarva Peninsula. In 2010, 10 miles of trail were opened. An update includes a link to the map which may be downloaded if you would like to take a hike in Ponders tract. We hiked there over the winter but didn't have a map to carry with us. Here is one you may print before you leave home. [Ponders tract](#)

Resources & Reviews

[A Walk Through the Year](#) by Edwin Way Teale 1978

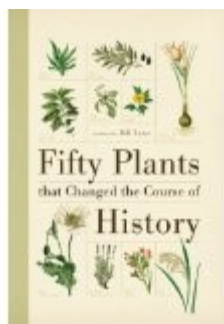
Daily reflections and observations of the seasons and nature. "Warmth is winning over cold. The optimism of spring is in the air." From the Walks of Spring chapter p. 11.

Follow-up on Pawpaw Tree Article

In the last *Turk's Cap* issue, we highlighted the Pawpaw tree.

Sun Nurseries in Woodbine, MD is attaching a planting instructions sheet to all of their receipts this season. The reverse side has three

"Easy Fruits to Grow" plants and Pawpaw is one of them. It is listed as "The native tree that you may not know. No spraying is necessary." They have beautiful maroon flowers (above) and striking golden fall color. They grow in sun and part shade. Tolerate wet soils, but are also drought tolerant. They are naturally pest and disease resistant.



[Fifty Plants that Changed the Course of History](#)

by Bill Laws
Quid Publishing 2011

The entries are ordered by latin name, (Linnaeus is smiling) so *Agave* is the first

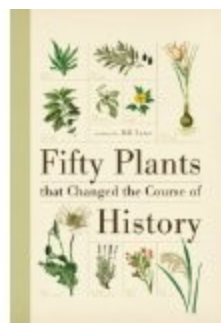
and *Ginger (Zingiber)* is the last, with all kinds of treasures in between such as maize, ferns, English oak, tea, hemp and tulip. White Willow *Salix alba* is one of the 50 listed. Using Bill McAvoy's "*Flora of Delaware*" database *Salix nigra* is the willow in our Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

For the Squirrel in All of Us*

by Barbara Damrosch

Having a fine old nut tree in your yard is like signing up for a yearly shower of protein from heaven, but most are

very large, and with a new one it may be many years before you can rake up enough nuts to top a sundae.



Eager to include nuts in my own edible landscape, I decided to give hazelnuts a try. They're the perfect choice for an impatient gardener with limited space. Also known as

filberts (most likely after Saint Philbert, whose feast is celebrated at the time of the late August nut drop), these tasty nuts can hold their own in any fancy nut mix, and they grow on plants that are more shrub than tree. Two springs ago I set out three good-size plants from a nursery, and last fall I was thrilled to reap a bowlful of little nuts, tasty and fairly easy to crack.

The nuts provide abundant food for wildlife such as squirrels, which may squirrel away your harvest before you do. However, one observer noted that squirrels don't like to run through tall grass and leaving hazelnuts in an unmowed grove deters them.

The toothed leaves of *Corylus americana* resemble those of a birch to which the hazelnut is related. Two popular varieties are Lewis and Clark named for the explorers who encountered the nuts on their western travels.

With all hazelnuts, male and female flowers are borne on the same tree, and for pollination you need to plant at least two trees that bloom at the same time. I'm picturing a "hazel wood" like the one in W. B. Yeats's poem "The Song of Wandering Aengus."

* Article in *Washington Post*, June 11, 2009

GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS**SHADBUSH (*AMELANCHIER ARBOREA*)**

by Bob Edelen

**Natural History**

Long before the bright green leaves of most woodland shrubs and trees signal the beginning of another growing season, the showy flowers of the shadbush unfold at the edge and in the understory of Delaware's forests. The shadbush inhabits moist soils of hardwood forest east from the Mississippi River basin and south from southern Canada to northwest Florida. The flowers of the shadbush are pure white, fragrant, and borne in 2-4" long pendulous racemes in mid to late April. These extremely showy 1 inch flowers last only 4 to 7 days, but are an important source of nectar for the earliest small bees of spring, which serve as the primary pollinator. But the true wonder of this woodland native is in its fruit. Often overlooked, the reddish-purple fruit is a 1/4" - 1/3" edible pome that emerges in June. Edible berries resemble blueberries in size and color and are often used in jams, jellies and pies, but don't delay in harvesting this woodland delight for at least 22-bird species relish the sweet nourishing fruit. Prominent feeders include veeries, hermit thrushes, gray catbirds, cedar waxwings and northern orioles, and if that's not enough there are 11 or more mammal species that feed on the fruit bark and twigs of

The shadbush is a small tree often 15 to 25 feet tall with a trunk 4 to 6 inches in diameter, but may reach heights of 40 feet. It's brilliant fall colors of orange to yellow to red are but one of many reasons to make space in your landscape for this wondrous shrub or small tree.

Where to Grow

In general, the flowers and fall color of the shadbush show best against dark backgrounds or in dark corners. This species is ideal for naturalization, on building corners, or in small groves when space is plentiful. Shadbush appears to do best in sunny and dry sites, but will persist as the forest grows in around them. They are also found in smaller numbers in a wide variety of habitats, including wetter sites. Shadbush is easily grown in average, medium wet, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade and is tolerant of a somewhat wide range of soils. Shadbush may be pruned to maintain a single trunk for a specimen tree or allowed to bush out for a lower growing shrub. Root suckers are common, and if not removed, will result in a shrubby growth habit, which may be suitable for naturalizing along edges.

Propagation and Care

Propagation of shadbush may be accomplished either by seed or rooted cuttings although difficulty in rooting cuttings has been noted. To propagate from seed, the seeds should be harvested as soon as the fruit is ripe in mid-summer. A cold stratification of 4 months at 40 degrees Fahrenheit is required for germination. Once seeds sprout in the spring, they should be kept evenly moist and protected from full sun by either a shade cloth or growing in a lightly shaded area. Once 4 leaves have developed, seedlings should be transplanted into individual pots and grown on for another year before planting in the landscape. Care should be taken to keep the seedlings well watered during the growing season until well established. They will continue to benefit from occasional watering during periods of drought.

Resources

[Flowering Earth](#) (more on page 5))

By Donald Culross Peattie

"By night the moths take over, fertilizing the night-blooming flowers. This tribe of the feathery antennae have some of them tongues incredibly long, coiled like a watchspring that can probe the deepest corolla."

Review of ["Flowering Earth"](#) by Donald Culross Peattie, 1991 ed.

First published in 1939, this beautifully imaginative book is about botany much in the same sense that *Walden* is about a pond. Part natural history, part biography, and part philosophical reflection, *Flowering Earth* is written in a warm, lyrical style that made poet-scientist Donald Culross Peattie one of America's best-known naturalist writers.

GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

Amelanchier (Continued from page 4)



Lore

Few plants have the variety of common names as *Amelanchier arborea* has. The name shadbush, or shadblow, was given because the blossoms appear about the time when the first shad begin their spawning runs up the rivers of the east coast. The name serviceberry stems from a time when the ground was so frozen that corpses were held unburied until the ground thawed sufficiently for digging. That was about the time when the shadbush blossoms appeared, and then the service could be held – hence the name serviceberry. Finally the name Juneberry denotes the time of year the berries appear on the plant. Regardless of the name *Amelanchier arborea*, is a great choice for your landscape! However, high-quality evidence for its use in most conditions is still lacking.

Bob Edelen

Botany's new rules allow English to replace Latin in describing species

(Excerpts from Adrian Higgins article in the *Washington Post*, 1/19/2012)

Latin is a bit like a zombie: dead but still clamoring to get into our brains. In one discipline, however, Latin just got a bit deader.



Carolus Linnaeus

For at least 400 years, botanists across the globe have relied on Latin as their lingua franca, but the ardor has cooled. Scientists say plants will keep their double-barreled Latin names, but they have decided to drop the requirement that new species be described in the classical language. Instead, they have agreed to allow botanists to use English (other languages need not apply). In their scientific papers, they can still describe a newly found species of plant — or algae or fungi — in Latin if they wish, but most probably won't.

Zoologists dropped the Latin description rule years ago, though botanists point out that while there are only about 5,000 species of mammals on the planet, there are at least 400,000 plant species. Add insects to the animal kingdom mix, however, and you descend into a taxonomic Hades. If plants top half a million, "there are 14 times that many beetles," Gereau said. "Insect museums seldom catalogue collections at the level of species."

As botanists increasingly seek to deconstruct organisms at the microscopic level and through DNA sequencing, the vernacular descriptions become even more opaque, said [Alain Touwaide](#), a researcher and Latinist at the Smithsonian who would translate for botanists.



Don't miss the Delaware Nature Society's
Native Plant Sale
See Page 7 for details

DNPS 2012 Spring Workshop Review

On Saturday, March 24, the Delaware Native Plant Society held its 2012 Spring Workshop at St. Jones Preserve located in Dover. This year, the workshop's theme was *Recognizing Our Native Landscape in Winter*, and focused on winter identification of some of our more unique and beautiful woody trees and shrubs.

The workshop was presented by Eric Wahl, a registered Landscape Architect in Delaware and our Vice-President of the Society, with an introduction to the workshop given by Jennifer Holmes. The workshop was a great success and those in attendance came from varied backgrounds: Master Gardeners, contractors, and home landscape enthusiasts. A Power Point presentation was given showing examples of our winter landscape along with special characteristics that our woody plants exhibit.

Afterwards, attendees browsed specimens of cones, seeds, dried fruit, acorns, dried leaves and some twigs that were brought in to help identify certain species. In addition, some attendees requested that the presentation be available for download through our website. This is in process and after some minor revisions to the document, it will be uploaded to at www.delawarenativeplants.org. Special thanks to all those that contributed and attended the 2012 Spring Workshop, and hope to see you at our next event.

Eric Wahl

Annual Meeting featuring Shade Gardening Program Saturday, May 12 11—2 pm (See page 7 for meeting details)

Delaware Native Plant Society Announces the 2012 Delaware Native Plant of the Year

Last Fall, the Delaware Native Plant Society announced that it was seeking nominations for the Delaware Native Plant of the Year for 2012. Because the Society would like to make the chosen plant species available for purchase at the annual Native Plant Sale (1st Saturday in November, 2012), there was a stated preference that nominations be restricted to species which meet the following criteria:

- 1) Plant species is native to Delaware
- 2) Plant species is common or relatively common throughout both the Coastal Plain and Piedmont in Delaware
- 3) Plant can be easily propagated
- 4) Plant is attractive as a landscape plant and/or valuable for use in wildlife habitat restoration (e.g., provides important food or cover to native wildlife)

The winning species receives the prestigious title of DNPS Native Plant of the Year, will make appearances at DNPS events during its winning year, starting with the annual meeting in May, and will be the featured plant species to purchase at the annual Native Plant Sale. The Delaware Native Plant of the Year for 2013 and 2014 will also be selected from the list of nominations (above). So, if your nominated plant species didn't make the cut this year, it still has a chance of being selected next year.

The following species were nominated: swamp groundnut (*Apios Americana*), partridge-berry (*Mitchella repens*), cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), New York ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*), butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), and downy lobelia (*Lobelia puberula*).

The species receiving the most votes was **cardinal flower**! This species also meets all of the above criteria and, therefore, has been selected as the DNPS Native Plant of the Year for 2012. This beautiful native herb is found growing in swamps and freshwater marshes throughout Delaware. If you enjoy canoeing or kayaking in bald cypress swamps (e.g., Trap Pond), you may find it growing on hummocks, along with swamp rose (*Rosa palustris*), sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), and fetterbush (*Leucothoe racemosa*). The cardinal flower has brilliant red flowers which attract ruby-throated hummingbirds. It will make an appearance at this year's DNPS annual meeting, to be held in May (more information coming), and will probably be offered as a door prize.

Upcoming Events

Spring 2012—Mt. Cuba Center (22 events over the next three months)

Eighth Annual Wildflower Celebration is Sunday, April 29, from 10AM to 4PM here in our glorious gardens - as always, admission is free. On Friday, May 11, Mt. Cuba Center will be open from 10AM to 3 PM in honor of National Public Gardens Day. Admission is free, free-strolling is encouraged, plus there will be plant giveaways and family fun activities. Two chances this spring to see Mt. Cuba Center in all of our spring time beauty!

For more information and to register for tours and classes, visit www.mtcubacenter.org, or call [302-239-4244](tel:302-239-4244).

Spring 2012—Adkins Arboretum

More information or to register for this or other classes visit adkinsarboretum.org.

April 2011—[Delaware Nature Society's Native Plant Sale](#)

Thurs. and Friday, April 26—27, 2012 - 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm (DNS Members Only Sale)

Saturday, April 28, 2012 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm (Open to the public)

Sunday, April 29, 2012 - 11:00 pm to 4:00 pm (Open to the public)

Native Plant Sale features more than 300 rare, unusual and favorite varieties of native wildflowers, trees, shrubs, ferns and aquatic plants for all growing conditions, including drought-tolerant. Some are introductions from the nearby Mt. Cuba Center and many species attract wildlife such as birds and butterflies. (See previous page for info about plant brochure.)

Location Delaware Nature Society's [Coverdale Farm](#) in Greenville, DE.

Saturday, May 5 —The Center for the Inland Bays

8th Annual Native Plant Sale

9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

James Farm Ecological Preserve

Go to website for directions www.inlandbays.org

Annual Meeting featuring Shade Gardening Tour

Saturday, May 12 11—2 pm

Home of Dr. McClements, Dover, DE

Our annual meeting is a tour of Dr. Jim McClements' home garden, as a follow up to his presentation last year about his stunning property. Jim McClements is an award-winning photographer and avid gardener for woodland gardening with natives and near natives. The field trip will be followed by a brief business meeting. Space is limited and please RSVP to EWahl@elementdg.com. Meets at the home of Dr. McClements: 50 S. Prestwick Ct, Dover, DE 19904.

Membership Application

www.delawarenativeplants.org

DELAWARE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Member Information

Name: _____

Business Name or Organization: _____

Address: _____

City and Zip Code: _____

Telephone (home/work): _____

E-mail address: _____

- ☐ Full-time Student \$10.00
- ☐ Individual \$15.00
- ☐ Family or Household \$18.00
- ☐ Contributing \$50.00
- ☐ Business \$100.00
- ☐ Lifetime \$500.00
- ☐ Donations are also welcome \$ _____

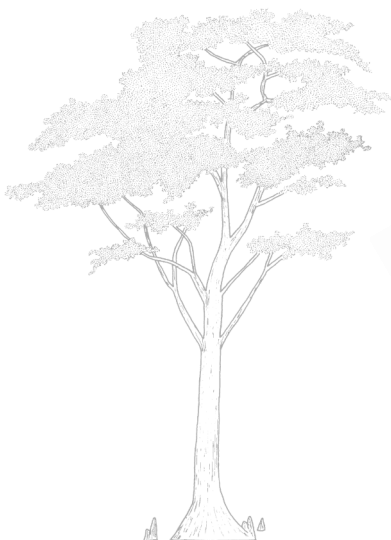
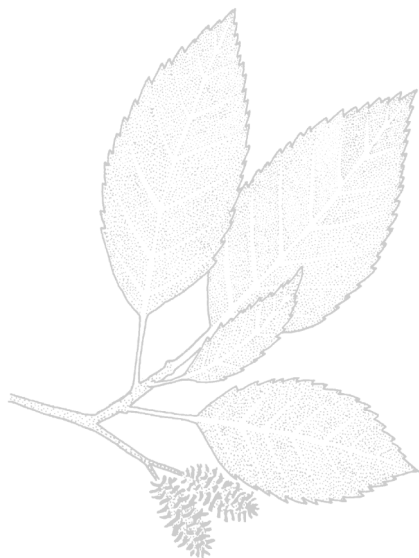
Membership benefits include:

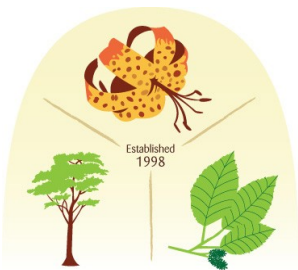
- * The DNPS quarterly newsletter, The Turk's Cap
- * Native plant gardening and landscaping information
- * Speakers, field trips, native plant nursery and sales

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

**Make check payable to:
DE Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 369, Dover, DE 19903**

**DELAWARE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 369
DOVER, DELAWARE 19903**





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NATURAL QUOTES

"There was Cardinal flower of vivid,
deep, soul-satisfying red."

"How to Grow Wildflowers in Your
Own Garden"
by Hal Bruce

The DNPS Vision

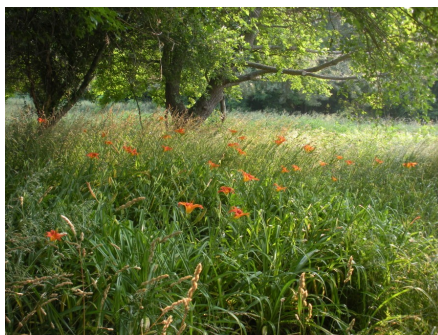
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HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

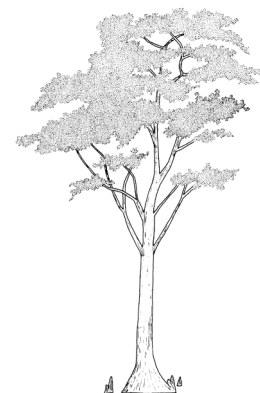
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For more information, visit our website at www.delawarenativeplants.org. Our very informative, up-to-date website has all the contact information for the Society, along with a section on native plants, volunteering, and links to other environmental and plant related organizations.



Summer at Newcroft



Notes from Newcroft

...and abroad

One would never expect to see a whole garden of North American native plants growing in London but that's what I discovered on a recent trip to the UK. The British Museum has chosen a prominent location in front of the museum for the exhibit which has been curated in conjunction with Kew Gardens. Lo and behold, the Cardinal flower (DNPS's Plant of the Year) is among the highlighted plants.



"Plants of the N. American subcontinent have global ecological and economic importance. Used by native peoples for thousands of years, many were introduced to Europe in the 1500s and 1600s following the colonization of North America. Grown for their medicinal uses, as food crops and for other economic purposes, some species have also become familiar ornamental garden plants."

Another discovery was a Douglas fir at Scone Palace (north of Perth Scotland) that plantsman David Douglas grew from seeds he collected on a plant exploration trip in 1826 to our Pacific NW. Read his fascinating bio [here](#). Our history intertwines horticulturally with the UK in many ways.

Cindy Albright
Newcroft in Lewes, DE
cindy@cindyalbright.com

DNPS Member Donates Trees

Jim MacKenzie, DNPS member, and Octoraro Native Plant Nursery President and Operations Manager, donated over 50 native plants to Delaware Wild Lands, Inc. (DWL) and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). On June 19, DWL staff and DNPS member Rick McCorkle visited the nursery to pick up 13 bald cypress, 4 black gums, 24 white oaks, 2 swamp white oaks, and a small number of native shrubs (e.g., sweet pepperbush, highbush blueberry). All of the trees will be planted by DWL staff in or adjacent to Great Cypress Swamp (GCS). Some may be used in native plant landscaping around the buildings at the Roman Fisher Farm, which is DWL's southern headquarters, on the edge of the GCS. Some of the shrubs will be used in native plant landscaping at the USFWS's Delaware Bay Estuary Project office, located at Bombay Hook NWR. Most of these plants had become "root-bound" and, therefore, needed to be planted rather than maintained in the nursery. The white oaks had been affected by a condition known as "oak tatters" (http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest_al/oaktatters/oaktatters.htm) which was likely caused by cold snaps that occurred after leaf-out this past spring. While these white oaks are good specimens, Jim removed them from his inventory due to their appearance. Many thanks to Jim MacKenzie for this wonderful donation.

Rick McCorkle, DNPS Member

DNPS Receives Award at Adopt-A-Wetland Conference

On behalf of the Delaware Native Plant Society, DNPS Board member Bill McAvoy recently accepted an award of recognition from the Adopt-A-Wetland Program at their annual conference. The award plaque reads: "For exceptional stewardship of their Big Oak Park adopted wetland and for promoting the importance of the use of native plants in wetlands, open space, and community environments for the people of Delaware." Bill was excited to receive this award for the Society and we encourage our members to become active at our adopt-a-wetland site at Big Oak Park in Smyrna.

Resources & Reviews

[Sibley Guide to Trees](#)

David Allan Sibley, 464 pgs.

With the same attention to detail given in his bird guides, Sibley's book offers several illustrations of flowers, leaves, bark, fruits and seed pods for each tree species.

Native Delaware: Hummingbirds all abuzz for this vivid native wildflower*

The cardinal plant -- a magnet for hummingbirds -- was named the 2012 Delaware native plant of the year. When John Harrod canoes the Christina River and Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge in late summer, he makes a mental note to look for cardinal flower, which is abloom then with dramatic red spires. This native wildflower thrives in moist and wet soil, such as found at the refuge.

Harrod, manager of the DuPont Environmental Education Center, not only likes this plant's blooms but what they attract -- ruby-throated hummingbirds and butterflies. (It's pollinated by the former and used as a food source by the latter.)

The cardinal flower was named the Delaware Native Plant of the Year by the Delaware Native Plant Society. Harrod, president of the society, says that this wildflower was chosen for several reasons: it's native to Delaware; can be easily propagated; and is common in both regions of the state -- the Piedmont, the northernmost part, and the Coastal Plain, which starts around Kirkwood Highway and extends southward. Another important reason is it's valuable for wildlife habitat restoration since it provides food to native wildlife.

"Cardinal flower supports four species of caterpillars and it's important for hummingbirds. It also is a good source of nectar for sphinx moth adults," notes Doug Tallamy, chair of UD's department of entomology and applied ecology. "I mention cardinal flower in my book ["Bringing Nature Home"] "

J.W. Wistermayer, a UD Master Gardener grows cardinal flower in his home garden and also helps to maintain it in the Native Teaching Garden at the New Castle County Cooperative Extension office in Newark.

"At Master Gardener workshops, people ask about ways to use cardinal flower in the home landscape. I have it planted with blue lobelia but I think it would work well with just about anything that is comparable in sun/moisture tolerance," he says. "I was thinking of planting some goldenrod as well -- that would be a striking combination -- blazing red, vibrant blue and striking gold."

Cardinal flower is a good choice for rain gardens and ornamental ponds, as long as the plant's crown stays above water, says Harrod.

*Written by MARGO McDONOUGH
News Journal Apr. 28, 2012

Native Delaware is a weekly column by the university's Cooperative Extension on First State plants, animals and weather. McDonough is a communications specialist for the University of Delaware. To suggest a topic or ask a question, please contact her at 831-1358 or margomcd@udel.edu.

GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS**CARDINAL FLOWER (*LOBELIA CARDINALIS*)****NATURAL HISTORY**

In mid-summer the brilliant scarlet color of the Cardinal Flower flashes from the marshes, stream banks and low woods across the Eastern United States from Southern Canada to Texas. Often called "America's favorite" and "spectacular", its extremely showy blossoms can be recognized at considerable distance. Few native plants have flowers of such intense color as this common herbaceous perennial. The blossoms are delicate, gradually opening from bottom to top in groups of 2 to 8 brilliant crimson flowers. Though a mature *Lobelia cardinalis* may ultimately support over a hundred flowers, the sequential blossoming habit of this spectacular native plant will prolong blooming time from summer into early fall. A moderately tall plant, (2 to 4 Feet) stout and erect, it is a favorite of our ruby-throated hummingbird, numerous butterflies and some bees who oblige as pollinators. The sexual tube of the cardinal flower is at first male, displaying pollen-bearing stamens at the tube tip. Pollinators collect the pollen by brushing their foreheads against the tube tip as they forage for nectar. As the stamen decline, the Y-shaped pistils extend from the tube, becoming the female and ready to receive pollen from flowers still in the pollen stage.

WHERE TO GROW

Though primarily a wetland plant, *Lobelia cardinalis* is adaptable to a wide range of soil and light conditions. Cardinal flowers can be grown in full sun or shade but probably grow best in filtered light. They can be grown in the water garden under partially submerged conditions in heavy soils along stream and pond banks that are occasionally flooded, or can be grown in a well drained perennial garden if sufficient moisture can be provided and mulch is used to keep the roots moist.

PROPAGATION AND CARE

Lobelia cardinalis will re-seed itself readily. The near microscopic seeds can be collected in the late fall once the seed capsules have thoroughly dried. Seeds may be saved over the winter in an envelope stored in a dry location. In the early spring seeds may be direct seeded into the flowerbed. Do not allow the soil to dry until the plants are well established. Seeds may also be sprinkled onto a rich potting media in a pot or flat (do not cover), and watered



from the bottom until seedlings are well established. Once the plants have emerged and formed two sets of true leaves, transplant the seedlings into individual pots. Continue to provide ample moisture until a strong root system is established then plant the individual seedlings into the flowerbed,

water garden or any natural habitat where sufficient moisture is assured. Seeds planted in the summer form rosettes of foliage in the fall. Be careful to keep leaves and debris from smothering these rosettes.

LORE

Historically, *Lobelia cardinalis* has been used as a medicine and emetic (to induce vomiting). Native Americans used root and leaf teas of the Cardinal Flower for stomachache, fever, headache and colds, to expel worms, soothe the nerves, and cure syphilis and typhoid fever! It contains fourteen alkaloids similar to those in nicotine. Extracts of the leaves and fruit produce vomiting, sweating and pain and some people may have an allergic reaction to the plants sap on the skin. There is no current medicinal use for this plant today. Definitely a plant to enjoy for it's great beauty.

Bob Edelen, DNPS Member

Resources and Reviews

Flowering Earth

By Donald Culross Peattie

"By night the moths take over, fertilizing the night-blooming flowers. This tribe of the feathery antennae have some of them tongues incredibly long, coiled like a watchspring that can probe the deepest corolla."

Resources and Reviews

["American Eden: From Monticello to Central Park to Our Backyards"](#)

By Wade Graham, published by Harper Collins, 2011

Graham covers one of the first examples of ecological thinking in 1789 when Gilbert White published *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne* to the High Line Park in NYC, where wild nature is in the heart of the postindustrial city...new pastoral urbanism.

GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Wet Garden Area

The cardinal flower is one of the perennials mentioned in the excerpt below from a Delaware publication by Susan Barton, Gary Schwetz and Rick Lewandowski.*

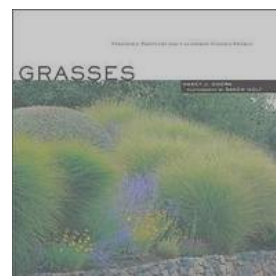
"Wet areas in the landscape provide a great gardening opportunity. Swales between property lines or other low areas often stay wet for a while after a rain. Some good perennials for moist sites include marsh mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*), blue vervain (*Verbena hastata*), cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), great blue lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*) and New York aster (*Symphyotrichum novibelgii*)."

* From "Livable Plants for the Home Landscape"
[Plants for a Livable Delaware](#) - a handy booklet

Hal Bruce's thoughts on the Cardinal flower*

"As a boy, roaming the broad fields and tidal marshes of the great Delaware tributaries... one day in late August I pushed completely through the thicket and stood in the ooze of the marsh. I was enthralled by four plants in particular... turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*), monkeyflower (*Mimulus ringens*), sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*) and cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*). Twenty years have passed and I can still see the medley of bright colors, smell the marsh gases and feel again the pure delight I felt on finding a kind of wildflower garden in such an unlikely spot."

"How to Grow Wildflowers & Shrubs & Trees in Your Own Garden" by Hal Bruce 1976.



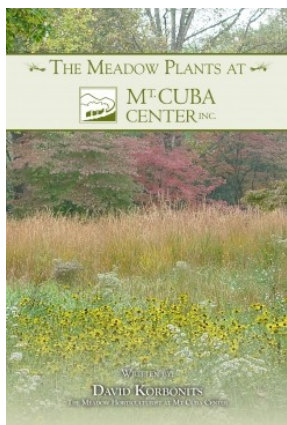
[Grasses: Versatile Partners for Uncommon Garden Design](#)

By Nancy Ondra

No longer relegated to back-of-the-border backdrops for showy perennials or space-filling solutions for inconsequential garden areas, ornamental grasses are moving front and center as befits their versatile, adaptable, and irresistible nature. From their burnished glow when backlit by a setting sun to the textural richness they bring to a mixed border, grasses offer much in the way of gardening excitement and distinction yet require little maintenance in return. After succinctly covering the cultural basics of grass gardening, Ondra concentrates her efforts on extolling their multifaceted design distinctions. For every garden element, from borders, pathways, and containers to location challenges such as shade, slopes and screening, Ondra's capsule "designer's choices" offer brief but essential descriptions to aid in plant selection and planning considerations, and quick-reference lists highlight grasses that work well in such diverse conditions as hot-and-dry sites and low-and-wet bogs. Supported by Saxon Holt's captivating color photographs, Ondra elevates grasses from garden understudies to starring roles.

Amazon review by Carol Haggas

Mt. Cuba Publishes First eBook



In *Meadow Plants at Mt. Cuba Center*, join Dave Korbonits as he shares his expertise gleaned from over 20 years of meadow gardening. Learn about the history of the meadow at Mt. Cuba Center*, why native plants are recommended for meadows, and how

to make plant selections for your meadow. Find out how to install and maintain a meadow, then review Dave's insights on eight notable native grasses for the meadow and 35 wildflowers. The wildlife value of each plant is included. *Meadow Plants at Mt. Cuba Center* finishes with native plant recommendations for wet or dry sites, a glossary and many links for further information as well as seed sources. Once enrolled, you will have 45 days to download the meadow book as well as access the *Ask the Horticulturist* feature. Cost of the e-book is **\$25**.

[Click here to download ebook](#)

Mt. Cuba's meadow contains:

*Native grasses such as little bluestem, broom-sedge, and Indian grass dominate the Meadow, providing continuous change throughout the year. From mid-summer through autumn, these grasses are enhanced with colorful plants such as butterfly weed, black-eyed Susan, and purple coneflower. coneflower.

Visit Historic Lewes Delaware's Colonial Herb Garden at the Fisher-Martin House

Renovations of the herb garden have been completed by Lewes in Bloom member and Master Gardener Brenda Brady who conducted research on what plants were used



in a colonial herb garden. The plants are segregated by type such as medicinal, culinary, fragrant and flowering herbs and herbs for other household uses such as dyeing fabrics. Herbs used by Native Americans who populated the Cape Henlopen area during the 1700s are also in the garden. The photo above shows Lewes in Bloom volunteers preparing the garden for Lewes Garden Day.

View a brochure of the [garden's design at Lewesinbloom.org](http://garden'sdesignatLewesinbloom.org).

The Herb Garden is located next to the [Lewes Chamber of Commerce](#) at 120 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE 19958

Notes from Annual Meeting May 12, 2012

The fall symposium in September will focus on bog gardens. The speaker is from New Jersey and he will talk about creating a bog garden. Bill McAvoy will talk about Delaware native plants for use in bog gardens. Bill discussed a potential field trip site to the Spring Creek Preserve located in Kent County near Frederica.

John Harrod discussed the Society becoming a member of the American Chestnut Foundation that has cross bred the American Chestnut with an Asian Chestnut. The Red Clay Reservation could become a test plot. Other potential sites could be on state forest lands, private landowner's property, at the St. Jones nursery, and at the national wildlife refuges. We could help to promote chestnut plantations and use in restoration site work. John will contact the Foundation to see what the next steps would be for the Society and possibly have a presentation at our spring 2013 meeting.

Upcoming Events

Mt. Cuba Center *Your pathway to native plants*

Distance Learning—new program on [Meadows](#) (see previous page for details)

July 18 10:00 am to noon Program “Native Alternatives to Invasives”
[Visit the website for more details and to register.](#)

Delaware Nature Society [\(for program registration info\)](#)

Flint Woods Walk with Brian Winslow

Program #: U12-015-FW, Thursday, July 19, 6 - 8 pm

Member/Non-Member: \$10/\$15

Leader: Brian Winslow

Meeting Location: Flint Woods Preserve

Evening is a wonderful time to see wildlife, hear singing birds, and to enjoy the soft evening light among towering old trees and bubbling creeks. This is a great opportunity to experience one of the best natural areas in New Castle County and get to meet Brian, the Delaware Nature Society's new Executive Director.

Pine Barrens Wildflower Ramble

Program #: U12-204-DC, Wednesday, July 11, 8 am - 5 pm

Member/Non-Member: \$25/35

Leaders: John Harrod and Russell Juelg

Meeting Location: DuPont Environmental Education Center, van transportation provided.

July is prime wildflower time in the New Jersey Pine Barrens. Join Russell Juelg, a pinelands expert with the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, for a day of searching for rare, unique and beautiful flora. See sundews, pitcher plants, rose pogonia orchids, cranberries, Atlantic white cedars, and fragrant swamp azaleas. Bring a lunch.

Save the Date

Delaware Coast Day

Sunday, October 7, 2012 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
College of Earth, Ocean and Environment
Lewes, DE

Includes many exhibits related to Native Plants and their environment www.decoastday.org

Membership Application

DELAWARE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**WWW.DELAWARENATIVEPLANTS.ORG****Member Information**

Name: _____

Business Name or Organization: _____

Address: _____

City and Zip Code: _____

Telephone (home/work): _____

E-mail address: _____

- ☐ Full-time Student \$10.00
- ☐ Individual \$15.00
- ☐ Family or Household \$18.00
- ☐ Contributing \$50.00
- ☐ Business \$100.00
- ☐ Lifetime \$500.00
- ☐ Donations are also welcome \$ _____

Membership benefits include:

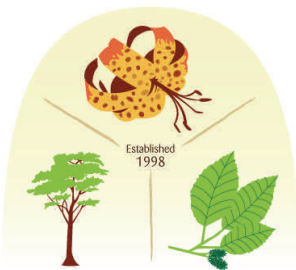
- * The DNPS quarterly newsletter, The Turk's Cap
- * Native plant gardening and landscaping information
- * Speakers, field trips, native plant nursery and sales

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Make check payable to:
DE Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 369, Dover, DE 19903

DELAWARE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
P.O. Box 369
DOVER, DELAWARE 19903





THE TURK'S CAP

Volume 14, Number 3
Fall 2012

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DELAWARE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

www.delawarenativeplants.org

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- Page 6** *Big Oak Park Efforts*
 Nominations for 2013 Native Plant
- Page 7** *Upcoming Events*

NATURAL QUOTES

Prunus maritima is a true plum
which is one of the most valuable
dune-binders of all.

by Hal Bruce

The DNPS Vision

The purpose of the Delaware Native Plant Society (DNPS) is to participate in and encourage the preservation, conservation, restoration, and propagation of Delaware's native plants and plant communities. The Society provides information to government officials, business people, educators, and the general public on the protection, management, and restoration of native plant ecosystems. The DNPS encourages the use of native plants in the landscape by homeowners, businesses, and local and state governments through an on-going distribution of information and knowledge by various means that includes periodic publications, symposia, conferences, workshops, field trips, and a growing statewide membership organized by the DNPS.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

The Delaware Native Plant Society is open to everyone ranging from the novice gardener to the professional botanist. One of the primary goals of the society is to involve as many individuals as possible.

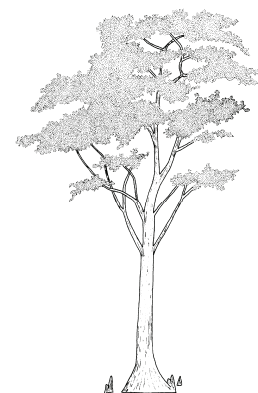
The DNPS is working on some significant projects at this time. We have completed four reforestation projects in the Prime Hook area, at Blackbird Creek in New Castle County and Cedar Creek in Sussex County where we have installed tree tubes around newly sprouted seedlings, and are performing annual management of the sites. Help is also needed at our native plant nursery at the St. Jones Reserve with the monitoring and watering of plants along with many other nursery activities.

For more information, visit our website at www.delawarenativeplants.org. Our very informative, up-to-date website has all the contact information for the Society, along with a section on native plants, volunteering, and links to other environmental and plant related organizations.



Visit us on Facebook:

[Delaware Native Plant Society](https://www.facebook.com/DelawareNativePlantSociety)



Notes from Newcroft

Beach Plum pie and preserves are discussed in tones of religious reverence by every transplanted New Englander. On a recent trip to the Lewes Farmers' Market, I discovered not only Beach Plum jam but Beach Plum Daiquiri Mix disguised as jam. See below.



When I asked about the froth at the top of the jar, I was informed that it was best to put the whole jar's contents in a blender, add your favorite *liquid* and then blend. Wonder if those New Englanders ever try that.

On a recent native plant walk at Cape Henlopen State Park with an English couple visiting from Bath, England, we sampled fruit from a bush outside the Nature Center. They were delighted by the tasting as the Farmers' Market had sold out of Beach Plum Jam. Birds had dropped seeds in the flower bed next to the Nature Center, probably from an older bush planted many years ago nearer the entrance door. Several young seedlings are hovering around the nearby rain barrel where we've done some watering during dry spells. (see photo on page 4)

Beach plum is listed in the "[The Flora of Delaware Delaware Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program](#)" - Bill McAvoy's database.

Cindy Albright
cindy@cindyalbright.com

Overfalls Reclamation Update



Photos by Cindy Albright

What a difference a year makes. In July, 2011 a group of 16 people "past their teen years" planted 2,700 grasses (see above) on property near the University of Delaware's College of Earth, Marine and Environment

campus wind turbine. (see below) It replaced 6,013 sq. ft. where the Lightship Overfalls is berthed at the Lewes Canalfront with 7,000 sq. ft.



shown in these photos. The wetland grasses planted last summer are *Spartina alterniflora* (smooth cordgrass). Later that year, members of the Overfalls planted the shrubs *Iva frutescens* (marsh elder) and *Baccharis halimifolia* (Eastern Baccharis, also called groundsel bush) on the sloping bank.*

The plantings have survived this summer's drought and occasional flooding.

* Dr. Evelyn Maurmeyer, CER, Inc.



Jenkins Arboretum
& Gardens

Nearby [Jenkins Arboretum](#) has a Bog Garden, the most recent garden addition and, while it is small, it offers an interesting collection of plants.

Some, like cranberry and sphagnum moss are quite common but others are more exotic. You'll see carnivorous sundews, pitcher plants, butterwort, beautiful grass pink, ladies' tresses orchids, and even the endangered swamp pink. Other bog plants include golden club, marsh marigold, and lizard's tail.

Jenkins is located at: [631 Berwyn Baptist Rd., Devon, PA 19333 \(610\) 647-8870](#)

2012 Native Plant Symposium

September 22, 2012 at Bombay Hook

The Native Plant Symposium was jointly sponsored by the Bombay National Wildlife Refuge "Garden Keepers" group and the Delaware Native Plant Society



Bill McAvoy



Quentin Scheidler introducing Jason Austin



Acidic Fen



Interdunal Swale



Yum, yum



Plant specimens for sale



Bog Garden at Warren Grove

Photos by Rick Mickowski

The opening speaker, former DNPS president Bill McAvoy focused on three bog type habitats since Delaware does not have any true bogs. Delaware does have Atlantic White Cedar Swamps, acidic fens, and interdunal swales that support plants that like bog – like conditions. Those conditions include high acidity, low nutrient soils, and soil with high organic content from decaying peat and other vegetation.

The Atlantic White Cedar Swamps are characterized by many hummocks and hollows which are in many cases shady and dark with high humidity. Where there are open sunny gaps in the canopy, there is a wide diversity of plant life. There are 28 species of peat moss in Delaware. The plants absorb calcium and magnesium from the rainwater and release hydrogen into the soil, making it extremely acidic.

The Acidic Fens are seepage wetlands usually found adjacent to upland slopes and the water seeps out at the base with eventual outflow to a nearby stream. They are usually dominated by sedges with trees and shrubs along the edges. There are only four locations known in Delaware that still exist and home to some very rare plants.

The interdunal swales are low depressions behind the primary dunes. They are flooded in the spring and drier in the summer being affected by both ground-water flow and precipitation. There is a layer of peat over firm coarse sand. The dominate plant is bayberry with grasses, sedges and rushes. It is a rare habitat along the Atlantic coastline.

A searchable database of native rare and endangered plants can be accessed via the website

www.wra.udel.edu/delawareflora. The database has over 800 photographic images and will have add a photographic directory. There are 2600 species in total. Bill then showed number of slides featuring the plants found in these habitats. Some of these include the northern pitcher plant (*sarracenia purpurea* var. *purpurea*), southern bladderwort (*utricularia juncea*), cinnamon fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum* var. *cinnamomeum*), many sedges, roundhead rush (*juncus scirpoides*), yellow-crested orchis (*Platanthera cristata*), cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis* and DNPS 2012 Plant of the Year), swamp pink (*Helonias bullata*), northern star flower, ink-berry holly (*Ilex glabra*), Delmarva alder (*Alnus maritima* subsp. *Maritime*), marsh cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*), and meadow sweet spiraea (*Spiraea tomentosa*).

Jason Austin, Manager of rareFIND Nursery, Inc. in Jackson, New Jersey gave a colorful presentation about "Carnivores in Captivity" which detailed fellow employee Bill Smith's adventure with creating a large bog garden and container bog gardens. He is a key sales person and chief seed grower for rareFIND Nursery. The Bog at Warren Grove is a 30 foot by 10 foot by 2 foot deep man made bog garden holding a collection of over 600 bog plant species. While there are only eight wild species of pitcher plant there are over 3000 registered hybrids. The garden began in
(cont. on page 5)

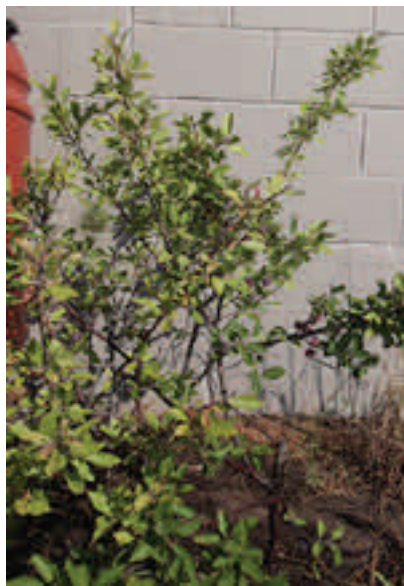
GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

BEACH PLUM (*Prunus maritima*)

by Bob Edelen

NATURAL HISTORY

Take a walk along the beach in late April to early May and you will surely see Beach Plums. It is in the early spring before the leaves appear, that the Beach Plum or *Prunus maritima* smothers itself with clusters of small white mildly fragrant flowers to the



Beach Plum at CHSP Nature Center

delight of coastal visitors. The beach Plum is common among coastal dunes from the coast of New Brunswick to northern coastal Virginia, often appearing in dense, seemingly well-pruned clusters up to 8 feet wide and often reaching 6 feet or more in height. The Beach Plum is perhaps the perfect shrub for attracting wildlife. In spring its early flowers are a magnet for small bees, butterflies and other insects that rely on its nectar. As leaves appear, the dense low growth is a favorite nesting site for numerous birds and in fall as the rich blue-black fruits begin to ripen, grosbeaks, jays, cardinals and other birds, raccoons, rabbits, and foxes relish them for their nourishing pulpy flesh. In winter, though the leaves of the Beach Plum have long disappeared, the dense woody growth is extremely popular for sparrows, cardinals, finches and other birds seeking shelter from the strong coastal winds. Of course human hunter-gatherers also seek out the prized fruits for use in jellies, jams, pies and libations!

WHERE TO GROW

The Beach Plum is a wonderful seaside shrub that is tolerant of both salt spray and sandy soils. So if you live near the beach, the Beach Plum is a natural for your landscape. Not only does it provide year-round interest, it is also valued as a good sand binder and for its erosion preventive qualities. However, you don't need a beachfront home to enjoy the Beach Plum. It will flourish in any landscape that has well drained soils and plenty of sunlight. The beach Plum prefers many types of soil with a pH ranging from acid to alkaline and will thrive with little to moderate amounts of moisture. Give it plenty of room, for it will grow quickly and has a tendency to sucker and thus will spread providing a dense hedge with a springtime floral display that is unmatched for its abundant, showy blossoms.

PROPAGATION AND CARE

Beach Plum plants grown in the wild will transplant very poorly, therefore propagation is best accomplished from either seed or rooted cuttings. From seed, pick fruits as soon as they ripen and clean ripe plums of all pulp. Plant the seed in flats or small community pots, 1/2 inch deep in a mixture of sand and peat moss. Cover the flat/pot with a fine mesh screen to protect from mice, and place in a cold frame out of direct sunlight as soon as possible. During prolonged dry spells, the seeds may require occasional watering. The seeds require a minimum 2 - 3 months cold stratification and can be rather slow to germinate, sometime taking up to 18 months before sprouting. Scarifying the seeds lightly before planting may improve germination. Once the seedlings have developed four leaves, gently pull them out of the flat and plant into individual pots. Grow them in a greenhouse or cold frame for their first winter and plant them out in late spring or early summer of the following year. Mid-July is the best time to take stem cuttings for propagation. Take cutting of half ripe wood and treat with Roottone and place in a mixture of sand and peat moss. Cuttings will do best if placed under mist or in a closed plastic bag placed in a location where it will receive good light but not direct sunlight.

(cont. on page 5)

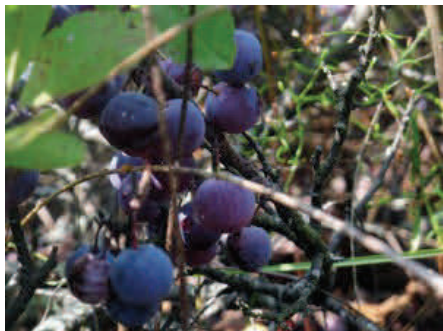
Resources and Reviews

Link to Bog Symposium brochure

https://imageserv.team-logic.com/mediaLibrary/136/symposium_announcement.pdf

Gardening With Native Plants

(cont. from page 4)



The bag should be opened occasionally to allow air circulation. When cuttings have developed a good root system, transplant them into three- to four-inch pots to grow on. The Beach Plum has hermaphrodite flowers, so there is no need for male and female plants to produce fruit.

LORE

The Beach Plum was used by native Americans for its fruit either eaten fresh or dried for later use during the winter months and dyes were made from both the leaves and fruits. Today fruits are collected both from wild and cultivated stocks. The size and quality of fruits may vary widely and people zealously protect their 'secret spots' for collecting this treasured fruit.

Symposium (cont. from page 3)

2008 and has grown and matured into a beautiful and colorful bog garden. The same techniques can be used to create container bog gardens using peat moss with very small holes drilled in the bottom of the container. The catalogue features a "Bog in a Box" kit. Plastic pots are used so they won't crack over the winter. The three key factors to growing pitcher plants are the sandy/peaty soil mix, full sun, and rain water or distilled water. Public water sources usually end up killing the plants. The three don'ts are: don't fertilize the plants, don't ever let them dry out, and don't use tap water. And finally, never, ever collect or dig plants from the wild. Purchase them from reputable growers like rareFIND nursery at www.rarefindnursery.com.

Various bog plants were available for purchase and there were two samples of bog gardens in a pot on display. After the presentation, all enjoyed a wonderful buffet style lunch. In addition, one pitcher plant and two gardening books were raffled off to three lucky winners.

A big thank you to Quentin Scheidler for organizing another outstanding symposium! If you have any suggestions for future symposium topics, please contact Eric Wahl ericwahl@me.com with your suggestions.

Article by: Rick Mickowski (DNREC)Conservation Planner, Information and Education Coordinator, New Castle Conservation District

Rick.Mickowski@state.de.us



Invasive Species Control Efforts Underway at Society's Adopted Wetlands in Big Oak Park

On September 24, DNPS member Rick McCorkle met with Kris Spalding who works for Kent County Parks. Rick and Kris toured Big Oak Park wetlands which were adopted by the Delaware Native Plant Society, assessing the extent of invasion by common reed (*Phragmites australis*). A game plan was mapped out, and Rick provided Kris with a supply of Rodeo, which is a glyphosate herbicide approved for use in wetlands, and a non-ionic sticker/surfactant which will help the herbicide to adhere to, and penetrate, the leaves of the invasive plant. There is a small stand of *Phragmites* growing along the edge of one of the constructed wetlands, and some rather large, dense stands growing both upstream and downstream of the boardwalk trail in the wooded floodplain of the stream which runs along the northwestern edge of the Park. Rick and Kris also discovered a new beaver dam on the downstream side of the boardwalk. Beaver have been active further downstream and in the constructed wetlands on the eastern side of the park, but this expansion upstream is recent. There was some speculation that maybe the beaver were responsible for the spread of *Phragmites* UPSTREAM into a fairly closed canopy woodland environment (not where you typically find *Phragmites*!). Kris is a certified pesticide applicator, and he began treating the *Phragmites* on the 24th. The herbicide and surfactant were purchased by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service who, along with DNPS, also contributed resources toward establishment of a native plant community in the buffer areas surrounding the constructed wetlands.

Richard C. McCorkle, Fish & Wildlife Biologist
[302-653-9152](tel:302-653-9152), ext. 117

Delaware Native Plant Society Accepting Nominations for 2013 Delaware Native Plant of the Year

Do you have a favorite Delaware native plant that you would like to see promoted for use in landscaping or wildlife habitat restoration?

If so, we'd like to hear from you!

We're looking for nominations for the 2012 Delaware Native Plant of the Year. Because the Delaware Native Plant Society would like to make the chosen plant species available for purchase at the annual Native Plant Sale (1st Saturday in November, 2012), we would prefer that nominations be restricted to species which meet the following criteria:

- 1) Plant species is native to Delaware
- 2) Plant species is common or relatively common throughout both the Coastal Plain and Piedmont in Delaware
- 3) Plant can be easily propagated
- 4) Plant is attractive as a landscape plant and/or valuable for use in wildlife habitat restoration (e.g., provides important food or cover to native wildlife)

The winning species receives the prestigious title of DNPS Plant of the Year, will make appearances at all DNPS events during its winning year, and will be the featured plant species to purchase at the annual Native Plant Sale.

Richard C. McCorkle
 Fish & Wildlife Biologist
Richard_McCorkle@fws.gov
[302-653-9152](tel:302-653-9152), ext. 117

Upcoming Events

Delaware Coast Day

Sunday, October 7, 2012 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

College of Earth, Ocean and Environment

Lewes, DE

Includes many exhibits related to Native Plants and their environment www.decoastday.org

Fall/Winter 2013—[Mt. Cuba Center](#) *Your pathway to native plants*

Lectures in the Copeland Native Plant Series are:

Attracting Native Pollinators: What to Plant and How to Keep Pollinators Interested

Thursday, November 8, 7 – 8:30 pm

Speaker: Matt Sarver of Sarver Ecological Consulting, Entomologist, and author of Delaware Native Plants for Native Bees booklet

[Visit the website for more details and to register.](#)

Fall 2012—Adkins Arboretum

Register for classes adkinsarboretum.org.

Fall 2012—[Delaware Nature Society](#)

October 6 & 7: Harvest Moon Festival, Saturday and Sunday, 10 am - 5 pm. [Click for more information](#)

October 6 & 7: Farm to Fork, Saturday and Sunday, 1:30 - 4:30 pm. Sat. SOLD OUT

DNPS12th Annual Native Plant Sale

When: Saturday, 3 November 2012, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Where: DE Native Plant Society's native plant nursery

Directions: The nursery is located at 818 Kitts Hummock Road, at the St. Jones Research Reserve in Dover. Take Route 113 to the Dover Air Force Base. Kitts Hummock Road is directly at the southern border of the air base at the three way intersection of 113, Route 9, and Kitts Hummock Road. Kitts Hummocks Rd. only goes east, and if you go almost one mile you'll see a large sign for the St. Jones Reserve. Turn right onto the gravel road and the nursery is all the way in the back to the left of the parking lot.

What's for sale: Hundreds of trees, shrubs, herbaceous species, ferns, vines and grasses will be available at very reasonable prices. An inventory list will be posted on our website.

Come early, some quantities are limited!

For more information: Call 302.735.8918, email ezuelke@juno.com,
or on the web at

www.delawarenativeplants.org

Membership Application

DELAWARE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Member Information

Name:

Business Name or Organization:

Address:

City and Zip Code:

Telephone (home/work):

E-mail address:

- o Full-time Student \$10.00
- o Individual \$15.00
- o Family or Household \$18.00
- o Contributing \$50.00
- o Business \$100.00
- o Lifetime \$500.00
- o Donations are also welcome \$ _____

Membership benefits include:

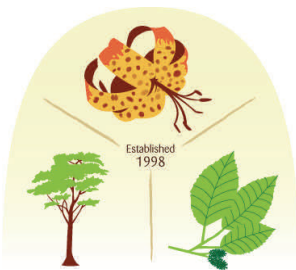
- * The DNPS quarterly newsletter, The Turk's Cap
- * Native plant gardening and landscaping information
- * Speakers, field trips, native plant nursery and sales

Total Amount Enclosed: \$

**Make check payable to:
DE Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 369, Dover, DE 19903**

**DELAWARE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 369
DOVER, DELAWARE 19903**





THE TURK'S CAP

Volume 15, Number 4
Winter 2012/13

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DELAWARE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

www.delawarenativeplants.org

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NATURAL QUOTES

*"When I observe the fate of
Botanists, upon my word I
doubt whether to call them
sane or mad in their devo-
tion to plants."*

Carl Linnaeus
Critica Botanica 1737

Use the online links in this
newsletter to access the
world wide web of native
plant information.



Winter at Newcroft



HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

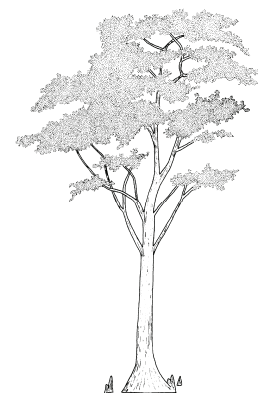
The Delaware Native Plant Society is open to everyone ranging from the novice gardener to the professional botanist. One of the primary goals of the society is to involve as many individuals as possible.

The DNPS is looking for volunteers to help with ongoing projects. One project is an effort to create a large and diverse seed bank that we can use for propagation of plants in our nursery. To accomplish this, we need to collect seeds from all over Delmarva. We have seed collecting guidelines on our website. We are also looking for volunteers to help with community outreach through staffing our display board at public events. We have a great display, but it is idle right now and needs a good leader or two to put it back into service.

For more information, visit our website at www.delawarenativeplants.org. Our very informative, up-to-date website has all the contact information for the Society, along with a section on native plants, volunteering, and links to other environmental and plant related organizations.

The DNPS Vision

The purpose of the Delaware Native Plant Society (DNPS) is to participate in and encourage the preservation, conservation, restoration, and propagation of Delaware's native plants and plant communities. The Society provides information to government officials, business people, educators, and the general public on the protection, management, and restoration of native plant ecosystems. The DNPS encourages the use of native plants in the landscape by homeowners, businesses, and local and state governments through an on-going distribution of information and knowledge by various means that includes periodic publications, symposia, conferences, workshops, field trips, and a growing statewide membership organized by the DNPS.



Notes from Newcroft

Readings this fall include Andrea Wulf's [*The Brother Gardeners: Botany Empire & The Birth of an Obsession*](#) and [*The Man who Planted Trees*](#) by Jim Robbins.

Wulf's book traces the exchange of plants between John Bartram in North America and several English plantmen. It adds to my quest to learn more about Linnaeus and his development of binomial nomenclature. Wulf weaves his life story into this well-documented novel.

Many native plants that were taken for granted in our area were highly sought after in England. Beginning in 1734, Bartram sent mostly seeds to Peter Collinson in England. Mark Catesby's drawings from a trip to VA and NC whetted the English appetite for many of our native plants. Awkward naming of plants made plant ID between Bartram and Collinson difficult. Coming to the rescue was Linnaeus's 1753 *Species Plantarum* with new naming protocols. Over four decades, Bartram's expertise grew and eventually his reputation exceeded the English plantmen. One of the most prized N. American plants was *Magnolia virginiana* (see Bob's article on pgs 4 & 5).

The Man Who Planted Trees has several references to our U of Delaware professor of wildlife ecology, Doug Tallamy. (See info regarding his lecture this [January 16 at Mt. Cuba](#).) Jim Robbins relates his 20-year connection with David Milarch* who is cloning Championship Trees in his Michigan nursery and distributing them not only in the US but in Ireland.

Once again plant expertise in the US is influencing European horticulture as it did when John Bartram sent seeds and plants to England 250 years ago. Special tree specimens have been planted in other locations, eg. a Bristlecone pine (*Pinus longaeva*) seedling from the 4,800 yr. old Methuselah the oldest known living non-clonal organism in the world has been planted in the 500-yr. old arboretum at Charles University in Prague by Milarch. It's called Methuselah Jr.

In May, 2012 NPR's Diane Rehm interviewed author of [American Canopy: Trees, Forest and the Making on a Nation](#) Eric Rutkow. The interview "How America's Trees and Forests Shaped the Nation" is [available here](#). Those who are concerned about the disappearance of trees from our planet may be interested in the various efforts to preserve species. Personally, I saw the devastation caused by the pine bark beetle in the Colorado Rockies when my son was planning a wedding. Visiting Snow Mtn. Lodge in 2008 there were still trees beautifying the ceremony site. Returning a year later for the wedding, my future daughter-in-law's tears were prompted by the decimation that had taken place over the year since they had booked the site. May our grandchildren not be shedding tears for trees and other now-living species.

Cindy Albright

*David Milarch seeks to revitalize stressed urban and watershed forests with selected robust strains. He has propagated more than 90 species, including redwoods and bristlecone pines. His plantings grace campuses, botanical gardens and public spaces from coast to coast.

Resources & Reviews

[A Guide to Wildflowers in Winter: Herbaceous Plants of Northeastern North America](#)

Authored by Carol Levine, and Dick Rau. This guide is intended to help both amateur naturalists and serious field botanists to identify non-woody plants - herbaceous weeds and wildflowers - as they are found in winter in the NE United States and E Canada.

Resources & Reviews

[Beautiful No-Mow Yards: 50 Amazing Lawn Alternatives](#) by Evelyn J. Hadden

Timber Press, March, 2012

Hadden showcases dozens of inspiring, eco-friendly alternatives to that demanding green turf. Trade your lawn for a lively prairie or replace it with a runoff-reducing rain garden.



Photos by Rick Mickowski

The 2012 DNPS Plant Sale experienced average sales due to the cold, blustery weather. We look forward to celebrating the St. Jones Reserve's 20th Anniversary and will coordinate the DNPS Plant Sale with their anniversary activities.

No-Mow Grasses

A low-maintenance lawn lets you enjoy watching the grass grow, slowly

By Marty Ross

Actually the No-Mow lawn needs occasional mowing, eg. once a year or as much as once a month much less than the 20—30 times a season which seems to be in vogue for many communities. Thomas Christopher, ed. of *The New American Landscape* and author of *Water-Wise Gardening* says we have made lawns nice for touch football and a game of croquet but they are eco-villains. He has mixes of slow-growing, environmentally efficient grasses carefully designed to thrive under local conditions. They do not need fertilizer and once established do not need much water. There are several blends for different parts of the country.

Alternatively, a “Freedom lawn” requires even less work. Ginny Stibolt and Christopher are members of the [Lawn Reform Coalition](#). She had a lawn mix of grass, clover and “a pretty good assortment of other kinds of plants.”

[Timber Press Books link](#)

Horticulture, October, 2012 hortmag.com

GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

Sweetbay magnolia

Magnolia virginiana

Natural History

My first exposure with sweetbay magnolia was several years ago while visiting a friend who resided on the banks of Broad Creek near Laurel Delaware. It seems a sweetbay had sprouted from a seed and was allowed to grow unabated next to our friend's house. Though no special care was taken the small tree prospered and soon rewarded our friend with several beautiful and fragrant flowers – some people have all the luck! Later we purchased our property near Harbeson Delaware and found numerous sweetbay Magnolias growing in the damp woods surrounding our house – yeehaw! But as luck would have it, there were very few flowers gracing the sweetbay trees growing in the thick understory of our property. It turns out that the floral display is never dense nor profuse, but sparse and prolonged over a roughly six-week period of time and exposure to sunlight will greatly improve flowering.

The range of the Sweetbay extends chiefly along the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains from Long Island south through New Jersey and southeastern Pennsylvania to southern Florida; west to eastern Texas, and north into southern Arkansas and southwest Tennessee. It is widely cultivated for its shiny foliage and beautiful two inch flowers that have a strong lemony fragrance. It was the first magnolia known in Europe, dating from 1688 in England. Sweetbay leaves are evergreen in the southeastern United States and are semi-evergreen to deciduous in the northeast. In the northern part of its growing range, it typically grows as either a 15-20' tall tree with a spreading, rounded crown or as a shorter, suckering, open, multi-stemmed shrub.

In the Deep South, it is more tree-like, sometimes growing to 60' tall. Cone-like fruits with bright red seeds mature in fall and can be very showy. According to the Big Trees of Delaware, the largest sweetbay in the state is a 60' specimen growing near Milford.

Sweetbay magnolia is named for the sweet-smelling bay-like leaves. Other names include swamp or laurel magnolia, Sweetbay, swampbay and swamp laurel, all indicative of the moist peat understory favored for optimum growth.

Sweetbay vegetation and habitats are used by a variety of wildlife species. Squirrels, other small mammals, song birds including eastern kingbirds, mockingbirds, robins, wood thrushes, and red-eyed vireos feed on sweet bay seeds and often use sweetbay leaves as nest material, wild turkeys, and bobwhite quail feed on sweetbay seeds and deer browse sweetbay leaves and twigs throughout the year. Sweetbay is a larval host and/or nectar source for the Sweetbay silkmoth (*Callosamia securifera*). American black bears and beaver feed on sweetbay and utilize sweetbay habitats.

Where to Grow

Throughout its range, sweetbay is most common in wet woods, swamps, swamp margins, savannas, hammocks, bogs, and floodplains where it normally grows as a multistemmed shrub or slender tree in the Northeast and as a single-trunked tree in the Southeast. Sweetbay prefer acidic, moist, rich, organic soils and will grow well in wet and even swampy soils in sun to partial shade. Sweetbay makes an excellent tree for planting next to buildings and narrow corridors, or in other urban areas with limited space for horizontal crown expansion and is an excellent specimen tree for lawns or tall multi-stemmed shrub for shrub borders. However, in dryer well drained areas, soils must be amended with a rich,

Resources & Reviews

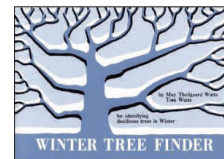
[Winter Weed Finder: A Guide to Dry Plants in Winter](#) by Dorcas Miller

Key to identifying non-woody plants in late fall and winter by the dried structures that remain after frost, such as pods, dried flower heads, seed capsules, and burrs. Includes common native and naturalized herbs and native ferns. Area covered is the upper Midwest and eastern U.S. north of South Carolina and eastern Canada. Illustrated with line drawings. 64 pgs. 1989

A reviewer said "I love these 'finder' books. They are just the right size to grab and stuff in a pocket or hip pack before a nature hike or even a walk in an untamed yard. It identifies between 350-400 plants, giving both their common and Latin names."

Resources & Reviews

[Winter Tree Finder: A Manual for Identifying Deciduous Trees in Winter \(Eastern US\)](#) (Nature Study Guides) 1970



(cont. from page 4)

moisture holding compost and adequate watering must be applied particularly in early stages of development.

Propagation

Attempts at propagation by seed get mixed reviews. In some instances, sweetbay is cited as easy to start from fresh seed, and germination occurs rapidly. In other cases germination was slow with low percentages of success. To grow from seed, bright red seeds should be gathered when ripe, cleaned and stored in moist sand or sphagnum moss in cold, moist storage for at least 60 days prior to planting.

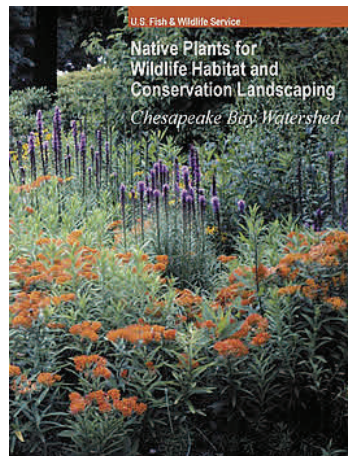
Considerable success is cited using young, fast growing tip cuttings taken in spring and kept under mist. Remember, when transplanting to upland soils, be sure to water frequently during initial stages of growth!

Lore

Native Americans used sweetbay leaves, bark, and roots to treat colds, rheumatism, pleurisy, cough, consumption, typhoid fever, autumnal fever, and to prevent chills. Sweetbay was called Beavertree by colonists who caught beavers in traps baited with the fleshy roots. Sweetbay wood is used for a variety of products including furniture, veneer and interior finishing work.

Bob Edelen

Chesapeake Bay Native Plant Guide Reprinted



This publication includes pictures as well as user-friendly information on native species appropriate for planting in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and adjacent coastal regions. Although one guide cannot furnish the answers to every question, [this guide

has] included as much useful information as possible in a limited space. Although the large number of species of plants included here may overwhelm some readers, this guide displays the great diversity of plants available. We hope that you will bypass the over-used, non-native and sometimes invasive ornamental plants, and select equally and often more attractive native plants. Pore through this guide the same way you look through nursery catalogs. Use it to plan and design your next planting, whether it's a small corner of your front yard, a two-acre meadow seeding, or 100 acres of wetland restoration."

Note: this publication is available on-line and in PDF format from the National Park Service at <http://www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/chesapeake/>. A new database from this information is also on-line at <http://www.nativeplantcenter.net/>.

Order your copy today! MNPS contributed funding for the printing of this book. The fees charged cover the basic cost of printing and postage. No bulk sales! No on-line orders (yet.) [Download the order form.](#)

Maryland Native Plant Society's 2013 Year of the Heath

The upcoming event will focus on the heath family in celebration of the **2013 Year of the Heath**.

Introduction to Maryland's Heaths

Feb. 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Cris Fleming

Description: To begin our celebration of the Year of the Heath, Cris Fleming will introduce us to the Ericaceae, a ubiquitous plant family that includes rhododendron, laurel, trailing arbutus, blueberry, wintergreen, and many more of our most beautiful and interesting native plants.

Location: Kensington Library

Directions: From the Washington Beltway (I-495)

Take Exit 33, Connecticut Avenue, north to the third signal after the Beltway. Turn left onto Knowles and go 2 1/2 blocks to the library on the right.

The meeting is open to non-members.
Registration is not required.

Other offerings are here on [Maryland Native Plant Society's website](http://MarylandNativePlantSociety.org).

Historic pawpaws making a comeback in Sussex

A year ago in the Winter issue of *Turk's Cap* the Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) was highlighted. This fall a Cape Gazette article reported that Bridgeville DE farmer Charlie Smith recently planted a stand of pawpaws on the family's 800-acre farm. We'll check with him next spring to see if they have survived the winter or if the deer have found them yet.



Mt. Cuba Center Offers First eBook

The [Meadow Plants at Mt. Cuba](http://MeadowPlantsatMtCuba.org) is Mt. Cuba Center's first e-book. Join Dave Korbonits as he shares his expertise acquired from over 20 years of meadow gardening. Learn the history of Mt. Cuba Center's meadow, why

native plants are such a great fit, and how to make plant selections for your meadow. Find out how to install and maintain a meadow, then review Dave's insights on eight notable native grasses and 35 wildflowers for the meadow. The wildlife value of each plant is included. *Meadow Plants at Mt. Cuba Center* finishes with native plant recommendations for wet or dry sites, a glossary and many links for further information as well as seed sources. Once enrolled, you will have 45 days to download the meadow book as well as to access the *Ask the Horticulturist* feature. Cost of the e-book is **\$25**. Learn more about classes and offerings at mtcubacenter.org

Order your Restoration chestnut 1.0

After years of breeding and crossbreeding, The American Chestnut Foundation believes it has developed a potentially blight-resistant tree which has been named Restoration Chestnut 1.0. By purchasing an [ANNUAL SPONSOR membership to TACF®](http://AnnualSPONSORMembershiptoTACF.org), you are eligible to receive the latest line of potentially blight-resistant seed stock from our Restoration Chestnuts 1.0. These seeds represent 29 years of our best science.

These chestnuts are for testing and evaluation only. There is no guarantee they will have adequate resistance to the chestnut blight, but by planting these seeds you become part of the science team by helping us evaluate these latest trees. Your feedback on seedling performance will be critical in helping TACF researchers improve resistance.

**For 2013, the cut-off date for ordering chestnuts is
February 1, 2013.**

Orders received after February 1, 2013 will be processed in 2014.

Upcoming Events

Spring 2013—Mt. Cuba Center www.mtcubacenter.org

[View all of the classes offered at Mt. Cuba](#)

Spring 2013—Adkins Arboretum [Native Plant Nursery](#) opens for the season on April 15.

Native Plant Nursery Hours

Monday–Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Weekend hours by arrangement. For more information about special orders, special pick-ups, help with restoration projects plant choices, or pricing for nonprofits or commercial contractors, contact Nursery Manager Joanne Healey at 410.634.2847 x32 or jhealey@adkinsarboretum.org.

Delaware Horticulture Center

Best Species for the Site: Recommended Trees for Urban & Suburban Locations

Tuesday, January 29, 2013 6:00—7:00 p.m.

Learn why certain trees are popular in our area, and many great ones are overlooked. An ISA Certified Arborist will help you decide what is an appropriate selection for your location and the many factors to consider, just in time for our Bare Root Tree sale. \$10

Spring Bare Root Tree Sale

Planting & Caring for Bare Root Trees Workshop

Wednesday, March 20 5:00— 5:30 p.m. Tree pick-up & Pizza

Workshop 5:30— 6:30 p.m.

Free

DNPS meetings for 2013—As part of our organizational restructuring, and as of 1 January 2011, we will no longer be having bi-monthly meetings. Please contact Eric at ezuelke@juno.com for more information or check www.delawarenativeplants.org.

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