

The Turk's Cap

The Newsletter of the Delaware Native Plant Society

Autumn 2025 Volume 28 No. 3

DNPS Mission Statement:

Founded in March 1998, we are a volunteer-based, publicly supported 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of native plants and their natural habitats through education, science, advocacy, and land stewardship.

Discover more at <https://delawarenativeplants.org>



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President: Eric Wahl ● Vice-President: Rick Mickowski ● Treasurer: Eric Zuelke ● Secretary: Emma Johnson

Letter From Our President

Eric Wahl

Welcome, Autumn Equinox. Where has the year gone? But I, for one, always enjoy the arrival of autumn. Bountiful harvests, wonderful colors in the landscape, and a chill in the air that beckons warm apple cider and pumpkin donuts.

We are busy planning our Annual Symposium and information will be going out shortly to our members. It will be held in November this year at a new venue as we are trying to rotate where we hold our events throughout the state.

Enjoy the articles following in this newsletter, including discussions on asters, beech leaf disease, emerald ash borer, along with many other informative pages. We hope you thoroughly enjoy the coming months of fall, and observe the fruits, seeds, and bounty that our native plants of autumn provide.

Stay safe and keep promoting native plants!

Eric Wahl, President

Connect with the DNPS on [Facebook](#)
And explore the DNPS at: <https://delawarenativeplants.org/>

Circle photographs

Helenium flexuosum- purple-head sneezeweed

Lactuca biennis- tall blue lettuce

Pyrrhopappus carolinianus- Carolina false-dandelion

Nelumbo lutea- American lotus

Lilium superbum - Turk's cap lily

Photographs courtesy of David G. Smith at www.delawarewildflowers.org



Membership Application

Member Benefits:

Quarterly "The Turk's Cap" Newsletter

Tips and tricks on gardening and landscaping with native plants

Annual workshop, symposium, project work days, and field trips!

☐ *Full-time Student \$10* ☐

☐ *Individual \$15* ☐

☐ *Family \$18* ☐

☐ *Contributing \$50* ☐

☐ *Business \$100* ☐

☐ *Lifetime \$500* ☐

Membership is for 12 months, after which we send you a renewal notice.

MEMBER INFORMATION

Name: _____

Organization Name: _____

Full mailing address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Please make checks payable to:

Delaware Native Plant Society

P.O. Box 369

Dover, DE 19903



The DNPS Fall Symposium

When: Saturday, November 22nd, 2025, 10AM-12PM

Where: Brandywine Hundred Library

1300 Foulk Rd, Wilmington, DE 19803

What: Delaware Native Plant Society Annual Symposium!

Details: Open to DNPS Members and Members of the Public.

Light refreshments will be provided. No registration needed.

This year's topic: **Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)**

Often we underestimate the importance of plants we don't see in our daily lives. This years symposium will introduce you to Delaware's vitally important aquatic plant communities.

Our opening presenter is **Brittany Haywood**



Brittany Haywood is a Coastal Ecology Specialist with Delaware Sea Grant at the University of Delaware and co-leader of the Delaware Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Workgroup. Whether restoring vital underwater habitats, tackling marine debris, or leading community science initiatives, she works to connect people with the coastal environment in meaningful ways.

With over 15 years of experience in habitat restoration, project management, education, and outreach, Brittany specializes in SAV research, restoration, and monitoring across both freshwater and marine ecosystems. She also brings expertise in GIS, tidal and non-tidal wetlands, water quality, and drainage. She has worked across state and university sectors to bridge science with real-world conservation efforts.

Our Keynote presenter is Edna Stetzar



Edna Stetzar is a Program Manager with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), where she oversees freshwater and diadromous species projects along with associated staff. She holds a master's degree in biology from Delaware State University, and a bachelor's degree in Natural Resources from The Ohio State University.

Since joining DFW in 1992, Edna has contributed to a wide range of research projects and serves as a technical resource for pond owners on issues related to aquatic vegetation, water quality, fish populations, and habitat management. A strong advocate for aquatic habitat conservation, she actively participates in several state and regional work groups focused on fish habitat and fish passage and represents Delaware on the Northeast Fisheries Administrators Association.

*Membership dues and donations cannot be accepted within the Library, please arrange with the Treasurer for alternate plans.



A common Delaware native SAV, *Potamogeton diversifolius*

Our Adventures

Recent escapades of the Native Plant Society

Eric Zuelke

Our pollinator habitat at the University of DE Lewes campus was in need of some maintenance, so back on 6 Sep 2025, six volunteers filled a dump truck full of non-native clippings, cuttings, and diggings to help the natives find the sun again.



Asters in DE

William A. McAvoy

Now that the summer is coming to a close, plant species known as “asters,” are in full bloom. Asters in Delaware consist of 6 native genera and 33 taxa (species, subspecies, and varieties). Of these taxa, 15 are rare or uncommon in the state (highlighted in bold in the list below). The largest genus of asters in Delaware is *Symphyotrichum*, representing 21 taxa. Asters are found throughout the state, in both the Piedmont and Coastal Plain provinces, many are found growing in upland habitats, such as meadows, old-fields, early successional woodlands, and roadsides. But several can be found in wetland habitats, such as swamps, wet meadows, and in tidal and non-tidal marshes. All taxa are perennial, except for *Symphyotrichum subulatum* (salt marsh aster), which is an annual. Most asters bloom in late summer or early fall and are valuable late season nectar sources for a wide variety of insects, such as butterflies, moths, and bees.



Symphyotrichum subulatum photos from Delawarewildflowers.org



The genus *Aster* once represented 100's of species and varieties in North America. But during the 1990's, morphologic (physical characteristics) and genetic studies of the genus lead to major changes in the understanding of the genus and its relatives. As a result, species within the genus *Aster* were reassigned to other related genera. These related genera were named and published back in the 19th century, and based on the rules of botanical nomenclature, the first named published is given priority and must be used. For example, the genus name *Doellingeria* was published in 1832 by the German botanist Christian Gottfried Daniel Nees von Esenbeck (1776 – 1858). Research found that *Aster gracilis* and *A. umbellatus* are more closely related to *Doellingeria* and are better treated within that genus than in aster. The genus *Aster* is more diverse in other parts of the world (e.g., Eurasia) than in North America, where only two species are recognized: *Aster alpinus*, native and having a northwestern distribution; and *A. tataricus*, being native to Asia and garden grown in North America where it is known to escape to natural areas and has been found in Delaware.



American Beeches are Under Attack

Pam Crowe

A diverse group of native American trees grows along the back edge of our property, which is adjacent to Rittenhouse Park in Newark, Delaware. Beech, red maple, tulip trees, dogwood, black gum, black walnut, holly, and sweet gum form a ragged row behind our backyard. An oak tree once stood in the lineup, but we had it taken down a few years ago, because it was infected with bacterial leaf scorch (BLS). The black walnut, holly, and dogwoods grow on our property; the others reside in Rittenhouse Park. All mature trees, their branches intertwine, and when they are leafed out they form a dense curtain between the park and us. I am thankful for this array of native trees that I see every day, right from my back windows. Our native trees provide many essential services for us and other ecosystem inhabitants.

There used to be a stand of bamboo in the park, visible from our backyard. Nothing but bamboo survived inside the stand. Steadily expanding, the bamboo threatened to wipe out more of the park's native flora. So, with the park's permission, my husband and I spent many hours, over a five-year span, cutting down bamboo shoots with a bow saw and a battery-powered handsaw. Finally, the park took pity on us (acquired sufficient funds) and engaged a team that eradicated the bamboo in just two days!

The park's non-native bamboo was invasive. We could see it and stop its spread. But microscopic invaders can remain undetected until they have spread and wreaked havoc on their victims. Such was the case with the American chestnut—once an abundant, dominant, highly useful forest tree. It succumbed to the chestnut blight and is now gone from our forests.

Currently, the American beech is under attack by a microscopic nematode,

Litylenchus crenatae mccannii, which infects the buds and leaves. Symptoms of beech leaf disease (BLD) include dark bands between leaf veins, curling of leaf edges, and shrunken and shriveled leaves.



Leaves showing symptoms of BLD on a tree in Rittenhouse Park, September 2025

BLD was first discovered in Ohio in 2012, but the cause of the disease, the nematode, was not discovered until 2017. BLD has now spread to Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey, Ohio, Michigan, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine. "Young trees can be killed within one year of infection and mortality for mature trees is estimated between 6-10 years," according to a June

9, 2025 report by the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

We estimate our beech tree—at one end of the ragged row—to be 80 to 100 feet tall. During this past summer, the tree dropped a couple of lower limbs. So, I have wondered if our tree is infected with BLD that may have weakened the limbs. Many times I have examined its leaves for symptoms of BLD, but so far I have not seen the telltale bands. I hope the beech stays healthy, but I think it will become infected at some point; I have located several beech trees in Rittenhouse Park that appear to have BLD symptoms.



More leaves exhibiting symptoms of BLD on a tree in Rittenhouse Park, September 2025



Beeches in Rittenhouse Park

I would miss our beech with its smooth, gray, elephant-leg trunk and its pretty, feather-veined leaves with sawtooth edges. I would even miss raking the abundance of leaves it sheds on our lawn each fall. This year the tree has borne a bumper crop of beechnuts that nourish our local wildlife. I've read that beeches usually begin nut production around 40 years of age and by age 60 may produce substantial quantities of seeds.



Beech leaf and nuts from our tree, September 2025

Beechnuts are just one of the ecosystem services that beech trees provide. The American beech helps regulate air quality by sequestering carbon and removing pollutants. Beeches provide habitat for animals and nesting sites for birds. Beech trees are prized as ornamentals and shade trees.

If we should lose our beech trees, would there remain enough native diversity in our forests to fill the gap left by the American beech?



Baseball? A rookie's review of wooden bat history

Emma Johnson

Cue the organ music- the hot dogs- the squinting from underneath your caps with built-in visors in a sunny stadium- look, the dancing celery and green muppet! It's still baseball season as we've entered the 2025 playoffs! As a non-fan, I have a long and storied history of being exceptionally bored by baseball. By regional affiliation only I support Philadelphia teams; my greatest investment is usually "yay, they won!" or "aww, maybe next time." As a child, I spent more time at the playground next to the outfield than actually practicing softball (for the week or two I was in it). I have fallen asleep at not one but two of the only Blue Rocks games I can recall going to. It's quite obvious that I am just not a baseball fan. I can never remember being interested in the sport no matter how much I saw family members absolutely invested in the outcome. However, a couple weeks ago, something about baseball piqued my interest - we were passing by a television in a diner when my husband and family-in-law commented on a bat that visually appeared to "explode" on the TV. I thought about the "classic American sport" and realized the classic American trees that it relies on-species native to Delaware-have been supplying baseball with bats for what is now almost the past couple hundred years.



Baseball began as a derivative of English sport. Its close cousin cricket is played across the world, and variations such as softball are played here, but baseball uses wooden bats as well as balls that feel friendlier than softballs if one is arching at top speed across the sky towards you, (I would know, I assume, had I stayed in softball), and baseball players seem to have a history of swearing by bat origins as proponents of luck and assisting in their skill. As a non-fan, I called up the biggest sports fan I know- my uncle- and we chatted as he was coincidentally making his way home from an Eagles game and told me his plans to attend a Phillies game next week! I asked what *does* draw him in to baseball; I never thought about the intrigue with the strategy as

teams outsmart each other with chiral tactics that rely on statistics of left and right-handedness in players, the balanced opportunity to win without having to beat a clock, each players having specific skill sets and meeting each other's level to outmatch and sabotage the other team's efforts, such as throwing at 100mph and having to meet one "round object" with another with successful impact. I hadn't even thought about the [aluminum bats](#) used outside of Major League Baseball, which it turns out were banned for being *too* effective. With such skilled players, light-weight strong metal bats "even the playing field," making for them too successful and causing baseballs to move at dangerous speeds that cause players more severe injuries. Baseball prefers the unpredictable challenge that wood bats add. My uncle mentioned that players can custom-order length, width and weight of wooden bats, and it seems that this adds to the character of the bats, as though they have their own sort of celebrity, though not as much as the players or the comedically entertaining mascots.

In the 1800's as the sport gained traction, baseball bats were made of all sorts of woods. "[The Bats... They Keep Changing!](#)" details each baseball era, its famous players and the sport's preferences for different types of bats, reflecting that eventually, in 1893, softwoods such as pine bats were banned for the very reason that they were soft-prone to splitting and I assume potentially injuring players in the process. Using harder woods became more reliable and less wasteful. From 1900-1910 very hard woods such as sturdy sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) and heavy hickory (*Carya* species) were preferred, but after that ash bats gained popularity and have been the favorite since. One account in 1905 mentioned a "black mountain ash," though this common name likely referred to what we would call white or green ash (*Fraxinus*) rather than what we would call mountain ash (*Sorbus*) today. A 2022 article in "[The New York Times](#)," "*Baseball History is No Longer Written with Ash Bats*" by Michelle Gustafson, described that the majority of baseball's history was: "From Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak in 1941 to Roger Maris's 61 home runs in 1961 to Mark McGwire's 70 homers in 1998," mentioning the famous "[Louisville Slugger](#)" baseball bats such as those used by [Babe Ruth](#) (who used unusually heavier bats than typical ash,) and countless famous baseball players who relied on ash bats as their primary preference. The [Central Park Conservancy](#) also gives a shout-out to the uses of ash in this way. A Connecticut bat maker explained that ash has a "looser grain structure," with a softness that is prone to splintering or flaking, however "in the barrel, the so-called sweet spot, the softer ash bats can flex upon contact, producing a 'trampoline' effect on the ball"... "catching" the

ball, adding backspin and improving the hit. It is a hardwood with softer wood qualities - combining the best of both worlds in flexibility and strength, but every once in a while leading to an impressive and surprising explosion of splintered wood from a particularly powerful swing. It can happen more frequently with sturdier wood bats like [maple](#), and whether or not it was an ash bat explains why that bat I saw in the diner exploded! It also explains why baseball players prefer ash, with maple coming back in modern day as a close second, and other options falling behind.

Fraxinus is the staple of baseball- so I wonder, how is the baseball industry affected by plant pests such as the [emerald ash borer](#) (*Agrilus planipennis*)? The loss in our ash trees is risky business for baseball. When I was working with the Morris Arboretum in 2016, I helped assess ash trees in Philadelphia and Germantown, and I saw first-hand large, old ash trees with borer damage that were removed, and many ash trees that were not yet affected but simply removed from certain areas to prevent further spread of the borer- creating intentional forest fragmentation to help preserve the species overall. Cutting down trees greatly cut down the overall ash population, leaving mostly only young trees. Fast forward to 2022, and NJ Forest Service's health specialist Rosa Yoo checks on the status of white ash trees at Round Valley Recreation Area in Clinton Township, New Jersey, just over an hour and a half north of Delaware. "Yoo has been assisting as the New Jersey Department of Agriculture attempts a biological control, releasing parasitoid wasps known to feed on emerald ash borer larvae" but described this as a long-term strategy- while ashes die quickly, it is expected that they will take a long time to make a comeback.

But trees must be old and large enough to provide wood for bats. The NYT article specifies "quality ash timber — with the favorable eight to 12 growth rings per inch." Yes, it's true, ash trees are also harmed in the making of baseball bats, being logged completely and cut into cylinders that are then shaped into bats. Most of the baseball bat makers are not in Delaware, but plants don't know about state borders, and the cousins of our ash, maple, and other Delaware trees are sourced and turned into bats, (or simply turned, as in the process of making a bat on a lathe) from and in the eastern United States. "[How Products are Made](#)" notes that forests regionally close by are the source. "Traditionally, ash trees from Pennsylvania and upstate New York are used to make baseball bats. The ash is valued for its strength, flexibility, and light weight. The best trees are those that grow in dense clusters where they are protected

from the wind and forced to grow straight up towards the sunlight. Forty to fifty years of growth is required to bring an ash tree to the preferred trunk diameter of 14-16 inches (36-41 cm). Each tree yields approximately 60 bats....When a tree has reached the proper height and width, a forester marks it with spray paint. A log cutter then uses a chain saw to bring down the tree. The top branches are removed and left in the forest. The tree trunks are sawed into 10-16-foot (3-5 m) lengths, loaded on a truck, and taken to the mill. At the mill, the logs are inspected for knots and uneven grains. Only half of what is cut in the forest is ultimately used to manufacture baseball bats. The logs that make the grade are rolled to a hydraulic wedge that cuts them into 40-inch (101 cm) splits." Another [article](#) describes the bat-making process similarly - Warren County, PA maples and white ash supply "Larimer & Norton, the wood supplier for the Louisville Slugger bats used by players from Little League to the big leagues." That company grows trees 60 years with each making about 40 bats: "Only a handful of bats – ones cut from the center of the tree, where the rings are the tightest and hardest – will be graded high enough for this. The wood is cut into 40-inch cylinder-shaped pieces of wood known as billets and is then graded before being shaped and dried." The drying process is about a month long as the bats dry slowly in kilns to cure the wood to the optimal low-moisture content. Although bats are turned from heartwood and not the layer just beneath the bark where boring beetles reside, the loss in our ash tree population is risky business for baseball.



Fraxinus americana, white ash, in the olive family, is identifiable by paired buds at each node sitting atop a crescent-shaped leaf scar. Close cousins, the green ash, have a leaf scar going straight across. Both are Eastern native species susceptible to emerald ash borer, and both are used in making [bats](#).

Many players are switching to the well-known next-best solution: maple, with a heavier swing and a little less flexibility. But because the lumber industry “bats an average” of half a century, some bat companies are finding alternatives. [Rowlings](#), a baseball bat company, lists the classics and newer options on their website: “Selecting the right type of wood baseball bat is a crucial decision for players of almost all levels. Each wood type comes with its own set of pros and cons, and many players may switch preferences over time. Whether it's the raw power of maple, the flexibility of ash, the durability of composite wood, the balanced properties of birch, or the solid construction of bamboo, each wood type offers something unique for players to consider as they step up to the plate.” Bamboo and composite wood, who would have thought? In discussing this topic together, my husband expressed hope that the composite wood uses all those extra branches the bat industry typically ignores. It's sort of a paradox, these newer bats are faster options that don't kill ash trees, but then fewer ashes are being cultivated and cared for. Logging practices for bats and other industrial uses create managed, monocultural spaces rather than completely healthy forest understories, but it may still be better to grow an artificial forest for native trees every fifty years, care for it and try to preserve ash species and leave deadwood in a sort of wasteful way than encourage the growth of bamboo or the pollution from long-distance transportation of materials from far away. It is hard to calculate the full implications of these practices on the national and global scale. So for now, we think hard about what goes into America's quintessential pastime and consider what other industries are affected each time a pest or pathogen outbreak affects our native plants. Ash is not a keystone tree species, but it's still an important native tree that was formerly ubiquitous, and the loss of both staple and non-keystone forest species affects all the species that rely on them for food, shelter, and keeping a diverse ecosystem balance, providing shade canopy in just the right quantity to prevent the overgrowth of edge habitat species and giving understory forbs and shrubs the best conditions to grow. There are so many angles to look at the situation. To the observers of nature, it's devastating to see barren branches, curled leaves, and trees dying at a greater rate than seedlings can replenish. For those of us humans who may be a little more driven by a hardball than habitat restoration, the message of their importance may be more effectively conveyed through the lens of loss from the human perspective. In the past, we lost chestnut trees due to chestnut blight. I have heard antique furniture collectors lovingly talk about the quality and loss of chestnut wood, though today there is hope in chestnut restoration. We also lost [elms](#) with Dutch

elm disease, which had been used to make barrels for food storage and barrel hoops for all sorts of barrels. Currently, [hemlocks](#) face wooly adelgid, and as a construction material may become less and less available. As oak trees contend with spongy moths, oak furniture availability will also fall as will everything beech is used for - including the occasional [beech baseball bat](#)- now that beech leaf disease has arrived. In our regional woodlands, oak family members (oaks, hickories, and beech) are keystone species. Oaks are already fighting off bacterial leaf scorch, and I await the day I am told that hickories are fighting off a “major league” illness or insect, or that maples succumb to a blight leaving the remainder of the baseball industry (along with the maple syrup industry) in chaos. Most animatedly, an entire country has been captivated for centuries by *Fraxinus*. Ashes have “taken a hit,” but the popularity of baseball gives me hope that people will “step up to the plate” to advocate for ash trees. In the “9th inning” of *Fraxinus* trees vs. *Agrilus* beetles, where the beetles have been “pitching a perfect game,” the fan’s support for team ash raises the chances of hitting a “grand slam” so the trees can make a major comeback. So let’s “root root root” for the home team! Goooooooooooo ash trees!



Photo of an emerald ash borer from [APHIS](#), the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service



Need a new license plate?



Consider this award-winning design to help support pollinators!

The design received the 2021 [“Best Plate Award”](#) from the Automobile License Plate Collectors Association and is still available on the DMV website under [“Special Plate Sales.”](#) Choose the Background Type called “Pollinator” from the dropdown menu to get yours today!

Delaware Nature Society’s Monarch Migration Day

This past Saturday was a great event celebrating pollinators, engaging the public at the DuPont Environmental Education Center (DEEC), a DJ providing a backdrop from 2012 classics to new K-Pop, food trucks, educational activities for participants of all ages, a “book walk” along the bridge to the nature center, giant canoe launches, dip-netting adventures in the marsh, and monarch butterfly releases.

The teen [Trail Ambassadors](#) program did a great job running education stations, spoketurtles in the nature center intrigued many people young, middle and old, and Girl Scout Troop 60 sold pollinator seed kits in egg cartons to raise money for their Silver Award project to help build the pollinator garden on-site at DEEC. DEEC, the DNS, Trail Ambassadors and the Girl Scouts welcome volunteers and “worker bees” to help achieve their goals, so if you’re interested, check them out!



Events & Programs

October dates:

3rd [Tree for Every Delawarean \(TEDI\) Giveaways](#) - Rockwood Park

4th Delaware Nature Society's [Native Plant Sale](#) at Coverdale Farm

9th [Webinar: Keystone Plants for the Home Landscape](#)

11th

-[Brookside Gardens: Seed Saving: Harvesting & Storing Your Garden's Bounty](#)

-[Mid-Atlantic Carnivorous Plant Society](#) -Inaugural Show, Haverford College, PA

-[Tree for Every Delawarean \(TEDI\) Giveaways](#)- Delaware Botanic Gardens, Kent Conservation District, New Castle Conservation District, Sussex Conservation District

15th Longwood Gardens "[Designing Change](#)"

16th Longwood Gardens "[Designing Change](#)"

18th [Blackbird Creek Fall Festival](#) with TEDI Giveaway

21st [Delaware Invasive Species Council](#) Annual Meeting

November dates:

1st - [Tree for Every Delawarean \(TEDI\) Giveaways](#)- City of Dover

22nd - [DNPS Fall Symposium!](#)

Check out this awesome new [NATIVE PLANT DIRECTORY](#)
A guide to popular native plants of the Mid-Atlantic Region.

And the popular Flora of Delaware Database has been moved to a new domain: <https://delflora.org/flora/>. Update your bookmarks!

Pursue Programs!

- [American Horticultural Society](#)- use the nationwide Garden Network and check out their programming!
- "This Earthen Door" at the [Brandywine Conservancy](#) & Museum of Art
- [Delaware Botanic Gardens](#) Programs and Events, visit Thu-Sun 9AM-4PM
- [Delaware Nature Society](#) Programs and Events including the Dupont Environmental Education Center's programming at the Wilmington Riverfront
- Third Mondays Monthly 6:15-7:45PM [Green Drinks Online](#) Virtual Meeting
- [Delaware Cooperative Extension & Master Gardener Workshops](#) -Live & Zoom
- [Mt. Cuba Center](#)'s upcoming classes
- [Northeast Rising](#) in Wilmington is looking out for people and plants, mitigating the negative effects of climate change through community involvement and outreach programming and connecting organizations to help the communities that need it the most.
- [University of Delaware Botanic Gardens](#)
- [Wilmington City Council](#) and Northeast Rising [Wilmington Initiatives](#) at Conscious Connections Urban Farm
- White Clay Creek State Park

Volunteers Needed!

- Volunteer at the Delaware State University's Claude E. Phillips [Herbarium](#)
- Zooniverse Herbarium Volunteering- [Virtual opportunities](#)
- Discover the new [Delaware Habitat Guardians](#)
- Become a Delaware [Master Gardener](#)
- Become a Delaware [Master Naturalist](#)
- Know anyone in nearby Chester County? The Chester County Conservation District (PACD) has a [lawn conservation program](#) rewarding homeowners who convert lawn to garden space!

Native Plant Nurseries to Support:

[Blooming Meadow Nursery in Dagsboro](#)

[Heritage: A Native Plant Nursery](#) - coming soon to Sussex County!

[Josie's Native Plants](#)

[The Naked Oak Tree Farm](#)

Read [Max and the Milkweed](#)!

