

THE TURK'S CAP

Volume 13, Number 1
Spring 2010

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DELAWARE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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NATURAL QUOTES

"Love of the land is the basis for the unending struggle of those who really care against those who see only material rewards."

Sigurd F. Olsen, *Reflections from the North Country*, 1976

A FLOURISHINGLY GREEN WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

January through March

Heather Burnham
Jodie Shivery

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.

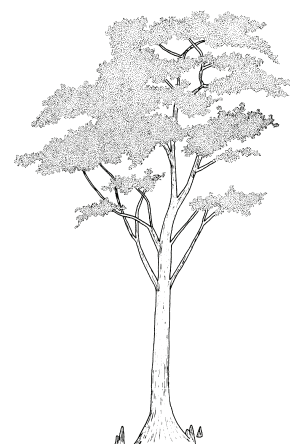
The DNPS is working on some significant projects at this time. We have completed four reforestation projects in the Prime Hook area, at Blackbird Creek in New Castle County and Cedar Creek in Sussex County where we have installed tree tubes around newly sprouted seedlings, and are performing annual management 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.



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.



THOUGHTS FROM THE EDGE OF THE GARDEN

WEBSITE UPDATE

On 7 April 2009 we added Google Analytics to the source code of our site to track a myriad of statistics about visitation. Here are the stats through 18 Apr 2010.

Number of total visits: 4,773

Number that were absolute unique visitors: 3,915 (82.0%)*

New vs. returning visits: 3,879 new (81.4%), 884 return (18.6%)*

Average time spent browsing: 2 min. 31 sec.

Average # of pages browsed: 4.5

Pages with most clicks: Nursery, Plant Talk, Publication, Event

Places: U.S.A. (49 states), 59 other countries/territories

How we were located:

63% from a search engine

24% from a referring site

13% from direct traffic

*Absolute Unique Visitors counts visitors, whereas New vs. Returning counts visits.

NEW PROJECTOR

Back in February 2007, we purchased our first business presentation projector. It was an Optoma H31. Unfortunately, that projector died on us (after having a number of problems over the two years we owned it), so we bit the bullet and got a new Epson Powerlite S5. We did quite a bit of research into these projectors and this one has gotten good reviews and has some great specifications. We look forward to having many great presentations with this new projector, so keep an eye for it at the next bi-monthly meeting.

WHO INFLUENCES PURCHASES OF NATIVE PLANTS?

(Editor's note: From www.sciencedaily.com).

ScienceDaily (Mar. 25, 2009) — Native plants are a growing niche market in the southeastern United States. Researchers have documented recent trends toward increased interest in native plants by landscape architects, wholesale and retail nursery owners, and home gardeners.

But landscape professionals and amateur gardeners purchase

native plants for distinctly different reasons. Statistics reveal that landscape architects most often select native species because they are suited to difficult or unique growing conditions, while retail plant buyers purchase native plants based on recommendations from landscape architects and contractors.

If landscape architects are the primary drivers of native plant sales in the southeastern United States, what impact does that have upon wholesale nursery growers and the retail market? What is the potential of the native plant market in this region, and what are the best ways of fostering its growth? To answer these questions, Robert F. Brzuszek and Richard L. Harkess, researchers at Mississippi State University, developed an e-mail survey for wholesale and retail nursery owners (members of the Southern Nursery Association) in the southeastern region of the United States. The survey results and recommendations were published in the latest issue of the American Society for Horticultural Science journal *HortTechnology*.

"The objective of this study was to understand how green industry professionals view the opportunities and constraints of the current southeastern native plant market, and to synthesize the connections between landscape architects' demands and the supplies of the nursery industry in the region", explained Brzuszek.

The survey respondents revealed that, while there is a perceived increase in customer interest in native plants, market demand and enhanced public education play a key role in further development of this growing market.

When asked the primary reason they carried native plants, respondents cited client request (25.6%), followed by ecological reasons (17.8%), adaptability to difficult site conditions (16.3%), and low maintenance issues (13.2%). These responses differed considerably from the responses of landscape architects, who replied that native plants were mostly used because of their ability to grow in difficult site conditions.

The study found that both nursery professionals and landscape architects see customer interest in native plants growing. Most respondents agreed that identifying methods to increase marketing of native plants was of significant interest. Survey respondents suggested that better and more information sources be provided for the general public, particularly through the use of specific marketing campaigns and point-of-purchase information. Presentations and displays at nursery trade shows were also recommended as effective methods for growers and retailers to learn about new native plant cultivars.



Resources & Reviews

The Organic Lawn Care Manual

Authored by Paul Tukey. Extend an organic lifestyle beyond the front door! Get your lawn off drugs with *The Organic Lawn Care Manual*, a comprehensive guide for creating a lush green lawn without chemicals and pesticides. Author Paul Tukey takes the mystery out of making a healthy and inviting outdoor play area for kids, pets and the whole family.

Resources & Reviews

Building a Healthy Lawn: A Safe and Natural Approach

Authored by Stuart Franklin. Included are chapters on mowing, watering, fertilizing, soil building, equipment selection, seeding, weed control, diseases and insects, ground covers, and mulches.

FEATURE ARTICLE

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY LAWN CARE

(Editor's note: This contains excerpts from articles in Mother Earth News, reprinted with permission).

Is your lawn chemically dependent? Every year, many of us treat our yards with pesticides and fertilizers in hopes of creating a healthy and attractive lawn. The problem is that many of the products we use on our lawns aren't good for us or for the environment. The good news is that there are simple, nontoxic alternatives that can keep your lawn healthy naturally. Some of them can even save you money! For most of us, this means eliminating chemical fertilizers, dyes and weed-killers from the lawn's diet. Others have decided to plant drought-tolerant native plants that need less water. Or food-bearing plants, such as strawberries, which cover more of the ground so their lawns require less all-around maintenance. The great news is that you can have a gorgeous, low-maintenance lawn that's safe for your family and our environment.

What's wrong with the usual fertilizers and pesticides?

Improperly used fertilizers can contribute to water pollution by contaminating groundwater and by encouraging algae growth in streams, which disrupts aquatic ecosystems. Pesticides cause problems, too — many are toxic to bees, birds, fish and other forms of wildlife.

Another cause for concern is that many common pesticides (and that category includes insecticides, herbicides and fungicides) have well-documented health risks including suspected roles in a number of kinds of cancer, as well as damage to the nervous system and developmental disorders. Even the common herbicide Roundup is associated with a number of health risks. Two good sources to learn more about the health risks of specific pesticides are the pesticide fact sheets of the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP) and the National

Pesticide Information Center.

So what do you use instead of chemical pesticides and fertilizers? In fact, some of the most effective methods for maintaining a beautiful lawn are both simple and nontoxic.

Here are several strategies to consider:

1. Plan ahead to minimize problems.

The easiest way to keep your lawn healthy and keep unwanted weeds out is with a little preventive maintenance that stops problems before they get out of hand. For example: Keep your lawn healthy from the beginning by choosing a type of grass suited for your region and climate. This is also a good way to minimize watering.

Stop weeds before they get started! In areas where you can't mow, you can prevent weeds by using newspaper or plastic covered with mulch.

2. When you need fertilizers or pesticides choose natural, nontoxic options.

To find least toxic solutions for weed and pest problems, a good place to start is with the fact sheets from NCAP.

You may be surprised to learn that there's no reason to choose commercial fertilizers over ones you can harvest yourself. One excellent option is grass clippings, which provide a natural, slow-release fertilizer for your lawn and garden. Grass clippings are not as harsh on your lawn as some chemical fertilizers, less likely to wash away — and they're free!

3. Learn to live with (or even love) a few weeds.

Sometimes all that's needed to fix a weed problem is a slight change of perspective. Clover is a good example of how personal preference determines whether or not we think of plants as weeds. Take a quick look online and you can find detailed advice both on how to get rid of clover in your yard, and

Continued on page 5

GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS**RED MULBERRY (*MORUS RUBRA*)****NATURAL HISTORY**

Nan and I enjoy attracting birds to our yard here in Harbeson. We put out feeders, water, bird houses, misters and native plants in hopes of attracting a wide variety of birds. So in trying to decide what native plant to write about for this column, I'm often researching a plant to see how it might fit into our landscape. Such is the case with *Morus rubra* or Red Mulberry. In reading through the numerous periodicals we subscribe to, I'm often impressed with outstanding photos of cedar waxwings, mockingbirds, Baltimore orioles and others eagerly devouring a mid-summer crop of mulberries – WOW, this must be the tree for us! In fact, many species of birds and small mammals eat the fruits of red mulberry. Bird consumers also include wild turkeys, wood ducks, bluebirds, indigo buntings, gray catbirds, eastern kingbirds, towhees, orchard orioles, brown thrashers, tanagers, vireos, woodpeckers, great crested flycatchers and more. Other consumers include opossums, raccoons, fox squirrels, and gray squirrels. The twigs and foliage are browsed by white-tailed deer, beavers consume red mulberry bark and it is the larval host of the red cloak butterfly. The red mulberry is a tree of the rich woods, bottom lands, fence rows and edges. Its range extends from southern New England west to South Dakota and south to Texas and Florida. The red mulberry is a tree usually attaining 40 to 50 feet in height and occasionally reaching 70 feet with a diameter of 4 Feet. In forested areas the red mulberry will grow tall and spindly with few branches, but in the open it is generally short and stout with a broad round configuration and a mass of intertwined branches popular as cover for numerous wintering birds. In late April and early May with the unfolding of leaves, 2 inch long male catkins and 1 inch female catkins are formed. Red mulberry is primarily a dioecious plant, with male and female trees, but can be monoecious having both male and female flowers on the same tree. One inch jet black, blackberry like fruits ripen from late June through early August, and when fully ripe are soft, juicy, sweet and popular with birds, mammals, people, and neighborhood children!

WHERE TO GROW

The red mulberry grows well under a wide variety of conditions. Best growth occurs in the open, on moist, well-drained soils. It grows well on a variety of soils including clays, sands, and loams and it tolerates a wide range of soil pH. However, the red mulberry may not be suitable for the average neighborhood yard. In urban areas it is often considered a nuisance where it's abundant fruit litters and stains sidewalks and automobiles, and children must be forgiven for tracking berry juice onto mom's sparkling cleaned floors when they proudly come home with a pail full of freshly picked berries. However,

because this relatively large, sweet fruit is a favorite food of most birds and some small animals, most of the fruits are eaten and dispersed by wildlife before they fully mature. Having said that, if you have an out of the way place in a wildlife habitat, the back of the yard, the center of a bed planted with other native plants, a wet area where nothing else will grow, or perhaps along a fence row with that irritating neighbor who has a swimming pool, then the rewards of wildlife in your yard will far overshadow the red mulberry's liabilities.

PROPAGATION AND CARE

Seeds can be extracted from fresh fruits by mashing and soaking them in water. Viable seeds will sink to the bottom and pulp and empty seeds will float to the top where they can be skimmed off using a common household strainer. Several rinsings and subsequent skimming will result in cleaned seeds that can be sown in fall without stratification or in spring following 30 to 90 days of stratification at 33° to 41° F in moist sand. Red mulberry can be propagated from stem cuttings or by budding, but these methods are complex, require greenhouse facilities and are not particularly recommended. However, red mulberry is a prolific root sprouter and can be reproduced by layering. Because the red mulberry is a favorite browse for deer, be sure to protect your new seedlings if you live in a rural community!

LORE

The highest use of red mulberry is for its large, sweet fruits. In addition to their value to wildlife, the ripe fruits are eaten raw and have long been used in Appalachia for pies, jams, jellies, juice and wine. In the past, the fruits were valued for fattening hogs and as poultry food. The wood of the red mulberry is used locally for fence posts because the heartwood is relatively durable. Other uses of the wood include farm implements, cooperage, furniture, interior finish, and caskets. Native Americans used the fruits fresh and for beverages, breads and cakes, dumplings and preserves, and mixed dried fruits with animal fat for pemmican. Native Americans also used the plant medicinally as a worming agent, remedy for dysentery, laxative, emetic and ringworm. Choctaw Indians wove cloaks from the fibrous inner bark of young mulberry shoots. Finally, don't be tempted to harvest your red mulberries before they are fully ripened! Unripe fruit and milky sap from all parts have low toxicity if eaten. Symptoms include hallucinations and stomach upset. 🍷

■ Bob Edelen, DNPS Member

**Resources & Reviews*****The Natural Lawn & Alternatives***

Authored by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. A collection of articles including "Eight Steps to a Pesticide-Free Lawn," "Buffalograss Lawns," and others on moss, prairie, and other grass alternatives. "Turf Tips" has a map of grass zones for the U.S., regional guides for fertilizing and for grass types, plus mowing heights for different grasses. Great color pictures throughout.

Resources & Reviews

The Chemical-Free Lawn: The Newest Varieties and Techniques to Grow Lush, Hardy Grass

Authored by Warren Schultz. This book gives an almost flawless and remarkably thorough presentation on organic lawn care.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Continued from page 3

how to add more of it! Rather than fight weeds, you may discover that there are a few you can live with, and even enjoy. For example: Dandelions and purslane are two common “weeds” that some people deliberately plant in their gardens as food crops.

Some weeds have medicinal value including plantain, stinging nettle and yellow dock. Other weeds may actually make your lawn or garden healthier. Dandelions are a good nectar source for many beneficial insects. So is clover, which is also recommended in this article as a cover crop that adds nitrogen to your soil.

4. Options to traditional yard care equipment

Person-powered reel mower. it's not much more work to push one provided the ground is pretty level, but it isn't effective on grass more than about 3 inches high. For smaller areas that are fairly level and mowed regularly, this option works.

Scythe. Yet another step even farther back in time. We are talking about the European scythe, not the American ones you still find at garage sales. With a few *ifs*, this option will work: *If* you're willing to take some time to practice the right swing of the tool. *If* you're willing to learn to sharpen it. And *if* you keep it sharp. There actually are 'green landscapers' who make a living cutting urban lawns this way! no pollution, no noise.

Electric rotary mower. One battery-electric mower can often replace multiple gas-powered ones. Along with the change in mowers, switching to a higher cut setting is better for the grass.

Electric weed whackers. For trimming in places where the other equipment has trouble.

5. Consider reducing the amount of grass you

have in your yard.

It may sound radical, but do you need or want as much lawn as you have? Here are two popular alternatives to traditional turf:

Lose the lawn and try xeriscaping. This term means landscaping to reduce water use, and it can make a lot of sense in drier climates where a lawn simply isn't practical. Xeriscaping techniques may include using more decorative rock in your yard, or focusing on a few drought-tolerant plants.

Put in less grass, more edible plants. Why not give your garden room to expand? You can grow a lot of food in the typical front and back yard. Another option to consider is edible landscaping, the idea of choosing decorative plants that also produce food crops, such as strawberry plants and apple trees.

If you decide to convert a section of lawn into a vegetable garden, don't haul the turf away; cut it into rectangular blocks of manageable size and stack the moist blocks upside down in a metre-square (3-ft.) area in the middle of your new garden.

Between each layer of turf add a light dusting of lawn or high-nitrogen fertilizer. Cover the pile of inverted sod with black plastic and tie a cord around the base to secure the plastic.

After six to eight months or the next growing season, you can cut small holes in the plastic on the sides or top of the pile and plant seed potatoes that will grow and cascade down the sides of the pile. Any heat-loving plant, such as corn, cucumbers, squash or pumpkin will also respond well in a pile of old turf.

At the end of the growing season, remove the plastic and spread the well-decayed turf over the rest of your vegetable garden. If you have access to waste turf, the procedure can be repeated until you have enough topsoil for your raised beds. 🌱

OUT OF THE WILD & INTO THE KITCHEN

Our Native Plant Highlight focused on the red mulberry. There are a quite a number of recipes out there using these sweet fruits in pies-like desserts. Here's just a few from www.fooddownunder.com.

1850 Mulberry Pie

1 10" Unbaked Pie Shell
1 qt Mulberries
1 cup Flour
2 cup Granulated Sugar
1 cup Milk

Fill shell with berries. Mix flour, sugar, and milk. Pour mixture over berries. Bake at 350 for 45 to 50 minutes until center is set. If desired, brown under broiler. Serves 6 to 8

Crispy Mulberry Cobbler

FILLING

1 tbl flour
1 tbl sugar
3 cup mulberries

ASSEMBLY

1 cup flour
1 cup sugar
1 tsp baking powder
1/3 cup butter or shortening
1 egg lightly beaten

For the Filling: Gently rinse mulberries in cold water. Combine flour and sugar in medium bowl. Toss gently with berries.

For Assembly: Combine flour, sugar and baking powder in mixing bowl. Cut in butter with pastry blender or 2 knives until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Add egg; mix slightly, stirring just to moisten.

Grease 8-inch square baking dish. Fill with berry mixture. Crumble topping over berries. Bake at 350 degrees until slightly golden brown, 30 to 35 minutes.

Serve with vanilla ice cream or chilled whipped cream. Yields 6 to 8 servings.

Mulberry Angel Torte

2 cup Mulberries
2 tbl Sugar
2 tbl Mulberry Jam, Melted
10.5 oz Angel Food Cake
6 tbl Amaretto, Divided
3/4 cup Vanilla Low-Fat Yogurt
1/2 cup Blueberries
8 tsp Sliced Almonds, Toasted

Place first 3 ingredients in a food processor, and pulse 3 times or until coarsely chopped. Set aside. Line an 8 inch loaf pan with plastic wrap, allowing plastic wrap to extend over edge of pan. Cut cake horizontally into 6 slices (slices will be very thin). Place 1 cake slice in bottom of pan. Brush cake slice with 1 tablespoon amaretto. Spread 3 tablespoons Mulberry mixture over cake slice; top with another cake slice. Repeat layers, ending with cake slice (do not put amaretto or Mulberry mixture on top cake layer). Cover and chill 2 hours. Place a serving plate upside down on top of pan; invert cake onto plate. Remove plastic wrap. Combine yogurt and remaining 1 tablespoon amaretto in a small bowl; stir well. Cut torte crosswise into 8 slices. Dollop 1 1/2 tablespoons yogurt mixture onto each slice. Sprinkle each with 1 tablespoon blueberries and 1 teaspoon almonds.



Upcoming Events

SATURDAY, 24 APRIL 2010—AG DAY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE. FROM 10 AM TO 4 PM. FREE ADMISSION WITH LIVE MUSIC, FOOD, PLANT SALES, EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS, ANIMALS, AND KIDS ACTIVITIES. MORE INFORMATION ON THE WEB AT [HTTP://AG.UDEL.EDU](http://ag.udel.edu).

SATURDAY, 1 MAY 2010—DELAWARE NATURE SOCIETY ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON BOTH MAY 1ST AND 32ND AT COVERDALE FARM IN GREENVILLE, DE. DIRECTIONS AND MORE INFORMATION AT 302.239.2334, OR ON THE WEB AT [HTTP://WWW.DELAWARENATURESOCIETY.ORG/NPS.HTML](http://www.delawarenaturesociety.org/nps.html)

SATURDAY, 8 MAY 2010—BOWMAN'S HILL WILDFLOWER PRESERVE ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT SALE. HELD ON MAY 8TH TO 10TH FROM 10 AM TO 4 PM. MORE INFORMATION ON THE WEB AT [HTTP://WWW.BHWP.ORG/CALENDAR.HTM](http://www.bhwp.org/calendar.htm)

SATURDAY, 8 MAY 2010—ADKINS ARBORETUM ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT SALE FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM. ADKINS ARBORETUM HOLDS TWO MAJOR PLANT SALES EACH YEAR ON THE SATURDAY BEFORE MOTHER'S DAY IN MAY AND THE SECOND SATURDAY IN SEPTEMBER. MORE INFORMATION ON THE WEB AT [HTTP://WWW.ADKINSARBORETUM.ORG/](http://www.adkinsarboretum.org/)

SATURDAY, 15 MAY 2010—CENTER FOR INLAND BAYS ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT SALE. FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM AT THE JAMES FARM ECOLOGICAL PRSERVE. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 302.226.8105, OR ON THE WEB AT [HTTP://WWW.INLANDBAYS.ORG/](http://www.inlandbays.org/)

TUESDAY, 18 MAY 2010—DELAWARE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY BI-MONTHLY MEETING. THIS MEETING WILL BE AT OUR NEW CASTLE COUNTY MEETING LOCATION. SEE BELOW FOR LOCATION DETAILS, AND ON OUR WEBSITE.

WEDNESDAY, 2 JUNE 2010—NATIVE PLANTS IN THE LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE AT MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY. FROM JUNE 2ND THROUGH THE 5TH. SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE WILLIAM CULLINA, NEIL DIBOLL, LARRY WEANER, AND JIM MCCORMAC. TOPICS WILL INCLUDE PIEDMONT SOILS, GREEN ROOFS, INVASION CONTROL, NATIVE BEES, AND FERNS. CALL 717.871.2189, OR ON THE WEB AT [WWW.MILLERSVILLENATIVEPLANTS.ORG](http://www.millersvillennativeplants.org) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

SPRING AND SUMMER 2010—CONTINUING EDUCATION AT MT. CUBA CENTER. THIS NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION HAS A FANTASTIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. THEY OFFER DOZENS OF CLASSES AND SYMPOSIA THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 302.239.4244, OR ON THE WEB AT [HTTP://WWW.MTCUBACENTER.ORG](http://www.mtcubacenter.org).

DNPS BI-MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR 2010—ARE CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR 19 JANUARY, 16 MARCH, 18 MAY, 20 JULY, 21 SEPTEMBER, 6 NOVEMBER (NOT A MEETING, BUT THE ANNUAL PLANT SALE) AND 16 NOVEMBER. ALL MEETINGS ARE ON THE THIRD TUESDAY OF EVERY OTHER MONTH AT 7 PM, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN 3 LOCATIONS AROUND THE STATE. THE KENT COUNTY LOCATION IS AT THE ST. JONES RESERVE, THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY LOCATION IS AT THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT OFFICE AT 2430 OLD COUNTY RD., NEWARK, DE, 19702, AND THE SUSSEX COUNTY LOCATION IS CHANGING SOON AND WE WILL BE GIVING DETAILS LATER. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR MAPS AND DIRECTIONS TO EACH MEETING LOCATION. SEE OUT WEBSITE ([WWW.DELAWARENATIVEPLANTS.ORG](http://www.delawarenativeplants.org)) FOR MORE DETAILS, AND FOR DETAILS ON UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS.

Membership Application

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 \$ _____

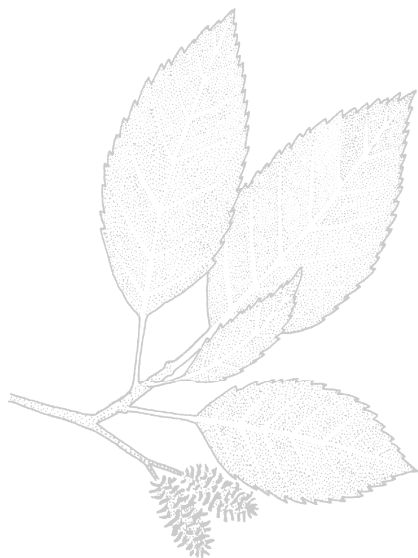
Membership benefits include:

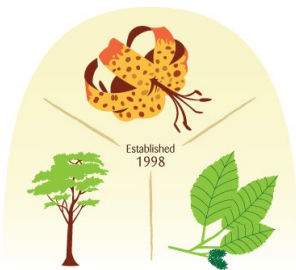
- * The DNPS quarterly newsletter, *The Turk's Cap*
- * Native plant gardening and landscaping information
- * Speakers, field trips, native plant nursery and sales

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**





THE TURK'S CAP

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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.

NATURAL QUOTES

"Vernonia are among the showiest flowers of field and wet meadow. Their vibrant, rich red-purple color contrasts strongly with boneset and Joe-pye weed."

Hal Bruce, *How to Grow Wildflowers & Wild Shrubs & Trees in Your Own Garden*, 1976

A BEACHY WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

April thru June

Geri Gitlin
Robert Seabold

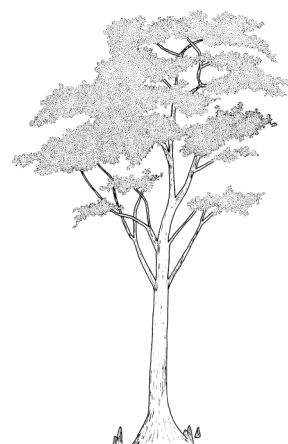


Photo: Cindy Albright

Vernonia noveboracensis
New York ironweed

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.



THOUGHTS FROM THE EDGE OF THE GARDENLetter from the outgoing Editor

Hello members, non-members, and friends,

I began my tenure as Newsletter Editor with Volume 2 Number 1 on 15 April 1999. Over the years we have had some great articles and it has been very educational for me to be in this position. I always attempted to make the newsletter scientific and educational in its focus and I think we did a good job of that overall. When I first started with this, life was simpler and I had a lot of time to research, write, and correspond with contributors, but as time has passed life has gotten much busier and I'm no longer able to produce our wonderful little newsletter, so I am retiring and the torch has been passed. Please show our new Editor all the helpfulness you showed me. Doing a newsletter like this is a team effort and contributors are very important to its success, and she will be looking for people to write and submit articles, and ideas.

Over the years, I had many people thank me for doing the newsletter, and I received more great compliments on it than I can count, so for all that, I'd like to say "Thank You" and I greatly appreciate your kind words! I'd also like to thank all the people who submitted articles. Whether regularly submitted, or just occasionally, they all helped a great deal.

Eric Zuelke

Letter from the incoming Editor

I look forward to being editor of "The Turk's Cap" Newsletter. Before retiring from my web hosting business, I was a computer trainer at Del Tech and Online Consulting, where I taught Desktop Publishing. In addition, I was the "Chimes" newsletter editor for Westminster Presbyterian Church in Wilmington for many years. I have had an interest in horticulture, starting in the 1980s with classes at Longwood Gardens and volunteering at Winterthur. I was privileged to go on wildflower walks with Hal Bruce at Winterthur and Claude Phillips at Ashland. More recently, I have been interested in the native plant movement. I accept this editorship hoping to learn more about native plants while bringing my technical skills to the position.

Please send articles, snippets, items you find interesting at online websites, recipes and poems which you think are appropriate for the newsletter to: cindy@cindyalbright.com.

Cindy Albright

GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS
Vernonia noveboracensis*, New York ironweed*Natural History**

Taking a stroll around our pond one early fall day a couple of years ago, I noticed new plant growing along the bank – new plants aren't unusual for someone who doesn't like to mow, but this one was quite striking and I thought it might possibly be New York ironweed. So after a quick Google on ironweed, I quickly learned about a book written by William Kennedy and a movie of the same name starring Jack Nicholson and Meryl Streep. Looking a bit further, I found the plant was indeed New York ironweed, a plant with showy purple flowers on plants of two to seven feet high and two to three feet round ranging from Massachusetts and New York south to Georgia; west to Mississippi and north to West Virginia and Ohio. The flowers, about 1/3 inch across and are born in clusters three to four inches across and are held on exceptionally sturdy stems that can persist through the winter, hence the name "ironweed". The flowers are butterfly magnets, attracting a myriad of butterfly species to their nectar rich blossoms and bee keepers value ironweed for making honey. The fruits are seed-heads that are enjoyed by finches and other seed eating birds. New York ironweed blooms from late summer through early autumn.

Where to Grow

New York ironweed is a tall plant ideally suited for the back of a butterfly garden and places where it's late season blossoms can be appreciated after other perennials have long since faded. Being a tough plant, it holds up well where others might falter. New York ironweed prefers rich, moist soil but will tolerate any average soil with moderate to wet moisture. Flowering will be best when planted in full sun. The New York ironweed has a short life span relative to most other plant species and a moderate growth rate, but under good growing conditions it will reseed freely.

Propagation

Propagation is from seed. Seeds may be collected in late fall after the seed heads have fully formed and dried. Store in a cool dark place over winter – cold stratification is not required. Start seeds in flats or individual containers in late spring and set out into the garden after several inches of growth are observed. Be sure keep the plants well watered until they are established in the landscape!

Lore

Not much can be found for human uses of the New York ironweed. Extracts from the plant were once used for treating stomach ailments. New York ironweed was named The North Carolina Wildflower of the year in 2004. Perhaps we just as well enjoy it for its natural beauty and value to nature!

**Resources & Reviews**

[**Newcomb's Wildflower Guide**](#) by Lawrence Newcomb, Illustrated by Gordon Morrison

An ingenious key system for quick, positive field identification of wildflowers, flowering shrubs and vines.

WEBSITE UPDATE

On 7 April 2009 we added Google Analytics to the source code of our site to track a myriad of statistics about visitation. Here are the stats through 17 July 2010.

Number of total visits: 5,801

Number that were absolute unique visitors: 4,778 (82.0%)*

New vs. returning visits: 4,767 new (82.1%), 1,034 return (17.8%)*

Average time spent browsing: 2 min. 28 sec.

Average # of pages browsed: 4.5

Pages with most clicks: Nursery, Plant Talk, Publications, Events

Places: U.S.A. (all 50 states), 63 other countries/territories

How we were located:

63% from a search engine

24% from a referring site

12% from direct traffic

*Absolute Unique Visitors counts visitors, whereas New vs. Returning counts visits.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2010—BOWMAN'S HILL WILDFLOWER PRESERVE. 2010 FALL NATIVE PLANT SALE. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND PRESERVE MEMBERS: SATURDAY. 4 SEPTEMBER & SUNDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 10 A.M. – 4 P.M. EACH DAY. PLANTS ALSO ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE DURING THE WEEK. MORE INFORMATION ON THE WEB AT WWW.BHWP.ORG.

11—12 SEPTEMBER 2010—[ADKINS ARBORETUM](http://WWW.ADKINSARBORETUM) FALL NATIVE PLANT SALE IS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 AND SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 FROM 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M. EACH DAY. MEMBERS MAY PLACE PRE-SALE PLANT ORDERS. THE MEMBERS-ONLY PLANT SALE IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 FROM 10 A.M. TO 6 P.M. FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.ADKINSARBORETUM.ORG/

25—26 SEPTEMBER 2010—**8:30 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M.** [MARYLAND NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE](http://WWW.MDFLORA.ORG). THE ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE STARTS SATURDAY MORNING WITH A SERIES OF SPEAKERS, FOLLOWED BY FIELD TRIPS 1:30 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M. THROUGHOUT THE REGION. MORE INFORMATION ON THE WEB AT WWW.MDFLORA.ORG.

2—3 OCTOBER 2010—DELAWARE NATURE SOCIETY. [HARVEST MOON FESTIVAL](http://WWW.DELAWARENATURESOCIETY.ORG/EVENTS.HTML) AT COVERDALE FARM, GREENVILLE, DE. 10:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M. MORE INFORMATION ON THE WEB AT WWW.DELAWARENATURESOCIETY.ORG/EVENTS.HTML

SUMMER AND AUTUMN 2010—CONTINUING EDUCATION AT [MT. CUBA CENTER](http://MTCUBACENTER.ORG). THIS NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION HAS A FANTASTIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. THEY OFFER DOZENS OF CLASSES AND SYMPOSIA THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. FOR MT. CUBA'S CALENDAR VISIT MTCUBACENTER.ORG.

DNPS BI-MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR 2010—ARE CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR THE FALL ARE 21 SEPTEMBER, 6 NOVEMBER (NOT A MEETING, BUT THE [ANNUAL PLANT SALE](http://WWW.DELAWARENATIVEPLANTS.ORG)) AND 16 NOVEMBER. ALL MEETINGS ARE ON THE THIRD TUESDAY OF EVERY OTHER MONTH AT 7 P.M., UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN 3 LOCATIONS AROUND THE STATE. THE KENT COUNTY LOCATION IS AT THE ST. JONES RESERVE, THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY LOCATION IS AT THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT OFFICE AT 2430 OLD COUNTY RD., NEWARK, DE, 19702, AND THE SUSSEX COUNTY LOCATION IS CHANGING SOON AND WE WILL BE GIVING DETAILS LATER. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR MAPS AND DIRECTIONS TO EACH MEETING LOCATION AND FOR MORE DETAILS ON UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS. 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: _____

" 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 \$ _____

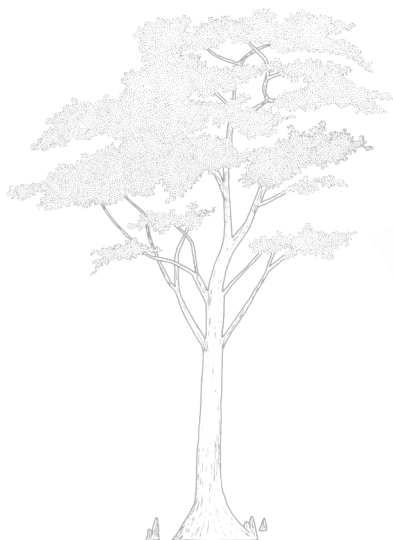
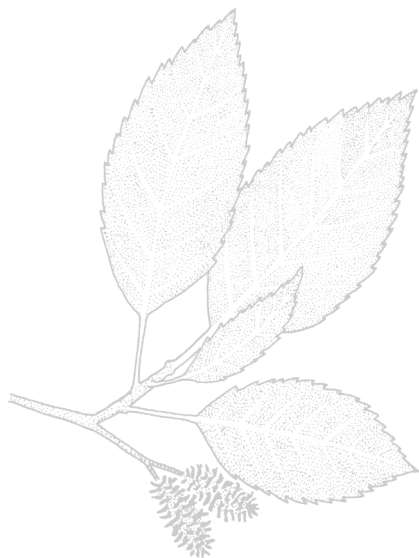
Membership benefits include:

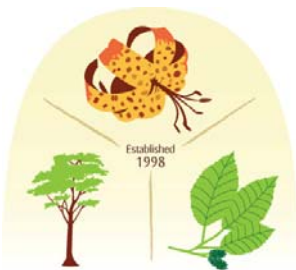
- * The DNPS quarterly newsletter, The Turk's Cap
- * Native plant gardening and landscaping information
- * Speakers, field trips, native plant nursery and sales

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 13, Number 3
Autumn 2010

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DELAWARE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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NATURAL QUOTES

"Purple asters were at their peak but most roadside plants had reached their seedtime. The beauty of the summer flowers had become the utility of the autumn seeds."

Edwin Way Teale, *Autumn Across America*, 1950



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.

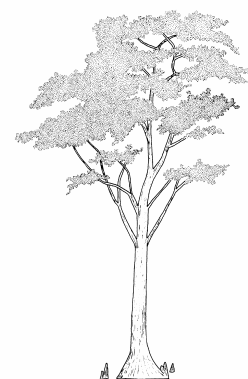
The DNPS is working on some significant projects at this time. We have completed four reforestation projects in the Prime Hook area, at Blackbird Creek in New Castle County and Cedar Creek in Sussex County where we have installed tree tubes around newly sprouted seedlings, and are performing annual management 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 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.

A Note About Formatting Changes

The majority of our members now view this newsletter online. Therefore, with this issue, the primary font has been changed to a sans serif font which is the type of font used on many websites.

Another new feature is the use of the paragraph mark (¶) where space is tight. The Washington Post is utilizing that symbol in such a manner.



NOTES FROM NEWCROFT

As the new editor of *The Turk's Cap*, I have re-named the editor's column to reflect the location from which I will be publishing the newsletter. Newcroft is my small (one-acre) plot purchased in 1995 just outside of Lewes on the east side of Route One. My brother named it Newcroft because we grew up on a street name Bancroft. It is on a small hill – yes, you know we do have hills in Sussex County. It was formerly the Ritter Farm. The derivation of croft is: "*Chiefly British* -- a small enclosed field or pasture near a house or a small farm." The name seemed appropriate.

While mowing occurs around the house and keeps the neighbors moderately happy, the remainder of the property is a meadow – mowed once a year to keep the invasive trees and phragmites at bay. It's a meadow in the broadest sense of the word, because there are eleven trees on the lot. Yard waste accumulates in brush piles which is attractive to birds. The tall grass in the spring is inviting to rabbits' procreation. Black rat snakes come and go – this year they seem to be around as evidenced by the skins I've found twice. I've seen one slither out of the meadow into the grassy driveway that encircles it. When a 60-year old Red maple had to be removed, the snake(s) disappeared. So, I "borrowed" a Black rat snake from a friend who was anxious to get rid of it. His chickens were happier to see it come to my place. It seems to have survived its relocation.

With the above elements on my property, I applied for the National Wildlife Federation's Habitat Certification. There's a [great video](#) about that effort on their website www.nwf.org. Now that I'm retired I'm ready to try enhancing my meadow. I hope to learn more about meadows by researching the topic for this issue. Let me know if you have any experience with or knowledge of meadows that you would like to share.

Cindy Albright

More....about meadows

Meadows are generally acknowledged to be grassy openings in landscapes with trees, often associated with streams or creeks. Meadows can be composed of indigenous species, or they can be mixes of both native and introduced or exotic species. Its plant species are the "hair of the earth" as Karl Foerster a German horticulturist put it.



The meadow garden at River Farm, headquarters of the American Horticulture Society catches light as it passes through their leaves and grasses glow in late or early

light. Similarly, my meadow at Newcroft (above) catches early morning light.

Mowers, blowers, and edgers create tons of air pollution a day. Chemicals used on the average lawn are more often abused by untrained amateurs, not professional lawn services. Most conventional lawn grasses need 30 to 40 mowings a year to maintain their manicured appearance. And, constant cutting requires constant watering and feeding. Natural lawns can function as conventional turf doing what a lawn does. Or, consider converting part of your traditional lawn to a meadow, as I have done.

Meadows, by attracting a diversity of "life," are animated, alive with rhythmic movement, catching both wind and light. No lawn can do that. And—properly designed—meadows require less maintenance and consume significantly less resources than lawn or border. A meadow is a symphony of color, light and texture. Any one plot of meadow may look amorphous but actually it is rich in plant species interwoven to make a living cloth.

Resources & Reviews

[The American Meadow Garden: Creating a Natural Alternative to the Traditional Lawn](#)

John Greenlee

Timber Press, 2009

Greenlee's dynamic garden designs are paired with Holt's splendid photographs in a beautifully produced, information-packed volume that looks at meadows in the context of garden spaces large or small.

Resources & Reviews

[Rain Gardens: Managing Water Sustainably in the Garden and Designed Landscape](#)

Authored by Nigel Dunnett and Andy Clayden The authors explain the various methods of creating rain-gardening systems. Structures as small as a garden shed and hard surfaces as massive as an arena parking lot each have an environmental effect through the loss of water as uncontained runoff. (2007)

Lewes Rain Garden - Plant List

University of DE College of Earth, Ocean and Environment

In the summer of 2010, a new rain garden was installed* at the base of the parking lot at the college.

Below are the plants used which you might consider if you want to create a rain garden.

It was a brutal summer, heat wise, therefore irrigation was used to get the plants started.

	Common Name	Latin Name	Cultivar	Qty
Trees	Magnolia-Sweetbay	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>		1
	Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier x grandiflora</i>	' Autumn Brilliance'	1
	Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier lamarckii</i>		1
Shrubs	Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	' Bluecrop'	6
	Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	' Blueray'	6
	Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>		5
	Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	' Sputnik'	17
	Chokeberry	<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	' Brilliantissima'	13
	Clethra	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	' Hummingbird'	25
	Dogwood-Redtwig	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	' Farrow' Arctic Fire™	3
	Holly-Inkberry	<i>Ilex glabra</i>	' Densa'	26
	Holly-Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	' Harvest Red'	12
	Holly-Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	' Jim Dandy'	1
	Viburnum	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	' Christom' Blue Muffin™	11
Perennials	Amsonia	<i>Amsonia</i>	' Blue Ice'	25
	Aster-Aromatic	<i>Aster oblongifolius</i>	' October Skies'	25
	Aster-Aromatic	<i>Aster oblongifolius</i>	' Raydon's Favorite'	25
	Aster-New England	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>		25
	Blazing Star	<i>Liatris spicata</i>	' Kobold'	25
	Cardinal Flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>		25
	Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	' Magnus'	15
	Goldenrod	<i>Solidago rugosa</i>	' Fireworks'	75
	Goldenrod	<i>Solidago sphacelata</i>	' Golden Fleece'	25
	Hibiscus	<i>Hibiscus</i>	' Kopper King'	17
	Iris	<i>Iris versicolor</i>		75
	Joe-Pye Weed	<i>Eupatorium</i>	' Little Joe'	23
	Prairie Dropseed	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>		50
	Sedge-Tufted	<i>Carex elata</i>		25
	Turtlehead	<i>Chelone lyonii</i>	' Hot Lips'	25

*Garden created by Tom Taylor
University of Delaware

Gardening With Native Plants

Horsemint *Monarda punctata*

NATURAL HISTORY

What do Spotted Horsemint, Horsemint, Dotted Horsemint, Spotted Bee Balm, and Bee Balm have in common? Yep, you guessed it, they are all common names for *Monarda punctata*, a member of the mint family that is native to eastern North America from Vermont to Minnesota and south to Florida, eastern Texas and Mexico, and depending on where you live you might have grown up referring to *Monarda punctata* by any of these locally familiar names. Regardless, if you are familiar with 'Horsemint' you may have come to admire it for its exceptional attractiveness to butterflies, moths and hummingbirds, or you may remember crushing the leaves for its delightful fragrance reminiscent of fine oregano. The case can also be made for its pale yellow flowers, spotted with purple that rest above colorful palettes of soft pink leaves that your mom might have used as an addition to dried flower arrangements or sachets. In fact the botanical name *punctata* comes from the Latin generally meaning dotted. Regardless, Horsemint makes a fine addition to your perennial flower bed! The plants grow from one to three feet tall and are largely un-branched except for a few short leafy stems that develop from the axils of the leaves along the central stem. It is generally a short-lived perennial, but what it lacks in hardiness it makes up for in its ability to reseed, keeping a bouquet of aromatic one inch flowers blooming for one to two months from mid-summer to early fall. The nectar and pollen of the flowers attract honeybees, bumblebees, Miner bees and Plasterer bees. Butterflies visit the flowers for nectar, including the endangered Karner Blue, which is found in sandy habitats. Horsemint is also a host plant for caterpillars of the Pyralid Moth and the Gray Marvel. Have a deer problem? The oregano-scented foliage is repugnant to mammalian herbivores and rarely consumed by them!



Monarda punctata
Photo: Cindy Albright

WHERE TO GROW

Horsemint grows on road shoulders, in old fields and thin woods, and in disturbed areas. It is partial to sandy soils and is most prevalent in the coastal plain. It is tolerant of deer, pollution, seashore, slope and wind and salt spray. It grows best in full sun to part shade in neutral acidity and is moderately tolerant of drought. It may be used in the landscape as a summer ground cover in a small garden and presents a nice massed display in a perennial border. Provide occasional irrigation in drought if soil drains excessively. Horsemint is perfect for the wild or meadow garden or in the back border. Let it self-seed in a natural area.

PROPAGATION AND CARE

To propagate from seed, allow the seed-heads to dry on the plants. Seeds may be stored in a dry cool dark space for later planting. Sow mid to late spring in a cold frame. Germination usually takes place within 10 - 40 days. When large enough to handle, prick the seedlings out into individual pots and plant them out into their permanent positions in early summer. Seeds may also be directly sown in their permanent location in the fall if winters are not extremely harsh! Divisions may be taken in spring or autumn. It is better to pot up the smaller divisions and grow them in light shade in a cold frame until they are well established before planting them out in late spring or early summer. Plant spacing should be 24 to 36 inches.

LORE

Native Americans made a tea from the leaves of horsemint to treat flu, colds and fever. It increases sweating. Essential oils from horsemint are high in Thymol, which is an effective fungicide and bactericide and also used to expel hookworms. At one point Thymol was grown from commercially available thyme. In WWI, thyme fields in Europe were destroyed, so Horsemint was grown commercially in the United States as a substitute for Thyme. Traditionally Drs. used the plant as a stimulant and diuretic. Today Thymol is manufactured synthetically. Medicinal uses included treatment of upset stomach, colds, diarrhea, neuralgia, and muscular rheumatism. Horsemint flowers are uniquely attractive and great for cutting and arranging and can be hung in the house as incense!

Bob Edelen, DNPS Member

Resources & Reviews

[Peterson Flash Guide: Roadside Wildflowers](#)

More than 100 species—all the wildflowers most commonly found along roadsides across the United States and Canada, Houghton Mifflin 1996.

Resources & Reviews

Native Plants of Delmarva's Coastal Plain by Margaret Carter

The Wild Gardener Series, prepared by the Maryland Master Gardeners of Queen Anne's County in cooperation with Adkins Arboretum. This is a brochure that may be obtained from Adkins Arboretum.

NEWS FROM THE DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL Sept. 3, 2010

Amaranthus pumilus Rafinesque



Seabeach amaranth is listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. Searches of likely amaranth habitat are conducted

in Delaware three times a year: late July, mid-August and late August/early September. ¶ "Early searches for amaranth turned up only three plants, all at Cape Henlopen. However, a survey done at Delaware Seashore State Park on Aug. 26 turned up 25 new seabeach amaranth plants," said Bailey. ¶ All of the known amaranth plants are inside areas that are fenced and posted as being closed to entry. "Since some of the amaranth plants that have been found are only about the size of a dime in diameter, they can be very hard to see – and very easy to step on – so it is important for people to stay outside of any area that has been posted as closed," Bailey added. ¶ "With Hurricane Earl due to arrive today, we will be keeping our fingers crossed that any seabeach amaranth that is out on our beaches will not be swept away before it has a chance to set seed," Bailey said. "Of the amaranth plants that have been found so far in 2010, none have yet progressed past the flower stage, so, viable seeds have not had time to develop yet."

DELAWARE HIGHWAY MEMORIAL GARDEN MARKS 3RD ANNIVERSARY



The Delaware Highway Memorial Garden opened to the public on October 15, 2007. It is the only place in Delaware as a place of remembrance dedicated solely to those who have lost their lives on Delaware roadways. Memorial bricks are available for purchase for those lost in roadway accidents. ¶ Located on the grounds of the Smyrna Rest Area, the 11,000 square foot garden is a creative blend of native trees, shrubs, and flowering plants. There is a beautiful pond in the middle of the garden. The garden's pathway is outlined with bricks engraved with the names of individuals who give the garden its character and significance. The Delaware Highway Memorial Garden is embodied by the slogan, "Our Garden of Love, Peace, Healing, and Remembrance".



It is a peaceful setting wonderfully landscaped with native plants such as spicebush, dogwood, winterberry, viburnum, joe-pye weed, cone-flower, goldenrod, aster, Indian pink, and various warm season grasses. ¶ The next time you pass by the Smyrna Rest Stop, make it point to stop in, walk to the rear of the property towards the back parking lot and enjoy this wonderful garden!

Photos and text by Rick Mickowski
DNREC Conservation Planner

10th Annual Native Plant Sale

When: Saturday, 6 November 2010, 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.

Leave the Cleanup for Spring: Fall is for Planting and Providing for Wildlife *

By Sue Windham

This year, don't spend the gorgeous fall days on the drudgery of garden cleanup, but instead use the time for planting. Late-blooming perennials add soft shades of blues and pinks to the fall landscape. The blue mist flower (*Eupatorium coelestinum*) reaches only 2", but lavender-flowering Joe-pye weed (*Eupatorium fistulosum*) can reach 5' in height. New England and New York asters (*Aster nova-angliae* and *Aster novi-belgii*) attract pollinators. To attract birds and small mammals, consider adding evergreen shrubs or trees that provide year-round seasonal interest to the garden palette while also supplying wildlife with a winter food source and escape cover from predators and freezing winds. Planting that include species like bayberry (*Morella cerifera* and *Morella pensylvanica*), eastern red cedar trees (*Juniperus virginiana*) and Virginia pine trees (*Pinus virginiana*) will provide small birds protection. The Cedar waxwing is partial to the cedar tree's blue berries. ¶ Nothing is more gratifying after a day's hard work in the garden than the knowledge that your property is not only more attractive, but is also serving local wildlife.

*From the Fall 2009 *Native Seed* Newsletter of Adkins Arboretum

New Campaign Promotes Regional Rain Gardens: Improves Water Quality in Bays

The *Rain Gardens for the Bays* program hopes to create 1,000 rain gardens in estuarine watersheds throughout DE, southeastern PA and coastal MD. Several campaign partners are working with homeowners, organizations, schools and others to provide assistance with installing rain gardens. Demonstration rain gardens are located at St. Jones Reserve, University of DE Lewes Campus and the DE Agricultural Museum in Dover.

According to the Center for Watershed Protection, typically about 30 percent more water from a rain soaks into the ground in a rain garden than the same size area of lawn. When rainwater from storms comes in contact with buildings, roads, parking lots and other impervious surfaces, the runoff collects pollutants and deposits these pollutants in nearby waterways.

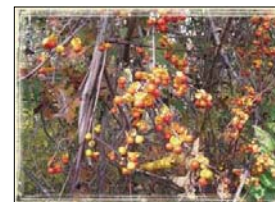
Visit raingardensforthebays.org to register your rain garden or for more information.

Upcoming Events

Adkins Arboretum Program

Is It an Invading Alien? Invasive Plant Identification Workshop - November 18

Learn how to identify common invasive species and how to control them in your backyard. Participants will examine pictures and plant samples to learn to distinguish invasive plants from natives. Control methods covered include mechanical and chemical methods with an emphasis on safety and minimizing the effect of control methods on surrounding plants. Weather permitting, most of the class will be held outdoors. The instructor, Dr. Sylvan Kaufman, is co-author with her father, Wallace Kaufman, of *Invasive Plants: Guide to Identification and the Impacts and Control of Common North American Species*.



Invasive species Celastrus orbiculatus fruits

Thursday, November 18, 1-2:30 PM

Fee: \$10 members, \$15 general public

Dr. Sylvan Kaufman will be speaking on what will happen to the Delmarva's plant communities as climates change over time. For more information and to register online go to adkinsarboretum.org.

Wednesday, 17 November 2010—[Collect seed and grow your own native plants](#). 10:30 AM – Noon

Instructors: Phil Oyerly, Shelby French, Mt. Cuba Center For more information call 302.239.4244, or on the web at mtcubacenter.org.

Saturday, 4 December 2010—Adkins Arboretum holiday greens sale from 10 AM to 4 PM. Decorated wreaths, swags, topiaries, roping, and boxwood trees will be for sale, as well as fresh local greens and natural materials to create your own arrangements. More information on the web at <http://www.adkinsarboretum.org>.

DNPS meetings for 2011—As part of our organizational restructuring, and as of 1 January 2011, we will no longer be having bi-monthly meetings. One idea that we are pursuing is having up to 4 other types of events per year (so quarterly instead of bi-monthly), such as one workshop, one symposium, and an annual meeting which would include a field trip and lunch, and each one of these meetings would include a short business section (though most day-to-day business is now going to be handled through email among the officers). The annual native plant sale is still going to be held on the same date (the first Saturday of each November). We are still working on this and if anyone is interested in helping us to plan these workshops and symposiums, we could really use the help. Please contact Eric at ezuelke@juno.com if interested, and details of each meeting will be on our website: www.delawarenativeplants.org.

Website update

On 7 April 2009 we added Google Analytics to the source code of our site to track a myriad of statistics about visitation. Here are the stats through 9 Oct 2010.

Number of total visits: 6,581

Number that were absolute unique visitors: 5,395 (81.9%)*

New vs. returning visits: 5,376 new (81.6%), 1,205 return (18.3%)*

Average time spent browsing: 2 min. 29 sec.

Average # of pages browsed: 4.5

Pages with most clicks: Nursery, Plant Talk, Publications

Places: U.S.A. (all 50 states), 64 other countries/territories

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*Absolute Unique Visitors counts visitors, whereas New vs. Returning counts visits.

Membership Application

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 \$ _____

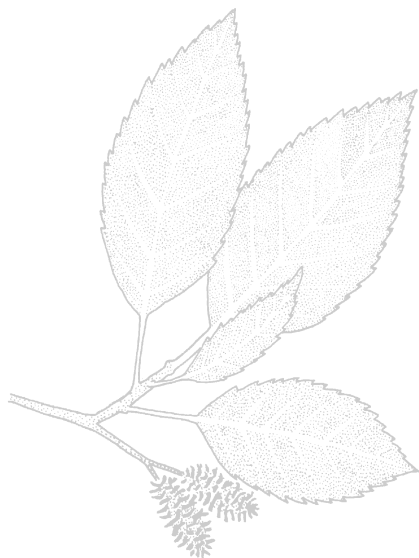
Membership benefits include:

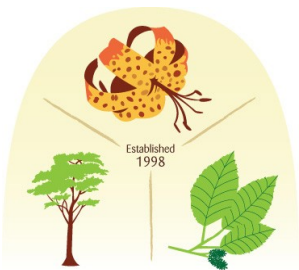
- * The DNPS quarterly newsletter, The Turk's Cap
- * Native plant gardening and landscaping information
- * Speakers, field trips, native plant nursery and sales

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**





THE TURK'S CAP

Volume 13, Number 4
Winter 2010/11

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DELAWARE NATIVE PLANT

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NATURAL QUOTES

"I must favor the plants I have raised from seed. Propagation from seed has been my obsession for the last 25 years or more."

[Geoffrey Charlesworth](#) *

*see Resources & Reviews on page 2

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?

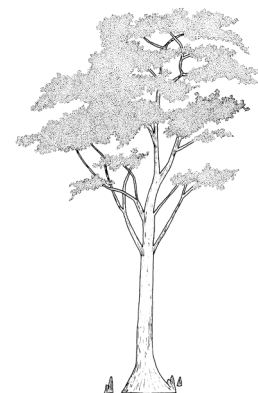
The Delaware Native Plant Society is open to everyone ranging from the novice gardener to the professional botanist. One of the primary goals of the society is to involve as many individuals as possible.

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.



Winter at Newcroft



Notes from Newcroft

This January, I am thinking about ways to increase the enjoyment of my meadow at Newcroft. It borders a wetland and has some trees. I've noticed for many years that there are persimmon trees in Cape Henlopen State Park. Hal Bruce in his "How to Grow Wildflowers & Wild Shrubs & Trees in Your Own Garden" says persimmon trees withstand much wind and salt and can grow on barrier dunes. Therefore, I assume I can grow them at the edge of my meadow where conditions aren't as harsh as over by the ocean four miles away.

As a child visiting an uncle's farm in Southern Indiana, I was duped into tasting a persimmon from one of his trees before the first frost. As Bob Edelen mentions in his article on page 4, my mouth puckered from the affects of the astringent tannin of the unripe fruit.

Subsequently, I enjoyed many persimmon puddings prepared by an aunt when she could find the persimmon pulp. I just found that I could purchase [persimmon pulp online](#). I might resurrect that family recipe.

In checking with a local nurseryman, I discovered it might be many years before newly-planted trees would bear fruit (six to ten years). However, I'm willing to invest in a fruit-bearing tree for my grandchildren.

Cindy Albright
cindy@cindyalbright.com

Delaware Native Plant Walk

[Riverfront Wilmington—Riverwalk](#)

Park your car and stretch your legs along the Riverwalk. This 1.3-mile riverfront path provides pedestrian access to attractions from Tubman-Garrett Riverfront Park to a nature center. Strollers can enjoy extensive *native plantings* with more than 5,000 trees and shrubs, 36,000 grasses, perennials and annuals, and 27,600 wetland plants. At the eastern end of Wilmington's Riverwalk lies



Native plants on both sides of the Riverwalk



the [Dupont Environmental Education Center at the Russell W. Peterson Wildlife Refuge](#), one of the few urban refuges in the country.

What a great concept: an urban wildlife refuge along Wilmington's Riverfront. Not only do Riverfront visitors gain a unique environmental experience, the city's residents and schoolchildren have access to wildlife education and recreation. An extensive marsh restoration process began in 1998, and has already enabled beneficial vegetation to flourish in the marsh and provide habitat for wetland wildlife.

The refuge is named after 94 year-old Russell W. Peterson, former Governor of Delaware who gained international recognition as an environmentalist, scientist, activist and public servant. He created the Coastal Zone Act in 1971 which ensured that industry has not developed along the Delaware River and the DE Atlantic Coast. Our hero.

South Madison St., Wilmington, DE 19801 Phone: (302) 425-4890.
[Visit Website](#)

Resources & Reviews

[The Collector's Garden](#) by Ken Druse, Timber Press, 2004.

Geoffrey Charlesworth and Norman Singer proselytized using the power of propagation and practiced what they preached by starting seeds of 3,000 different plants every year. See pgs. 49-51

See Bob Edelen's column about starting persimmon trees from seed on page 4.

Resources & Reviews

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

Authored by Carol Levine, and Dick Rauh. 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.



2010 Native Plant Sale Results

Our 10th annual native plant sale was again a huge success thanks to everyone involved. We experienced a very chilly day which may have deterred people slightly as our numbers were down from past years. We did \$1,442.00 in pure plant sales, which yielded a "profit" for us of just under \$662.00 (we bulked up our inventory with purchased plants this year a little more than in past years). Our annual plant sale is our only true fund raising event of the year and every little bit helps! We'd also like to thank everyone who came out and helped to label, price, haul plants, or brought food. You are all essential and greatly appreciated!

Here are the results:

	2008	2009	2010
Species available	90	78	52
Plants available	1235	1113	908
Plants sold	603	661	440
Customers	70	74	48
Booklets sold	6	5	2
Checklists sold	0	0	0
Calendars sold	1	0	0

Website update



On 7 April 2009 we added Google Analytics to the source code of our site to track a myriad of statistics about visitation. Here are the stats through 31 Dec 2010.

*Note: This will be our last website update. The numbers have stabilized and averaged out to the point now where they don't change very much anymore. It was nice to track it in the beginning, but new data doesn't reveal much now, and the statistics and percentages you see in this last report are becoming relatively static.

Number of total visits: 7,242

Number that were absolute unique visitors: 5,906 (81.5%)*

New vs. returning visits: 5,886 new (81.28%), 1,356 return (18.72%)*

Average time spent browsing: 2 min. 28 sec.

Average # of pages browsed: 4.5

Pages with most clicks: Nursery, Plant Talk, Publications
Places: U.S.A. (all 50 states), 64 other countries/territories

How we were located:

62% from a search engine

25% from a referring site

12% from direct traffic

*Absolute Unique Visitors counts visitors, whereas New vs. Returning counts visits.

GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS***Diospyros virginiana*****Natural History**

As a youngster growing up in the Maryland suburbs of Washington D.C., I was blessed to live in a home with uncountable acres of woodlands surrounding our backyard. One of the trees in our yard, as well as the adjoining woods, was *Diospyros virginiana* or American persimmon. My first encounter with the fruit of this exciting new tree was when a friend told me how delicious the beautiful 1 ½ inch orbs were. We eagerly took the first bite and immediately assumed we had been poisoned! Our mouths puckered from the affects of the astringent tannin of the unripe fruit – a lesson well learned. Well, since that time many years ago, I have enjoyed many persimmon fruits always being sure of their ripeness before that first bite! Did you ever hear the term ‘happy as a possum eating persimmons’? Well certainly people are not the only creatures that enjoy this popular fruit. Leaves and twigs of persimmon are eaten in fall and winter by white-tailed deer. The fruit is eaten by squirrel, fox, skunk, deer, bear, coyote, raccoon, opossum, and numerous birds, including quail, wild turkey, cedar waxwing, and catbird. Locally persimmons can take a variety of names including simmon, possumwood, date-plum, American ebony, white ebony, barabara, boa-wood, and butterwood. Persimmon ranges from New England to Florida, and west to Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas. The fruit is round or oval and usually orange-yellow, ranging to bluish, in color and from 0.8 to 2.4 inches in diameter. The meaning of the name *Diospyros* is fruit of the gods. The common name, persimmon, is the American Indian word for the fruit. Persimmon produces fragrant flowers in March-June producing nectar significant for bees in honey production. Fruits ripen in September-November. A good rule of thumb for determining ripeness is to wait until a hard frost has occurred, although softened fruits freshly fallen from the tree prior to a frost should be fine, or you can simply get your spouse to try one first!

**Where to Grow**

Persimmon makes an absolutely beautiful addition to the landscape! In thick woods, persimmon will grow tall and upright. The *Big Trees of Delaware* identifies trees attaining heights of 62 and 67 feet. However, allowed to grow without competition, the persimmon tree will form a well rounded many branched specimen – beautiful! Persimmon is a hardy tree adaptable to a wide range of soils and climates and resistant to most insects and diseases. Moist, well-drained soils provide best conditions but the plant will tolerate hot, dry, poor soils, including various city conditions. Fruiting typically begins when the tree is about six years old with optimum fruit-bearing age at 25-50 years. Both male and female trees are necessary to set fruit. Good fruit crops are borne every two years. Persimmon sends down a deep taproot, which makes it a good species for erosion control but makes it difficult to transplant. It thrives in full sun but is also shade-tolerant and can persist in the understory. Persimmon is valued as an ornamental because of its hardiness, adaptability to a wide range of soils and climates, its lustrous leaves, its abundant crop of fruits, and its immunity from disease and insects.

Propagation

I well remember the day of our first Native Plant Sale at the St. Jones Preserve. Keith Clancy and I went out to put up some signs and along the fence row leading up to the preserve, there were two persimmon trees loaded with fruit. We stopped, picked perhaps 20 fruits off the ground and I took them home to plant in my cold frame. The following spring after removing the blanket of leaves I customarily use to help over winter the plants, lo and behold every seed sprouted! Needless to say if I can do it anyone can! According to literature, seeds should be cleaned and spread out for drying for a day or two and then stratified under moist conditions for two to three months at 33° to 40° F. They should be soaked two to three days before planting. They should be planted in spring or fall in shallow drills in light soils with plenty of humus and covered to a depth of about 0.5 inches. Me, I cleaned the seeds, stuck them in pots in a good potting

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

[Wildflowers and winter weeds](#), 258 pgs. 1997

Authored by Lauren Brown. "This book will be a joy to those wood-walkers and strollers who have been puzzled by the skeletal remains of herbaceous plants that they see in winter." Roger Tory Peterson

GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

Continued from page 4

mix, put them on the cold frame, covered them with a thick blanket of leaves and said good night – worked perfectly!

Lore

Persimmon has been cultivated for its fruit and wood since prehistoric times by Native Americans. The inner bark and unripe fruit were sometimes used in treatment of fevers, diarrhea, and hemorrhage and indelible ink was made from fruit. In the American South and Midwest, the fruits are popular in desserts and cuisine. The fruit is high in vitamin C and may be eaten raw, cooked or dried. Molasses can be made from the fruit pulp. A tea can be made from the leaves and the roasted seed is used as a coffee substitute. Other popular uses include desserts such as persimmon pie, persimmon pudding, or persimmon candy – yum! The fruit is also fermented with hops, cornmeal or wheat bran into a sort of beer or made into brandy – yee-haw! The wood of common persimmon is hard, smooth, and even textured and its hardness and shock resistance make it ideal for textile shuttles and heads for driver golf clubs.

Bob Edelen



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

"The entire book is only 58 pages long and easily fits in a pocket or backpack. Page 1 includes a nice diagram and description of the parts of a twig. Then you progress through a series of questions and drawings that helps you arrive at the identification of the tree. The last few pages include an index and the rear cover has a little measuring rule."

Don't Use Cypress Mulch*

Why kill a tree to grow a flower? That's the question a Florida Native Plant Society chapter is asking in its [brochure urging people not to use cypress mulch](#). The next time you are tempted by the stacks of cypress mulch available at the garden supply store, consider this:

- ◆ Thousands of acres of cypress are logged every year from Florida's native wetlands simply to produce mulch.
- ◆ The old idea that cypress is superior to other mulches is not true anymore. The young cypress that are harvested today do not decay nor are pest resistant and do not make a superior mulch.
- ◆ Florida's unique cypress forest is a treasure with an important ecological role.

You can help save cypress forests by using environmentally friendly mulch. Switch to alternative mulches such as:

- ◆ Recycled yard waste
- ◆ Hardwood mulch
- ◆ Pine bark
- ◆ Pine needles
- ◆ Fallen leaves

* Article from the Autumn 2010 issue of the "Inpaws Journal", newsletter of the [Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society](#)

[Discover the Wonders of Gardening with Native Plants](#)

by Michael Dorn, 112 pgs, 2010

Choose from 85 native trees, shrubs, and vines to incorporate into your landscape in *Native Woody Landscape and Restoration Plants of the Eastern United States*. Expert Michael L. Dorn has written the new must-have native woody plant book for Eastern United States homeowners, designers, contractors, nurseries, and students.

Create woodland gardens, restore stream banks or wetlands, stabilize shorelines, construct buffers, enhance habitat, and more. Dorn's 246 color photographs show beautifully, the physical characteristics of each plant. Reference charts help you locate specific plants for particular purposes. *Native Woody Landscape and Restoration Plants of the Eastern United States* is the most valuable native plant reference guide available today.

Michael L. Dorn received a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture and a Master of Science in Botany from Clemson University. There, he propagated and grew native plants for a shoreline restoration and wetland research project. Taking part in experimental projects involving erosion control, restoration, and habitat enhancement, Dorn's passion for native plant use flourished.

Today, Dorn's Landscape Services, LLC, provides traditional landscaping, in addition to shoreline stabilization design services, incorporating native plantings. The author's designs often enable lake property owners to acquire shoreline stabilization permits.

Dorn's new book describes the physical characteristics like size, shape, flowers, and leaf color, of each plant. Ideal soil conditions, light exposure, and pruning times are shared in an easy to use reference every student, landscaper, or gardener will keep by their side. The types of wildlife the plants benefit (butterfly, songbird, turkey, deer, etc.) are also discussed.

Native Woody Landscape and Restoration Plants of the Eastern United States sells for \$29.95, and can be purchased from Michael Dorn. The contact number for ordering is 864-324-4040. The author is also available for speaking engagements.

Purchase online at: www.nativeplantbook.com in both book and Kindle formats. Published by Shore Publications, www.ohiopyle.info; shorepublications@yahoo.com. 145 River Street, Adah, PA 15410 Cell: 724-710-7801 shorepublications@yahoo.com

Current Articles and Booklets***January's Golden Bouquet***

"While most of the plant world sleeps, a few twigs are blooming."

[The Washington Post "Urban Jungle"](#) column recently highlighted plants that bloom in the winter. Included was Witch hazel *Hamamelis virginiana*. Robert Frost lamented "The flowers of the witch hazel wither" in his poem *Reluctance*. For most of us in the Mid-Atlantic area the blossoms are probably also withered.

The National Arboretum in Washington, DC has a selection of witch hazels. The native witch hazels have clear, lemon-yellow blooms that look like shredded coconut. The leaves turn yellow in the fall and it is moderately drought tolerant. These can be found in Fern Valley at the arboretum (which is their native plant collection) and in the azalea collections.

The Brooklyn Botanical Garden (BBG) has a large collection of witch hazels, some native. A native son of Delaware, Ulrich Lorimer, is curator of Native Flora and a contributor to one of their booklets "[Great Natives for Tough Places](#)."

The Arnold Arboretum has claimed that there is a tree or shrub in bloom every month of the year on its grounds in Jamaica Plain, Mass. In many years this assertion is true, but only because of a single genus of plants, *Hamamelis*.

Editor's note: I'll never forget buying a house in Wilmington, DE in which the previous owner, a botanist for the Dupont Company, had edged the backyard with a number of native and non-native small trees and shrubs. After reading about witch hazel blooming in the winter, I dragged my two young sons over to Winterthur for an outing. I was able to find the Winterhazel *Corylopsis* plants, but not witch hazel. When we returned home, I dug out the forgotten list of plants I had made on a walk around the backyard with the previous owner. Lo and behold, there was a witch hazel blooming in my own backyard.

Upcoming Events

Spring 2011—Mt. Cuba Center

Going Native Mini-Symposium

"A sneak peak at native plant research and nursery trends"

Saturday, March 12

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

\$75 (morning refreshments and lunch included)

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

Winter/Spring 2011—Adkins Arboretum

"Landscape Audits—Sustainability of Your Landscape"

Wednesday, March 16, 1-2:30 p.m.

Your home landscape should be more than just a pretty face. It should also be a healthy ecosystem, supporting biodiversity, infiltrating water, storing carbon, cooling the air, and supplying all the functions known as ecosystem services. In this presentation, look at your landscape through a "green" lens, learn the basics of landscape audits, and find out how to analyze your landscape to improve sustainability and enjoy functionality as well as beauty. More information or to register for this or other classes, visit adkinsarboretum.org.

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

April 28 - 29, 2011 - 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm (DNS Members Only Sale)

April 30, 2011 - 10:00 am to 5:00 pm (Open to the public)

May 1, 2011 - 12:00 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.

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

DNPS meetings for 2011—As part of our organizational restructuring, and as of 1 January 2011, we will no longer be having bi-monthly meetings. One idea that we are pursuing is having up to four other types of events per year (so quarterly instead of bi-monthly), such as one workshop, one symposium, and an annual meeting which would include a field trip and lunch, and each one of these meetings would include a short business section (though most day-to-day business is now going to be handled through email among the officers). The annual native plant sale is still going to be held on the same date (the first Saturday of each November). We are still working on this and if anyone is interested in helping us to plan these workshops and symposiums, we could really use the help. Please contact Eric at ezuelke@juno.com if interested, and details of each meeting will be on our website: 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: _____

- ☐ 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: \$ _____

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