

# The Turk's Cap

*The Newsletter Of The Delaware Native Plant Society*

[www.delawarenativeplants.org](http://www.delawarenativeplants.org)

Check out page 5 for a list of area events and activities.

## One Step at a Time: Diversify Your Home Landscape by Rick Mickowski, Editor

On March 16th, I attended one of the many excellent lectures/workshops held at Mt. Cuba Center. This lecture featured Connie Schmotzer, Consumer Horticulture Educator in York, PA. Connie did a wonderful presentation about her and her husband's journey over the past 15 years to transform their typical 1/4 acre suburban lot into a native landscape. She called her presentation **"From Suburban Yard to Native Paradise"**. They began small and made changes over several years. The goal was five-fold:

- |                                                |                                            |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1) Increase the biodiversity of their property | 1.) Start small.                           |
| 2) Conserve water                              | 2.) Plants vary with light, soil, moisture |
| 3) Learn more about native plants              | 3.) Succession happens.                    |
| 4) Use little to no pesticides                 | 4.) Keep a grass border.                   |
| 5) Reduce the amount of lawn                   | 5.) Keep paths four feet wide.             |



They examined the layout of their property and identified the existing plants and where there was sun or shade. A walk around their yard and the neighborhood revealed that 75%-89% of the plants were non-native. Connie's first native garden was a woodland garden followed by a shady patio garden, two front yard rain gardens, two pocket meadows along the curb and entrance sidewalk along with a light post garden and then two larger meadows in the front yard. Some of the steps to remember in creating your native landscape are:

- 1) Inventory plants on the property
- 2) Identify and remove invasive plants
- 3) Test the soil—fertility, pH
- 4) Identify possible ecological niches—patterns of light, drainage, etc.
- 5) Decide where you need to have lawn
- 6) Create a master plan, set realistic goals, go slowly, start small
- 7) Plant close together—don't leave bare ground



Pocket Meadow in front yard

**News Flash:** Spring lecture by DNPS member Eric Zuelke on native plants to attract birds to your property. Saturday April 14th from 10 a.m.—2 p.m. at the St. Jones Reserve in Dover. To register, contact Eric Wahl at [EWahl@elementdg.com](mailto:EWahl@elementdg.com).

## Message from the President



It seems like spring is finally here after some ruckus weather in March; and from the forecaster's predictions April is going to be a very wet month. Let's hope the old adage

rings true: April showers bring May flowers.

Much thanks to our members and guests who attended our Annual Symposium last year. We again had a very good turn-out, and are anticipating another successful season of events and symposiums this year.

As part of our upcoming Spring Event on April 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be discussing the next volunteer day of planting at the Native Plant Garden. Late last year we enjoyed a day in the garden at the University of Delaware's Lewes campus with some light clean-up. This year, we will continue with a planting day to help get this garden back into shape. The date we have set aside for this event is May 12<sup>th</sup>. More information will be given at our Spring Event and on our social media pages.

As always, thanks to all our members, and especially to those that volunteer their time and effort to make our organization a continued success.

Happy Spring!

Eric Wahl, President

### 2018 Schedule of Events

|              |                                           |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------|
| April 14th   | Spring Symposium                          |
| May 12th     | Planting Day at Native Plant Garden       |
| June TBD     | Trip to Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve |
| August TBD   | Visit to Southern DE Botanic Garden       |
| September 29 | Fall Symposium with Doug Tallamy          |

Other events may added and notification will go out via email to membership and be posted on Facebook.

## Scenes from the Fall Symposium



George Coombs talked about the plant trials at Mt. Cuba Center. He just started a 3-year trial of species of sedges (*Carex*). Nancy Lawson, author of "The Humane Gardener" talked about the fear of having a "messy" garden and the need for plant debris.

Native plant is a term to describe plants endemic (indigenous) or naturalized to a given area in geologic time.

This includes plants that have developed, occur naturally, or existed for many years in an area (e.g. trees, flowers, grasses, and other plants). In North America a plant is often deemed native if it was present before colonization.

Some native plants have adapted to a very limited, unusual environments or very harsh climates or exceptional soil conditions. Although some types of plants for these reasons exist only within a very limited range (endemism), others can live in diverse areas or by adaptation to different surroundings (indigenous plant).

Questions or comments please contact Rick Mickowski, newsletter editor at [rick.mickowski@state.de.us](mailto:rick.mickowski@state.de.us) or at 302-832-3100 ext. 8979. Member submissions encouraged!



DNPS Officer Team 2016-2018 from left to right:  
Eric Wahl - President, Rick Mickowski - Vice President, Eric Zuelke - Treasurer, and Alison Long - Secretary

# Volunteer Day at the Lewes Native Plant Garden A Resounding Success!

Last October, three Board members and several volunteers spent a beautiful morning at the UD Sharp Campus in Lewes performing some critically needed maintenance work on the native plant demonstration garden. Fortified with donuts and other goodies, the group spent several hours pruning, removing weeds, and removing invasive plants. When all was said and one, the back of a large truck bed was filled with the results of our hard labor.

The next workday is scheduled for Saturday, May 12th. Several varieties of native plant plugs will be planted by volunteers in various locations around the garden. Proposed varieties include:

- 1) Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
- 2) New York Ironweed (*Veronia noveboracensis*)
- 3) Joe Pye Weed or other (*Eupatoriums*)
- 4) Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
- 5) Blue Flag Iris (*Iris versicolor*)
- 6) Other varieties may also be considered.



Visit us on Facebook

[Delaware Native Plant Society](#)

# NATIVE PLANT HIGHLIGHT

## Button Bush

### *Cephalanthus occidentalis*

A popular cultivar of button bush is 'Sputnik' and when you see the flowers you'll understand the comparison. Another dwarf cultivar is "Sugar Shack" by Proven Winners. Buttonbush has one of the most unique flowers of any shrub, and butterflies think so too. Button bush is frequented by skippers, monarchs, and virtually any butterflies that happen to be passing by. The attractiveness to butterflies makes button bush an excellent alternative to the non-native, invasive butterfly bush (*Buddleia spp.*).



In addition to its attractiveness to butterflies, button bush also serves as a host plant for some of our largest and showiest moths including the titan sphinx (*Aellopos titan*), the hydrangea sphinx (*Darapsa versicolor*) and the royal walnut moth (*Citheronia regalis*). As one of the few shrubs that blooms in midsummer, and one that can tolerate shade, wet conditions, and even occasional flooding – you'd be hard pressed to find a more valuable or versatile native shrub.

As less frequently used common name of honeyball alludes to the shrubs' use as a source of nectar for beekeepers. Buttonbush once supported a vibrant regional beekeeping industry along the lower Mississippi floodplain. Today buttonbush is prized for its use in habitat restoration efforts where it is typically used

in wetland re-vegetation to stabilize soil.

I suppose it's worth mentioning the common name we use today derives from the button like seed heads that develop after the plant has finished blooming. These "buttons" persist into winter, turning a deep crimson providing winter interest to your landscape. The shrub also exhibits remarkable fall color, with deep reds and yellows. Given the showy blooms, fall color, red "buttons", and glossy green leaves – button bush is truly a 4-season shrub.

When growing button bush, it's natural tendency it

towards a leggy, gangly habit –

however, buttonbush can take heavy pruning so it can be coerced into a more rounded habit or trained into an upright specimen. If a dense, rounded shrub is desired, a

landscaper friend suggests planting three buttonbush at a time close together, about a foot apart which will provide a fuller appearance.

**Native Range:** Buttonbush is widely distributed across the U.S., occurring across most of the east, west to the great plains, and with scattered populations across the southwest and California.

**Best for:** Restoration, providing nectar for a diversity of pollinators, visual interest, and providing a larval host to some of our showiest moths!

**Profile written by Justin Wheeler, Web and Communications Specialist and reprinted with permission from the Xerces Society.**



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### April 2018—September 2018

**Various dates** The Mt. Cuba Center website and new catalogue has many interesting native plant classes and workshops listed. Go to [www.mtcubacenter.org](http://www.mtcubacenter.org) for a complete listing.

**April 7, 2018**—Copeland Native Plant Seminar co-sponsored by the Delaware Nature Society and Mt. Cuba Center. Features nationally recognized landscape designer Heather Holm and garden writer Barbara Ellis with afternoon garden tours and a container garden workshop. Cost is \$65.00 (\$50 for DNS members. Heather will talk on “Gardening for Bees and Butterflies” and Barbara Ellis will speak on “Greener Gardens: One Step at a Time.

**April 27-29, 2018**—Native Plant sale at the Adkins Arboretum in Maryland. Go to [www.adkinsarboretum.org](http://www.adkinsarboretum.org) for more information.

**April 28, 2018** UD Botanic Garden Plant Sale. Catalogue available on the website.

**April 29, 2018**—Wildflower Celebration at Mt. Cuba Center.

**May 5-6, 2018**—Delaware Nature Society Native Plant Sale at Coverdale Farm.

**May 5, 2018**—The Delaware Center for the Inland Bays is pleased to announce the 14th annual “Gardening for the Bays” Native Plant Sale! This year’s theme is *Planting for the Birds*. In addition to the plant vendors, the event will feature a food concession, informative displays, guided walks, raffles and entertainment. Held at the James Farm Ecological Preserve from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**May 11, 2018**—National Public Gardens Day

**May 12, 2018**—DNPS planting day at the native plant garden in Lewes, DE.

**June 6-9, 2018**—Native Plants in the Landscape Conference at Millersville University. Check out the website at [Millersvillenativeplants.org](http://Millersvillenativeplants.org)

**June 18, 2018**—DE Center for Horticulture day trip to Southern DE Botanic Garden with lunch at Dogfish Head Brewery and stop at Pepper’s Greenhouses. Cost: \$65 (DCH members) or \$110.

**September 11, 2018**—Coastal Plain Ecology Field Trip with Bill McAvoy through Mt. Cuba Center.

**September 29, 2018**—Fall Symposium at the Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center conference room from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. Guest speaker will be Professor Doug Tallamy from the University of Delaware and author of the book “Bringing Nature Home”.

#### Native Plant Resources

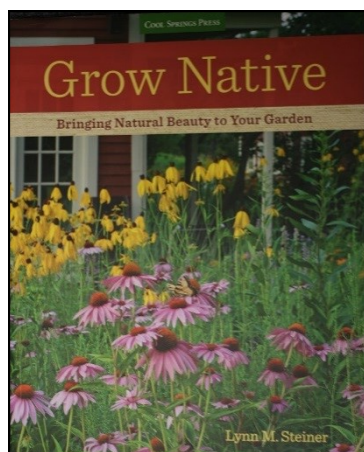
**Izel** - An online Marketplace for Native Plants. Go to [www.izelplants.com](http://www.izelplants.com).

**Mid-Atlantic Native Plant Farm** in New Freedom, PA. A wholesale grower that will sell and ship to regular customers. Find them at [www.midatlanticnatives.com](http://www.midatlanticnatives.com).

**Adkins Aboretum** native plant nursery in Maryland . Visit [www.adkinsarboretum.org](http://www.adkinsarboretum.org) for more details.

**Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve** in New Hope, PA has many native plant program offerings. Go to [www.bhwp.org](http://www.bhwp.org) for a complete listing.

## Native Plant Resources



Native plants: It's a phrase you have heard a lot about but what does it really mean? And why is it important to know?

At its most basic, a native plant is one that is endemic to the ecosystem where you live; it's a plant that has proven it can adapt and flourish in the yard or garden it shares with you and other flora and fauna. A native plant thrives in your unique environment, and other plants, insects, and animals you cherish have come to depend on its presence. Butterflies, birds, and bees expect to find it and are happy when they do.

Because they are so well adapted, native plants almost always require fewer inputs: less water, less fertilizer, and less maintenance. They tend to be stronger and live longer. And they also tend to be beautiful.

In **Grow Native**, you'll learn everything you need to know to design and cultivate a naturally beautiful yard that saves you money and provides homes and nourishment for wildlife. The list of benefits from growing native is long, and this new book from garden expert Lynn Steiner is the only tool you need to experience the joy of natives yourself. Lynn Steiner is one of the Upper Midwest's best-known garden writers.

**Audubon Native Plants Database**—Want to watch more birds in your neighborhood? Begin by providing them with the right kind of habitat—and the National Audubon Society's free resources will get you started. The conservation organization's new Native Plants Database can help guide you on how to turn your backyard into a paradise for birds. Simply enter your ZIP code on the database's website to view recommendations for bird-friendly plants that will thrive in your area. The database results include descriptions of each plant, and a "Local Resources" tab lists of nurseries that sell the plants in your area. If you register an email address, you can add items to your personal plant list and have the list emailed to you along with tips for creating wildlife habitat. [Go to www.Audubon.org/Native-Plants](http://www.Audubon.org/Native-Plants).



The Northeast offers a veritable feast for foragers. The woods, meadows, seashore, and even city neighborhoods are home to an abundance of delicious wild edible plants. A passionate wild foods expert, Meredith emphasizes local varieties and traditions, showing you what to look for, when and where to look, and how to gather in a responsible way.

**Northeast Foraging** is a hardworking guide packed with detailed information and clear photography for the safe identification of more than 120 wild plants. It also features a seasonal guide for foraging year-round and collecting tips for sustainable harvesting. It is applicable to New York, Connecticut,

Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Rhode Island, Ontario, and Quebec.

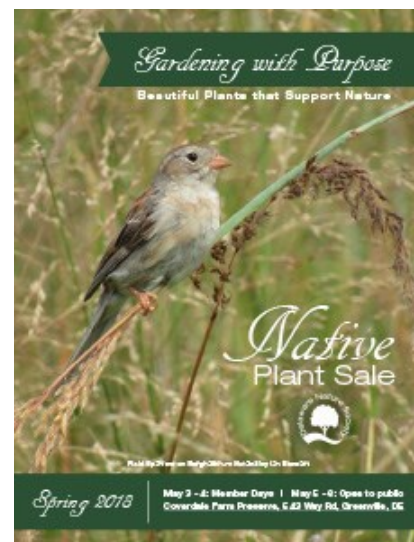
"We have to raise the bar on our landscapes. In the past, we have asked one thing of our gardens: that they be pretty. Now they have to support life, sequester carbon, feed pollinators, and manage water."

Douglas Tallamy, Professor  
University of Delaware, 2015

## Gardening for Birds Using Native Plants

by Barbara Aldinger—Delaware Nature Society

Birds require food, water, nesting sites and shelter. They are attracted to areas that copy nature with layers of native vegetation, large and understory trees, shrubs and perennials. They nest and shelter everywhere from tall trees to shrubs. Evergreens, including pines (*Pinus*), cedars (*Juniperus*, *Chamaecyparis*), holly (*Ilex*) and leucothoe, provide the best winter shelter. Non-natives are used for shelter and nesting but do not provide food. "Leave seed sources like coneflowers and sunflowers standing for winter/spring feeding." Providing a four season food supply is critical for attracting year round residents, summer nesters, and those seeking food during migration. Winter residents eat fruits and nuts from oaks (*Quercus*), hickories (*Carya*), chokeberries (*Aronia*), sumac (*Rhus*) and seeds from asters (*Symphyotrichum*), goldenrod (*Solidago*), and grasses (*Andropogon*, *Panicum*, *Sorghastrum*) among others. Spring arrivals, like robins, cruise lawns seeking grubs, worms and insects that provide protein to produce eggs and feed their young. Almost all birds eat insects, especially during spring and early summer. Humming birds' diet also includes insects although they are usually spotted seeking nectar from red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*), trumpet honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*), bee balm (*Monarda didyma*) and cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*). Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths) lay eggs only on the specific native plants that feed their caterpillars. To feed their young, birds find many caterpillars in the canopy of large trees like oak (*Quercus*), maple (*Acer*) and birch (*Betula*), but they also find caterpillars on smaller trees like serviceberries (*Amelanchier*) and pagoda dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*), on shrubs like viburnum and spicebush (*Lindera*), and on herbaceous plants like Joe Pye (*Eutrochium*) and violets (*Viola*). It takes thousands of caterpillars to raise one baby bird so only a few of them will survive long enough to damage plants. Soft berries on blueberry (*Vaccinium*) and Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema*) add to the bird buffet in summer. More plants provide seed and fruit through the fall. Hard berries like winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), dogwood (*Cornus florida*) and Bayberry (*Morella*) are the last food source to appear and are packed with fat and protein needed by migrating birds and residents preparing for winter. Your garden can be a balance of plants, insects and birds if you provide water, cover, nesting sites, and food. Avoid pesticides to promote insects and keep the birds healthy. Leave seed sources like coneflowers and sunflowers standing for winter/spring feeding. Birds will flock to a quality garden. Read more articles at [DelNature.org/NativePlantSale](http://DelNature.org/NativePlantSale).



# Membership Application

## Delaware native Plant Society

### Member Information

Name:

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Business Name or Organization:

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Address:

-----

City and Zip Code:

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Telephone (home/work):

☐ 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:

**Total Amount Enclosed: \$**

**Make check payable to:**

**DE Native Plant Society**

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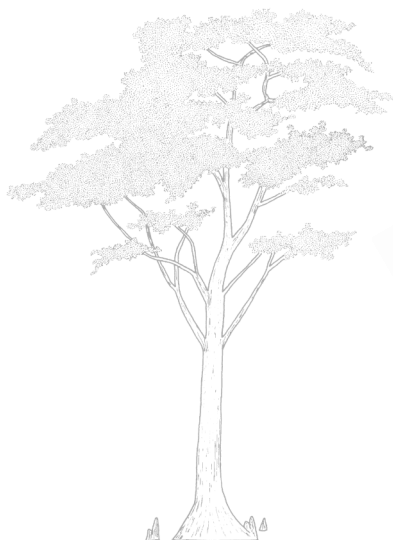
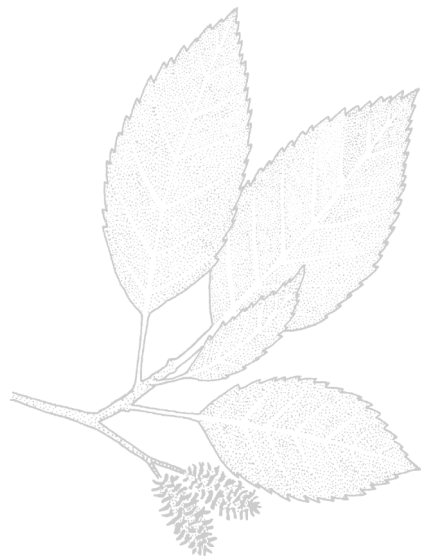
**DELAWARE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

**P.O. Box 369**

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**DOVER, DELAWARE 19903**

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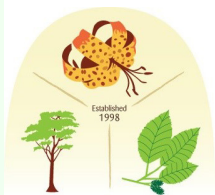




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# The Turk's Cap

Volume 21, Number 4

Winter 2018-19

## The Newsletter of the Delaware Native Plant Society



### Letter from the President

A year in review and upcoming plans



### DNPS Activities

2018 was a busy year for the Delaware Native Plant Society



### Protecting Native Delaware Plants

The impact of the Ecological Extinction Task Force and the resulting Native Species Commission



### Plant Highlight

A Shoe-In For Success

Discussing orchids and the importance of environmental self-awareness



### Letter from the Editor

Nice to meet you!



### Upcoming Events

Lots to do across the state and the region

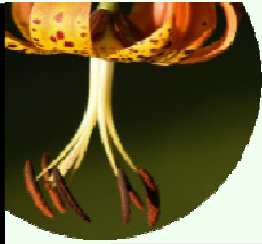
#### DNPS Officers

President:  
Eric Wahl  
Vice-President:  
Rick Mickowski  
Treasurer:  
Eric Zuelke  
Secretary:  
Alison Long

#### DNPS Mission Statement:

*Founded in March 1998, we are a volunteer-based, publicly supported 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> 



## Letter from the President

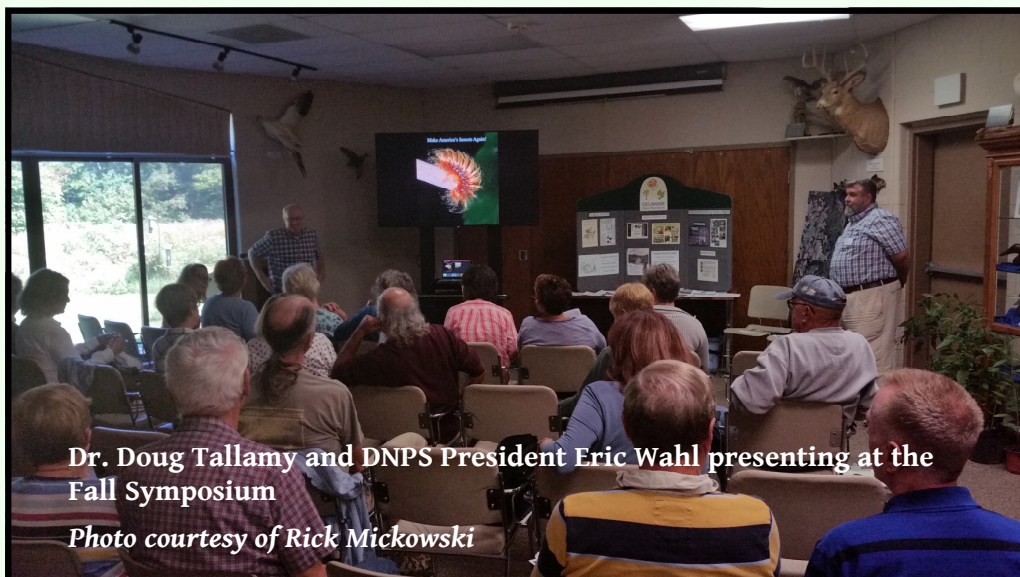
It feels like it's been such a long time since our last update, and I can confirm that yes, it has been. Somewhat in a transition mode, DNPS has been going through some changes, updates, and progress as we move forward into 2019.

DNPS has recently changed our website hosting company, and you will see an updated look to our website because of it. We are hoping to bring you much better communication for events and initiatives as we move forward. Speaking of events, much thanks to our members and guests who attended our Annual Symposium last year. Doug Tallamy provided us with an outstanding presentation, and we are grateful that he was able to join us. We look forward to another year of workshops, events, and symposia for 2019.

We also discussed the Native Plant Demonstration Garden in Lewes at the University of Delaware's Sharp Campus. Progress is slow but moving forward. We had a Volunteer Day in early November, planted throughout the garden, removed weeds, and pruned some woody plants. Plans are also on the horizon for a new walking path to be installed in the garden. This will hopefully be done prior to our next Volunteer Day. Plus, we are coordinating with the Lewes Beekeepers on a couple items in the garden. They will be installing bee hives and will be monitoring their forage habits. A wet meadow planting may be in the future as well, depending on available grants.

Stay tuned for more information on these items and on additional events down the road. As always, thanks to all our members, and especially to those that volunteer their time and effort to make our organization a continued success. And a special welcome to our new Newsletter Editor, Emma! 🌱

Eric W. Wahl



Dr. Doug Tallamy and DNPS President Eric Wahl presenting at the Fall Symposium

*Photo courtesy of Rick Mickowski*



## DNPS Activities

We had a great volunteer planting day on 3 Nov 2018 at the UD Native Plant Demo Garden. We put dozens of plants in the ground of around 15 species. Our main focus was planting, but we also did some other basic maintenance chores that needed attending to. The plants were obtained from DNPS members and cultivator extraordinaire, Bob Meadows. Hats off to him for all his help getting material to us for this project.

We also had a planting day back in May of 2018 and that was mostly focused on planting plugs from seven herbaceous species that we got from New Moon Nursery in New Jersey. To date, we've had very little mortality and the garden is coming along very nicely.



May Planting Day

Photo courtesy of Rick Mickowski



May Planting Day

Photo courtesy of Rick Mickowski



DNPS Fall Symposium Display  
Photo courtesy of Rick Mickowski

Our annual Fall Symposium was held on 29 Sep 2018 at Bombay Hook NWR and was a joint effort between us and the Friends of Bombay Hook. Doug Tallamy gave us a great presentation on native plant and insect relationships, and if you ever get the chance to see him give a lecture, you should go! You will learn something new every time.

Eric Wahl gave everyone a run down of the UD garden progress, and we had a great lunch that was catered by Main Street Market in Smyrna.

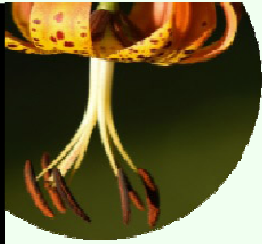
After the presentations were concluded, we had a business meeting and held officer elections, of which, we elected to stay just as we are!

Stay tuned for upcoming activities. 🌱



Fall Planting Day amongst *Ilex verticillata*

Photo courtesy of Rick Mickowski



## Protecting Native Delaware Plants

In May 2017, the Ecological Extinction Task Force began its mission to assess the status of species extinction in Delaware, examine causes of population decline, and formulate solutions to increase success in preserving populations of native species. Their December 2017 report included presentations by Task Force Members using summaries of their work and research and resulting actions that could be taken to improve ecological biodiversity in the state. The results led to the creation of the Delaware Native Species Commission.

*The commission's meetings are open to the public. Discover more information in the "Upcoming Events" section of this newsletter.*

After one year in action, the Delaware Native Species Commission published its First Annual Report.

The commission serves to "reverse the trend of decline and extinction of our local plant and animal native species," implementing all recommendations set forth by the Statewide Ecological Extinction Task Force, and to "provide state and local lawmakers, policy makers, educators, and other stakeholders with expertise and assistance," to equip Delaware with the tools it needs to proactively protect populations currently endangered in our ecosystems.

The Native Species Commission's Annual Report culminated in the statement of 78 tasks to be completed. Ten were prioritized, and the following 68 elaborate upon them. They can be found on pages 35 to 41 of the Annual Report.

### THE TOP TEN:

- The promotion and distribution of a list of easy-to-grow native plant species.
- The prohibition of the sale of invasive plants in accordance with the Delaware Invasive Species plant list.
- The development and distribution of educational materials to explain the benefits of native species and the issues arising from the use of non-natives and invasive species.
- The preservation of the intact forest habitats Delaware still possesses by providing incentives for private landowners.
- The requirement of Delaware's state facilities and departments to reduce lawn space while landscaping with native plants and providing pollinator habitats.
- The encouragement of municipalities to adopt native landscaping in their codes.
- The encouragement of new facilities to use native plants in their landscapes.
- The protection of Delaware's unique ecosystems with rare native plants from being developed in the future.
- The encouragement of environmental design standards to be implemented for each county to develop land while maintaining the habitats they contain.
- Funding the Delaware Open Space Program through DNREC to acquire and preserve natural lands for the public to enjoy and for Delaware's wildlife to flourish.

In 2019, the Native Species Commission intends to publish the invasive species list, hold an Environmental Symposium with multiple organizations, create a native species campaign, tackle their top ten list, and acquire funding all in order to reach the general public and the state of Delaware's gubernatorial entities in order to increase awareness and make lasting positive impacts in restoration ecology statewide.

The commission will remain active until 2027, whereupon the General Assembly will assess its progress and vote upon reinstatement. Click on this link below to access the report online. 🌱

[Access the Delaware Native Species Commission's 2018 First Annual Report](#)



## Plant Highlight: A Shoe-In For Success

It is a delight to observe rarities in nature. Orchids in particular are coveted finds, and our native populations are becoming less common. A recent Longwood Gardens article created a buzz even outside horticultural circles when they reported an Asian species of yellow *Cyrtosia* orchid popping up as if it were native. Due to the worldwide plant-collecting expeditions Longwood conducts miniscule seeds can easily tag along on the bottoms of boots out to their woodlands. It is known that ecosystem conditions in regions of East Asia from which many of our ornamental garden plants are derived parallel those of the mid-Atlantic Eastern United States. However unlikely the circumstances, these conditions and the presence of the necessary symbionts aligned. The factors limiting its success make it unlikely this *Cyrtosia* will become invasive any time soon but is possible that the stands could naturalize. Only time will tell what species they may displace and what relationships they may develop. The *Cyrtosia* story is reminiscent of *Galearis spectabilis*, a native orchid in Delaware woodlands and across the region with deep green foliage and petite white flowers with a pinkish lip. It blooms in spring understory shade after the leaves of nearby mayapples have already unfurled. Although the two orchids obtain nutrients differently from one another they both grow in moist woodland soil. *Galearis* may be small but the presence of its leaves is striking. Nothing else so clearly looks like it with its thick glossy ovate leaves cut by a strong central vein.



*Galearis* orchid flower developing in White Clay Creek State Park. Photo by Emma Brown

*“We are animals too, and not exempt from becoming avenues for seed dispersal as we play the role of a generalist species.”*

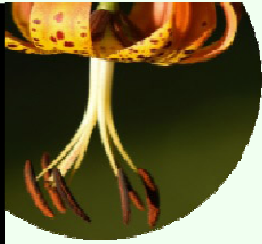
Unfortunately for *Galearis*, seeds of invasives like burning bush, wineberry, and multiflora rose are spread more prolifically, limiting the success of many types of native spring ephemerals that contribute to a healthier forest ecosystem. Many *Galearis* populations have been outcompeted by invasive species and disturbed by foot traffic. It all comes down to human feet. We are animals too, and not exempt from becoming avenues for seed dispersal as we play the role of a generalist species.

As observers and appreciators of the natural environment and advocates for the use of native plants in our landscapes we often watch the world as if looking into a terrarium. Visualizing ourselves inside allows us to better understand our own impact. We cannot possibly consciously control the outcome of every step but we can make the effort to look before we leap to protect the biodiversity of our native species.

To keep native species like *Galearis* happily growing, hikers, walkers, and nature lovers can:

- Take the time to clean the grooves in shoes before and after hiking.
- Tread carefully especially in spring when tender plants are emerging.
- Enjoy the beauty of spring. (And the spring beauties.)

These steps allow us to be responsible stewards of our environment here in Delaware and wherever we go. 🌱



## Letter from the Editor

It is my pleasure to join the DNPS as the new editor of the quarterly newsletter. A friend connected me with long-time volunteer Eric Zuelke as the DNPS searched for someone to transition into the role.

This is the part where I introduce who I am: Botany has been my passion since I was a sapling. The seed was cultivated by my teacher-naturalist parents. My interest germinated by the age of 10 with an essay on identifying plants in my backyard that I felt were overlooked as weeds. Growing up, I gardened each year with my family and helped tend the raised beds at school through the Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids program. Girl Scouts provided environmental clean-up projects and camping experiences, and summers were engaged in Delaware Nature Society camps, wildlife trips, and invasive plant removals. During middle school, I participated in the Horticultural and Environmental Leadership Program through the Delaware Center for Horticulture. Around that time I shadowed the Plant Records Specialist at Mt. Cuba Center in Hockessin, Delaware. She advised pursuing horticultural writing opportunities. I have followed her advice ever since.

In 2016, I completed my Bachelors' Degrees in Plant Science and in Landscape Horticulture and Design with an ornamental horticulture propagation focus and a *subespecialidad en español*. Courses I took in botany, plant identification, physiology, plant pathology and entomology gave me exactly the knowledge I had hoped to acquire.

At the University of Delaware, I served as Vice-President, President, and Treasurer of the Horticulture Club and organized trips to botanic gardens, ran horticulture workshops, and worked with the club advisor to coordinate the annual plant sale. As an Ag Ambassador I served as a tour guide for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and worked with advisors to create a training video to teach incoming Ag Ambassadors how to give tours of the UD Botanic Gardens. I participated in service projects such as clean-ups and tree plantings through my

co-educational honors agricultural fraternity, Alpha Zeta.

During college, I volunteered in the production greenhouses at Longwood Gardens, and those at UD. I became an outdoor horticulture intern at the UDBG, the meadow intern at Mt. Cuba Center, a floral design intern, and participated in the Morris Arboretum urban forestry internship program.

Each internship involved identifying, planting, tending, and writing about plants in different ecosystems and managed areas. Throughout, I had the privilege to attend the Millersville Native Plant Conference, assist with teaching the "Native Plants of Summer" certificate course, and source native trees and shrubs for a project for the Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation.

Following college I became the greenhouse propagation horticulturist for Highland Orchards, a small farm tucked away in suburban Wilmington, DE. I propagated vegetables, herbs, ornamental potted foliage plants and potted flowers, field flowers for cut bouquets, and native plants for local landscapes. I cultivated these plants from seeds and cuttings, and raised small plugs ordered from sources like North Creek Nurseries. I played with seed collection, cross-pollination, monitored native pollinator activity, kept honeybee colonies, and developed and conducted eight workshops highlighting subjects such as native plants and plant-pollinator relationships. I am currently working in a flower shop and applying to graduate schools. You will often find me botanizing on hikes with plant guides in hand, identifying plant pictures for friends, and attending educational lectures. I am always looking for methods to stay rooted in the subjects that energize my ideals. 🌱

Emma Brown, DNPS Newsletter Editor

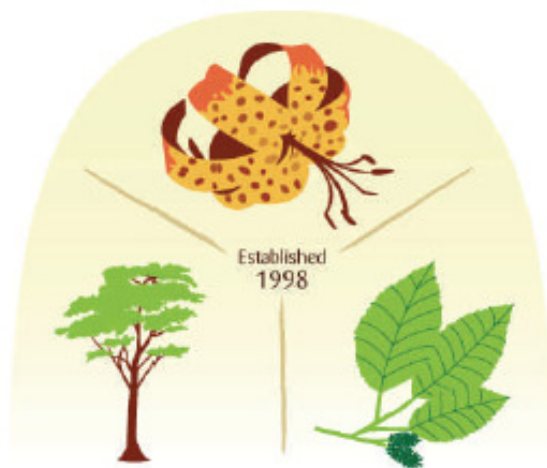


## Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, February 20 DNREC Native Species Commission Meeting**  
 Kent County Administration Building, 555 Bay Rd, Dover, DE 19901 10AM  
 The DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife and DNREC Natural Resources and Environmental Control Native Species Commission meets to implement the recommendations of the Statewide Ecological Extinction Task Force to preserve endangered species. Regular meetings are open to the public.
- Saturday, February 23 “Growing Native Plants: Propagation from Seed”** Register by February 21.  
 Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve, New Hope, PA 10AM-12PM Members \$20/NM \$25  
 BHWP Curator Jason Ksepka will teach seed-starting techniques for native wildflowers.
- Saturday, March 2 “The Beginner’s Native Perennial Garden”**  
 Mt. Cuba Center, Hockessin, DE 10AM-1PM \$45 Main House Lecture Room 1  
 Nancy Bell teaches how to tailor hardy native plant selection to your yard and how to design an ecologically beneficial garden with your plant palette. Bring a scale drawing of your yard. Snow date: Saturday, March 9. Professional credits: 1 CNP credit with DNLA and 3 NOFA AOLCP.
- Thursday, March 7, 14, 21, 28 Volunteer Habitat Stewards Training with the DNS Abbott’s Mill Nature Center, Milford, DE 10AM-2:30PM Members \$75/NM \$115**  
 The Delaware Nature Society’s 4-week program to train habitat stewards to assist friends and neighbors in creating certified wildlife habitats in Kent and Sussex counties.  
 Pre-register by March 1. Contact Alice Mohrman, Education Coordinator at (302) 422-0847 or [alice@delawarenaturesociety.org](mailto:alice@delawarenaturesociety.org) to register or for more information.
- Saturday, March 16 “Unlocking the Mystery of Native Orchids”**  
 Mt. Cuba Center, Hockessin, DE 11AM-12:15PM \$20 Main House Lecture Room 1  
 Melissa McCormick discusses mycorrhizal associations between fungi and orchid species, looking at these relationships using DNA analysis, and increasing orchid populations through cultivation and conservation. Professional credits: 1 APLD, 1 CNP credit with DNLA, ISA, 1 NOFA AOLCP, 1 PLNA. LA CES has approved this class for 1 Professional Development Hour; meets HSW subject matter standards.
- Friday, March 22 “Creating a Yard with Buzz”**  
 Mt. Cuba Center, Hockessin DE 10AM-12PM \$30 Main House Lecture Room 2  
 Connie Schmotzer talks about maximizing your gardens’ potential by providing habitat and food sources for native pollinators. Professional credits: 2 APLD, 1 CNP with DNLA, 2 NOFA AOLCP, 2 PLNA. LA CES has approved this class for 2 Professional Development Hours; meets HSW subject matter standards.
- Saturday, March 30 “Spring Gardening Saturday”**  
 Mt. Cuba Center, Hockessin, DE 9:30AM-1:30PM \$35 Total, \$11-12 per session  
 Practical tips and eco-friendly ideas, managing early-season tasks, taking cues from nature and using native plants to support pollinators all to make your garden look great this spring. Register for the whole day or individual sessions. Please bring your lunch.  
 Eco-Gardening: Plain and Simple \$12, Essential Spring Gardening Tips, \$12, Knockout Natives for Every Landscape \$11
- Saturday, March 30 2019 Lahr Symposium at the US National Arboretum**  
 USNA, Washington, DC Visit [www.usna.usda.gov](http://www.usna.usda.gov) for details and to register.  
 Featuring: C. Colston Burrell of Native Landscape Design and Restoration, Dr. Aaron Floden of the Missouri Botanical Gardens, Shannon Currey of Hoffman Nursery, Dr. Brett McMillan of The Bryn Mawr School, and Patterson Clark, Retired writer for the Washington Post. 🌱



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



**DELAWARE**  
Native Plant Society

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

- ☐ Full-time Student \$10.00
- ☐ Individual \$15.00
- ☐ Family \$18.00
- ☐ Contributing \$50.00
- ☐ Business \$100.00
- ☐ Lifetime \$500.00

Donations are also welcome \_\_\_\_\_

Membership benefits include:

-  Our quarterly newsletter-*The Turk's Cap*, and website resources
-  Tips and tricks on gardening and landscaping with native plants
-  Annual workshop, symposium, and project work days

### Member Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:

Delaware Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 369  
Dover, DE 19903