

The
BLACK-EYED SUSAN
Quarterly Newsletter of The Friends of Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden, Inc.

Volume 27 number 1
Jan - Mar 2025



Happy New Year!

Best--if belated--wishes to all for a very happy and successful 2025!

The Friends of Tawes Garden, Inc. is looking forward to the new year--at least when not out shoveling snow from the January 6 snowstorm. Although the Board was on recess over the

holiday season, items are already stacking up for the agenda of our first meeting of this year in mid-January. We hope to bring forward some new initiatives as well as build on last year's achievements.

Those achievements included two successful bus tours, to the **Hillwood Mansion & Gardens and Longwood Gardens**. Income from these trips goes to support the needs of the Tawes Garden, from purchasing a new aerating fountain for the pond to supplying pizzas for the hard-working young adults of the **Maryland Conservation Corps**. We also worked with the **Anne Arundel County Master Gardeners** on the redesign and replanting of the **Plant Mural pollinator garden** and with the **Tawes Garden Horticulturist** on new signage reflecting its changing role and appearance. We plan to continue these and other cooperative efforts in 2025.

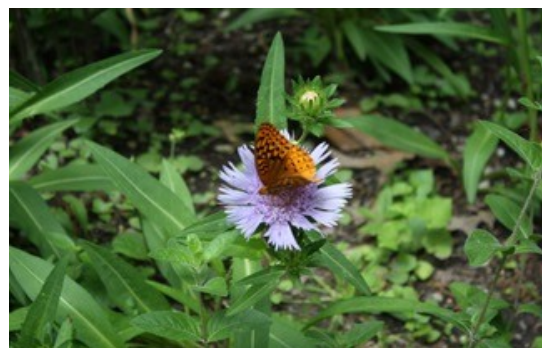
First up will be the popular bus excursion to the **Philadelphia Flower Show** in the first week of March. Many people find this the easiest, most enjoyable way to get to the long-running show, whose new theme for this year is "**Plants for Tomorrow**"--plus acres of gorgeous flowers and gardens at a time when most gardeners feel badly in need of a plant fix. See the flyer on page 4

The Flower Show trip doesn't preclude others, of course, and the Board will be looking at possibilities for further trips and events in the course of the year. And while the **Black-eyed Susan** comes out quarterly, all events we sponsor or recommend will be posted as soon as information is available on the **Events** page of our website: tawesgarden.org. (Right now the Events page has the list of upcoming lectures at the **Annapolis Horticulture Society**. Looks like a great line-up; check it out!)

Going Native

Welcome to the New Year! Our prediction for 2025? Native plants will be **In!** And the Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden will be in on the action.

The current trend of favoring--or even mandating--the use of native plants for landscapes started in the 1990's but was slow at first to pick up steam. Prior to that most public and private gardens in the U.S. relied on ornamental plants from farflung regions of the world, and in general growers and landscapers had little knowledge of or interest in the indigenous plants around them. Only a few dedicated enthusiasts were out exploring their local woods, fields, and wetlands to learn about the plants growing there naturally, mostly away from our gaze and certainly from our attention.



However, as interest in ecology (the science of the relations of organisms to one another and to their

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physical surroundings) began to grow, and scientists and gardeners alike became aware of alarming widespread decreases in plant/animal numbers and diversity that continue to the present day, native plants began to be viewed in a different light. They are currently defined as "plants that have evolved and grown in a specific region or ecosystem without human intervention", and we now know that they are hugely important to maintaining all living aspects of an ecosystem, from microbes to megafauna. Simply put, our plants **are** our natural environment. Everything else derives from that.



The Tawes Garden, designed and planted in the early 70's, predates much of our current thinking about native plants. The original designs did include many native trees and shrubs that still flourish in the Garden today, but the focus of the original plantings was more on their purely ornamental qualities rather than their wider role as habitat for the many species of native insects, birds, and small mammals that call the Garden home either seasonally or year-round. That focus has now shifted to a broader vision of a garden that supports and enhances as many aspects as possible of our natural environment.

That vision is already inspiring action, in fact, with the renovation of the Plant Mural over several years to include a majority of native perennials and shrubs. These plants are not only beautiful in themselves but also support a wide variety of birds, butterflies, and other creatures which will add to visitors' pleasure while giving the garden a greater environmental scope.



It has been remarked that the problem with our gardens currently isn't the *presence* of non-native plants but the *lack* of native ones. The Tawes Garden's many beautiful non-native species contribute greatly to its overall design. The goal of future efforts will not be to ruthlessly strip them away, but rather to add more natives in order to increase the depth and breadth of the whole garden ecosystem while showcasing the many desirable qualities of our native flora.

The Friends of Tawes Garden are excited to support this process and hope to aid in the creation a more varied, vibrant landscape that reflects our own particular and beautiful environment.

BUS TRIP
**PHILADELPHIA FLOWER
SHOW**



sponsored by Friends of Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden, Inc.

Thursday, March 6th

10:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.

Cost of \$120/person includes
luxury motor coach transportation,
admission to the show, snacks and beverages

***For more information or to make reservations,
please call 410-570-4465***

The  **BLACK-EYED SUSAN**



What a difference a season makes
The Plant Mural last week...and last June.
Two beautiful versions of one garden.

Board Members:

(of Friends of Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden, Inc)

Mary Stuart Sierra, President

Diane Fehely, Vice President

Alison Burbage, (Secretary)

Donald Myers, Treasurer

Suzann Barthold

Robert B. Bender (Consulting)

David Davis (Consulting)

Sarah Hilderbrand

Barbara Small (FGCMD Dist. II Rep.)

Bonnie Pavlak

Lisa Siciliano (Tawes Garden Historian)

Cindy Wells (AA Co. MG Rep.)

HOURS:

Garden: Daylight Hours, Daily

Gift Shop: Tues ~ Thurs.

10 am to 2pm

Admission: Free

Tours: Tours are not presently offered, but the CR-coded **Tawes Garden Tour** can be accessed through visitors' phones. CR code stations are placed at various points around the Garden.

General Information Toll Free:

1-800-830-3974

GARDEN STAFF:

Curtis Dale, Ranger

William Steckman

Suzanne Weber, Horticulturist

Dates to Note

Full moons: January 13, February 12, March 14

February 2: World Wetlands Day

February 14: Great Backyard Bird Count

March 3: World Wildlife Day

March 9: Daylight Saving Time begins

March 20: Vernal Equinox - 1st Day of Spring

March 22: World Water Day

Recent Contributions to the Tawes Garden

(Sept 11 through Dec 10, 2024)

Mary & Gordon Burton

Donations Box

District II,
Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland,
Inc.

Robert & Lucretia Lawson

Jay, Cindy & Eric Myers
(in memory of Carrie Myers)

Longwood Gardens fundraiser

Those wishing to make a tax deductible donation should make the check payable to:

Friends of Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden, Inc.

P.O. Box 5502

Annapolis, Maryland 21403

To Find Us

The Tawes Garden is located between Rowe Blvd. and Taylor Ave. near downtown Annapolis. The Garden can be entered either through the Tawes Building Lobby or by following the signs from the sidewalk along Sachs Dr.

Visitor Parking

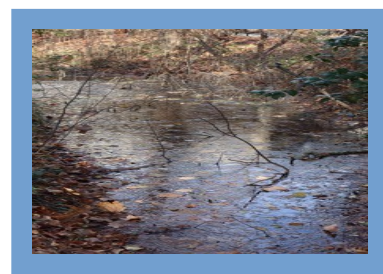
Visitor parking is available through Gate 6 of the Navy/Marine Stadium on Taylor Ave. (FREE) Parking closer to the Garden is limited during work hours, but there are several spaces designated as visitor parking on Sachs Blvd. across from the Tawes Building entrance. Spaces are generally available after work hours and on weekends.

Public Transportation

Annapolis Transit's Gold Route on Rowe Blvd (\$2.00) or State Shuttle. For more information, call 410-263-7964 or visit the [State Shuttle](#)

Seeing spots before your eyes?

Sometimes it's a good thing!



Of Winter Interest

Beech foliage, Bald Cypress knees, Bayberries, Seedheads of various grasses, Skunk Cabbage

