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

Volume 25 number 1
Jan - Mar 2023



Short & Sweet

Welcome to a new year at the Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden. The Garden is quiet at this time of year--although open every day for strolling, birding, picnicking, or just enjoying the tranquility. Still, it is the traditional time to make resolutions for the year ahead, and we at the Friends of Tawes have come up with the following: We hereby resolve to build on the accomplishments of the last year, to undertake new initiatives in support of the Garden, and to continue to advocate for its present and future well-being. Simple resolutions, but potentially far-reaching.

And we can remind ourselves that there are several 2022 accomplishments we can look back on as a starting point:

- * The Black-Eyed Susan was successfully relaunched as a digital quarterly after a 2-year hiatus during the pandemic. We hope you enjoy this first edition of 2023.
- * The Gift Shop in the Tawes Building lobby was re-opened. (See news of its post-Christmas sale below.)

* The QR code tour of the Garden was completed and is now available to all Garden visitors. (Read about it below.)

* The picnic benches on the patio were repaired and re-stained using funds provided by the Friends.

It's a notorious fact that most New Year's resolutions are quickly forgotten or abandoned. We can't swear we'll reach all the goals we set ourselves, but we'll do our best, so read on to see what's under way or in the works. **As always, your interest and financial support help.**

The Tawes Garden Gets a Star

Columnist Jeff Holland of the Annapolis Capital Gazette, (along with his wife and Millie the Lab) toured the Garden this past June with Ranger Jay Myers. They obviously enjoyed their visit to what Holland described as "perhaps Maryland's most intimate state park", because the Tawes Garden was included in his December 11 article on "Top 10 Trails" for 2022. Thank you Jeff, and come again!



New Times, New Tech

Once upon a time the Tawes Garden used printed pamphlets to guide visitors around and offer pointers on what they were seeing. Nicely printed and illustrated, they were freely available at the Garden entrance. Eventually, however, they became impractical for various reasons, and for some time there was no written Garden guide available, although visitors could request a personal tour with a Park Ranger.

Now, however, the process begun last winter is complete and we have a digital guide available, accessible via cellphone, with QR codes located at various stations throughout the Garden. Now that it's active we're quickly becoming aware of its advantages. For example, it enables the use of pictures as well as text, including archival photos of the Garden's history from many years past. Text can be expanded to offer more detail without becoming cumbersome. It's a weatherproof system, and produces no litter.

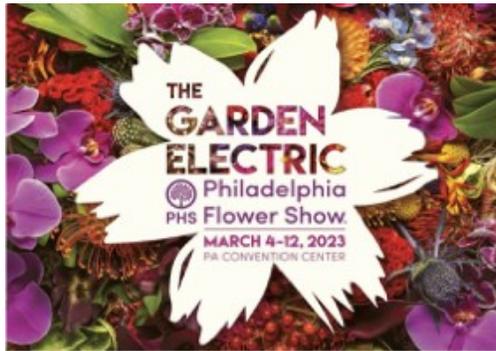
Plus, it's totally flexible. This year we're planning to explore the potential for adding or changing text or photos to enhance visitors' experience, and even to add more stations to the system in the future. And while we really hope visitors will come to experience the real, live Garden, if that's not possible the whole tour can be accessed by following this link: [Tawes Garden Tour](#)

However, despite modern technology, visitors can still request their own personal tour. Just call 410-260-8189 to schedule an appointment with a Ranger.

Finally!

After what seems like an age, we are very pleased and excited to once again be sponsoring a bus trip to the fabulous Philadelphia Flower Show, now back to its March dates and location at the downtown Convention Center. So put Wednesday, March 8 on your 2023 calendar right away!

**BUS TRIP
PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW**



*Sponsored by
Friends of Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden, Inc.*

Wednesday, March 8th

10:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.

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

The bus leaves from Maryland Hall, Annapolis

***To register and for more information
please call 410-570-4465***

*All proceeds benefit the Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden,
Annapolis' only free public garden*

What is There to See in Winter?

Plenty, if you look. It's true the Tawes Garden lacks miles of trails and expansive views, but there's a surprising amount to see for those who use their eyes and engage their minds:

Birds! The Garden is a great birding site right in town, with 119 species so far recorded (Go to eBird.org/hotspot/L2045635 to see the complete list). Bring your binoculars and stroll the paths or just sit on a bench to start your own bird count.

Even sitting at one of the newly refurbished picnic tables in the patio you're likely to see ducks and herons on the pond, and given its sheltered situation and the vagaries of our weather, it may well be warm enough some days to picnic while enjoying the fountain splashing in the sun.



The Garden boasts blooming plants even in winter. Depending on the weather, Bloodroot, Skunk Cabbage, Winter Jasmine, and Lenten Roses may appear as early as February, while Daffodils and numerous flowering shrubs and trees begin their displays in March.

Even if there's nothing blooming it doesn't mean there's nothing to see: The warm russet of Beech leaves, slowly fading to palest champagne by late winter, the deep-crimson flowers of Maples, patches of brilliant



green moss, strange "flowers" of lichen growing on a boulder, or the tracery of winter branches against a deep-blue sky. And just maybe you'll be lucky enough to catch the Garden in a rare snowfall, and walk familiar paths suddenly transformed.



Nature doesn't have to be grandiose to be beautiful.



BeFRIEND THE TAWES GARDEN!

Join the Friends of the
Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden
as we work to revitalize a premiere Annapolis Garden.

HERE'S HOW:

- Join our Volunteers. Like to garden, pull invasives, exercise your leafblower or chainsaw, practice your carpentry skills, help plan and manage trips & special events, be a Garden guide/interpreter? (Need-based, no regular commitment required)
- Support the Friends financially. Mail your check for any amount to:
Friends of Tawes Garden, Inc.,
POB 5907, Annapolis, MD 21403
- Use the contact form on our website, www.tawesgarden.org



Planting Day



Tawes Garden Gift Shop

Tawes Garden Gift Shop
After-Christmas Sale
All remaining Christmas
merchandise 50% off
January 3 - 19

The shop is located in the lobby of the Department of Natural Resources headquarters building at 580 Taylor Ave., Annapolis, MD 21401

Hours of operation are
Tuesday Wednesday Thursday 10 am to 2 pm.

We have welcomed back several of our loyal volunteer shopkeepers and there is still room for more. **If you are interested in volunteering contact the garden manager at jay.myers@maryland.gov**

This year marks the 36th year since the shop was opened by its founder Charlotte Huse.

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
Pam Ildefonso *(FGCMD Dist. II Rep.)*
Bonnie Pavlak
May Frances Ramsey
Lisa Siciliano
Cindy Wells *(AA Co. MG Rep.)*

HOURS:

Garden: *Daylight Hours, Daily*

Gift Shop: *Tues ~ Thurs.*
10 am to 2pm

Cafeteria: *Closed currently*

Admission & Tours: *Free of Charge*

Telephone: *410-260-8189*

General Information Toll Free:
1-800-830-3974

GARDEN STAFF:

Jay Myers, *Ranger/Manager*
Suzanne Weber, *Horticulturist*

Dates to Note

Full moons: January 6, February 5,
March 7

February 17 - 20: Great Backyard
Bird Count

March 3 - World Wildlife Day

March 12: Daylight savings time
begins

March 20: Vernal equinox - First
day of Spring

March 25: Earth Hour

Recent Contributions to the Tawes Garden

*(September 11 thru December 10
2022)*

Noontime Concert

District II,
Federated Garden Clubs of
Maryland, Inc.

Donald Myers
*(in memory of Louise Brenner &
Beth Stader)*

Jay, Cindy & Eric Myers
*(in memory of Louise Brenner &
Beth Stader)*

Unity Gardens grant

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

**Friends of Helen Avalynne Tawes
Garden, Inc.**
P.O. Box 5907
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 currently extremely
restricted.

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!



Make YOUR home bird-safe



Of Winter Interest **(January ~ March)**

Conifer foliage and cones.
Fruits of American Holly,
Ornamental grasses, Winterberry,
Heavenly Bamboo,
Flowers of Winter Jasmine (in
mild weather); In March, flowers
of Red Maple and
Cornelian Cherry Dogwood.

