



*The plant mural display garden in early June*

Happy Spring! It's April and the new season is already well underway at the Tawes Garden, with spring wildflowers dotting the woodland and trees and shrubs coming into leaf and bloom. Check out the photo gallery on the Friends of Tawes website, [tawesgarden.org](http://tawesgarden.org).

Even before Spring's official commencement on March 19, the Friends had already checked off our first sponsored event of the year: the annual bus excursion to the Philadelphia Flower Show. This sprawling, multi-faceted indoor show, which bills itself as "the world's longest-running horticultural event", is not only always spectacular, but different every year. Over just the past few years its exhibitions and competitions have illustrated changing trends in gardening from a focus on aspirational estate-type gardens, to exotic landscapes and plants, to elaborately designed smaller gardens, and more.



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*The*  
**BLACK-EYED SUSAN**

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This year, while the giant entry displays were as gorgeous and over-the-top as ever, there was also a clear interest among exhibitors in innovative use of native plants and recycled materials, and in reclamation of degraded spaces in our increasingly urbanized world. (Photos below) Gardening, sometimes called “the slowest of the performing arts”, is always changing, and therefore so do gardens.



The same holds true for the Tawes Garden, of course. Although still less than 50 years old, this varied 4+ acre landscape with its hills and groves and ponds, built from scratch on a vacant Annapolis parking lot, is quite different from what it was when it opened in 1977. There are many reasons why: Plantings have matured over the years, creating new and lovely vistas but changing growing conditions radically. Aging infrastructure has created problems in sustaining the original design concept. Shifting administrative priorities, decreased funding/staffing, and the near total neglect of the pandemic years have all had big impacts on the Garden as it exists today. Nevertheless, that doesn't mean today's Garden is any less beautiful or worth preserving, just different.

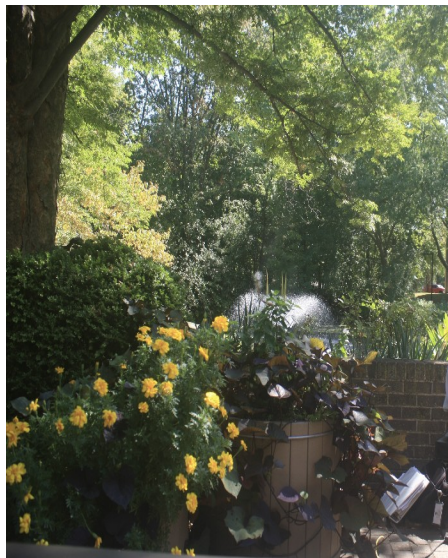
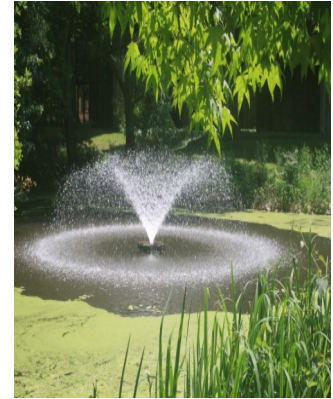
Gardens have to change with their times in order to survive. The Tawes Garden of today isn't the same as it was in the past, and if it survives for future decades—for gardens are fragile creations—it will change again, perhaps many times. We're optimistic about the future, however, because what unites all of us and carries over through all changes, is the enduring love of gardens and green spaces for all to enjoy.

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## Fountain's Flow Silenced--Temporarily

There are several paths winding through the Tawes Garden, but all of them eventually lead the visitor toward the main pond at the lowest point of the landscape. The pond is the Garden's heart, framed by the surrounding trees into a vista visitors can enjoy from the patio as well as from various spots along the paths. Only currently that heart isn't beating.

Anyone walking the paths in the last few months may have noticed that the pond's focal point, its fountain, isn't running. It gave out in late November and staff efforts to restart it were unsuccessful; an electrician subsequently confirmed that, after 15 years (and numerous repairs) it had reached the end of its lifespan.



The fountain--known more prosaically as a pond aerator--is one of the Friends of Tawes' major contributions to the Garden, and its maintenance and replacement have always been our responsibility. While we think of it as an important decorative feature, adding light, movement, and sound to the landscape, it also serves the very practical purpose of keeping the pond aerated and preventing it from becoming stagnant. Aeration also hinders the growth of algae and benefits aquatic plants and the small fish, frogs, and turtles who make their home there--and occasionally serve as meals for a local heron. It's a feature that offers multiple benefits for all Garden users.

The first fountain was purchased by the Friends in 1989; the one now on order will be the third. Like the others, it will run constantly throughout the year. We're eager to having it splashing again, perhaps as soon as the end of April, to enhance visitors' experience of the Garden.

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## Spring Cleaning in the Tawes Garden

For the last couple of weeks, the dust has been figuratively--and sometimes literally--flying in the Tawes Garden as crews have engaged in some much needed cleanup work under the direction of Horticulturist Suzanne Weber. The crew members come to the Garden through the MD Conservation Corps (MCC), an award-winning state program for young adults which provides them training in natural resource management skills while serving the community. These energetic and intrepid young workers have filled two 20-yd dumpsters with debris, pruned overgrowth, removed invasives, and even donned waders to remove weeds from the pond.



The Friends' contribution to the effort was less physical, but maybe worthwhile in its own way: pizzas and snacks for the workers! They were certainly well earned, and we're delighted and grateful to see the results of all the hard work by the MCC in the Garden.



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### Master Gardeners Undertake Projects at Tawes Garden 2024

The University of Maryland Master Gardeners of Anne Arundel County have begun another season at Tawes Garden. Our team of volunteers convenes weekly to help maintain the garden. Our mission is to demonstrate sustainable gardening practices, encourage the introduction of native plants, remove invasive species and promote the creation of native pollinator habitats. We work closely with the Tawes Horticulturist. For the past three years, Master Gardeners and the Friends of Tawes Garden have, with annual funding from Unity Gardens, focused on transitioning the Plant Mural into a showcase for native shrubs and perennials. Our work will hopefully continue in the autumn of 2024.

In September of 2023, Master Gardeners held their first Native Plant Festival on the patio at Tawes. It was a great success and we look forward to continuing this new initiative in the fall of 2024. The Festival will bring together local organizations whose interests are varied -- watershed stewardship, bee-keeping, BayWise gardening advice, pollinator-friendly landscaping, and the promotion of native plants. The Festival is free and open to the public.

For more information on Master Gardeners or our work at Tawes, please contact our co-chairs:

Cindy Wells - [cwells5953@cs.com](mailto:cwells5953@cs.com)

Kathy Devine - [kathy.j.devine@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.j.devine@gmail.com)

Cindy Wells

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## TAWES Butterfly and Bumblebee Habitat Stewards

An environmental education and volunteer training program for  
Chesapeake Bay pollinator habitat gardeners, stewards, and naturalists.



**When:** Monthly April-December  
(potential future updates)

**Where:** Maryland Department of Natural Resources Headquarters and  
Tawes Garden  
Main conference room (CRC1)  
580 Taylor Ave., Annapolis 21401

**For more information or to register:**  
Suzanne Weber, Tawes Garden Horticulturist  
suzanne.weber@maryland.gov  
410-260.8185 (please leave a message)

### Proposed topics

**April 4, 9:30 a.m.-Noon**  
"MD Native Pollinator Plants in Tawes Garden"  
Suzanne Weber, Tawes Garden Horticulturist

**May 7, 1-3 p.m.**  
"USGS Bee Projects in Maryland"  
Sam Droege, Wildlife Biologist  
Patuxent Research Center Bee Lab

**June 6, 10-11:30 a.m.**  
"Maryland Native Pollinators"  
Max Ferlauto, MD DNR State Biologist

**July 18, 9:30 a.m.-Noon**  
"Beneficial Predators and Parasitoids"  
Maxine Yoon, University of Maryland Master  
Gardener Coordinator for AACo.

**August 1, 9:30 a.m.-Noon**  
"Monarch Watch Survey"

**September 14, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
"Tawes Master Gardener Native Plants Festival"

**October 9, all day**  
"Tawes Unity Garden Pollinator Habitat Planting"

**November 7, 9:30 a.m.-Noon**  
"Pollinators in Indigenous Culture and History"

**December 5, 9:30 a.m.-Noon**  
Awards Ceremony

For more information about the monthly environmental education and volunteer training program for  
Chesapeake Bay pollinator habitat gardeners, stewards and naturalists can be found at [The Friends of  
Tawes Garden Events page](https://www.tawesgarden.org).

## *Tawes Garden Gift Shop*

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

Current Tawes Gift Shop hours are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 am until 2 PM.



A shopper giving the beady eye to a frog in the gift shop. We're not sure why. Maybe it stuck its tongue out at her?

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## **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**  
**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  
**Suzanne Weber**, Horticulturist

## **Recent Contributions to the Tawes Garden**

*(Dec 11 2023 thru Mar 10 2024)*

Anonymous

Kathy Devine

Donations Box

Robert & Marcia Goldberg  
*(on the occasion of Felicia's birthday)*

Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Henderson

Donald Myers  
*(in memory of his parents  
and  
May Frances Ramsey)*

Jay & Cindy Myers  
*(in memory of May Frances Ramsey)*

Shipley's Choice Garden Club

Cindy Wells

Philadelphia Flower Show 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 (**New Number!**)  
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!**



## **Spring Blooms**

**(March - June)**

Redbud, Dogwood, Cherry, Yellowwood, VA Bluebells, Iris, Mayapple, Beardtongue, Yucca, and many more

## **Dates to Note**

Full Moons: April 23,  
May 23, June 21

April 8, Solar Eclipse

April 22, Earth Day

April 26, Arbor Day

June 20, Summer Solstice -  
1st Day of Summer



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