



S
***SOMETHING NEW AT
THE HELEN AVALYNNE TAWES GARDEN!***

The Friends of Tawes Garden have been working since the Spring to revive old channels and seek new ones for interacting with visitors to the Garden. We're now coming down to the finish line on one we're especially excited about: a self-guided QR code tour of the Garden. This system will allow visitors to use their cellphones to access information and photos using a number of codes placed at various sites around our five acres that will enhance their Garden experience.

Planning for this new form of outreach has been the work of a committee made up of Friends Board members, Anne Arundel Co. Master Gardeners, and our DNR liaisons, Ranger Jay Myers and Horticulturist Suzanne Weber. Using a printed guide from some years ago for inspiration the committee walked the Garden several times, taking notes, identifying places of particular interest for expanded content, and locating spots where codes could be placed and be readily visible to passersby.

Subsequently, the new guide was written, edited, re-written...until finally we had a text we feel will offer visitors a brief but enjoyable background to the Garden's various aspects. Then we trolled through some 40 years (!) of archival photos for pictures showing the history of the Garden's construction, some of the people who helped bring it into being, and how it has changed over the years.

At that point, since none of the committee members are IT pros (We wish...but we know a lot about plants!) we approached Tim Hamilton, MD Park Service Business and Marketing Manager, who graciously offered his department's expertise and assistance to create the digital guide. As we close in on the publication date of this issue of the Black-eyed Susan we are in the final phases of creating and testing the system.

We expect this updated, environmentally sustainable Guide to the Tawes Garden will be available to visitors in the near future. Keep an eye on our website for a special announcement!

Recovery Ongoing

As we're all sadly aware by now, the pandemic has done a **lot** of damage, to institutions as well as people. Certainly this is the case with the Tawes Garden, which suffered two-plus years of near total neglect. This summer the Friends and DNR staff and volunteers have undertaken several maintenance and repair projects, despite violent rainstorms and excessive heat/humidity, as they worked to overcome pandemic damage.

While we're happy to have provided financial support for these projects, they're only small steps toward bringing the Garden back to what it can and should be. Sufficient support for major infrastructural repairs and regular grounds maintenance remains an elusive goal. Still, we're pleased with what we've accomplished this summer and hope to keep building on it this year and next.

- Several large tree limbs broken in storms were overhanging paths, presenting a possible danger to passersby. They have now been removed, along with a couple of dead trees. The contractor, Richard's Tree Service, also made a survey of the Garden and provided suggestions for future work which we hope to undertake in due course.
- Ranger Jay Myers and our invaluable volunteer carpenter, Ward Wentsch, have



Picnic Tables

worked on replacing damaged slats on some of the Garden benches. The work was held back by long supply-chain delays and changing weather conditions, but they hope to complete the job before winter.

- All five picnic tables on the patio have been thoroughly cleaned, repaired and re-stained by WOW 1-day Painting. They look great, and people sitting at them will no longer have to worry about getting impossible-to-remove sap stains on their clothes! We hope they'll see a lot of use.

Plant Mural Transitions to more Native Plants

By Cindy Wells, Master Gardener

If you have passed by the Plant Mural in the past year, you will have noticed that it has taken on a new look. Beginning in Fall 2021, a team of Master Gardener volunteers at Tawes Garden have worked to transition the Plant Mural from a garden predominantly made up of non-native perennials and annuals to one that is planted with many Maryland-native perennials. We have accomplished this with the help of Unity Gardens, a non-profit dedicated to funding local community-based projects with a focus on native plantings. In the Fall of 2021, the Friends received a \$1000 grant from Unity Gardens which helped us add hundreds of native perennials to the Mural. We subsequently applied for another grant for Fall 2022 and were delighted to receive it. Our plan for this Fall is to add even more native plants plus to do a bit of re-configuring of the Mural to improve the overall design.

The Mural now boasts some wonderful plants native to the Maryland area. From last year's plantings, we have large drifts of Black-eyed Susan, Wild Bergamot, various Coneflowers, Blazing Star, Butterfly Weed, and Phlox. This year we will add even more of some of the above plants as well as Inkberry Holly, Amsonia, and Penstemon.

Native plants are especially important to incorporate into the landscape as they provide food, nectar and seeds for local wildlife. For example, Black-eyed Susans are one of the easiest Maryland native plants to grow in your garden. Late-bloomers, they add color and interest in the late summer and fall, a time when many other plants have passed their peak bloom. They freely self-seed so are a good way to fill a sunny bed. Although they may appear to be a simple single bloom on a stalk, each flower is actually a very cleverly-designed buffet of nutrients for many pollinators. The central flower head holds 250-500 individual flowers, each one a



Black-eyed Susans

The
BLACK-EYED SUSAN

source of nectar and pollen for butterflies, bees and wasps. The hundreds of individual flowers are shallow so ideally suited to small- and medium-sized insects. Many of these pollinator insects also play a beneficial role in pest control. Using Black-eyed Susans as an example of amazing natural design that we all take for granted, the website marylandgrows.umd.edu, explains, “the subtle darkening toward



Purple Cone Flower

the base of the yellow petals forms a bulls-eye circle around the disk. That darkening is actually caused by an ultraviolet pigment which bees can see much better than we do and it forms a strong visual cue that leads them to the nectar and pollen at the flower’s center”. Very clever, isn’t it? And be sure not to be too tidy in your garden clean-up each fall, leaving intact the seed heads for goldfinches and other birds who will readily eat the seeds if you leave them on the plants.

Master Gardeners plan a major Planting Day on Tuesday, October 4th, to install this year’s allotment of native plants. Be sure to stop by this fall to take in the transformation of the Plant Mural to a native plant-based waystation for the native pollinators which are so crucial to our local environment.

In Memorium

Beth Stader
September 3, 1931 - September 9, 2022

Beth was a long-time Member of the Friends of the Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden. As a Board Member she was involved in many Friends' programs and activities over the years, and also worked as a Volunteer in the Garden Gift Shop. Her service was gratefully received and greatly appreciated. We will miss her.

Sweet Strains of Summer's End



On September 21, the official last day of Summer, the first Tawes Garden concert since 2019 took place on the Patio. It felt like Summer: A beautifully sunny, warm day when the shade of the surrounding trees and the market umbrellas on our newly refurbished picnic tables was welcome.

It wasn't too warm, however, for the audience to fully enjoy Crosswinds' music--an eclectic and delightful mix of classical, ragtime, and Tin Pan Alley tunes played by the long-established local trio on flute, oboe, and bassoon.

The Friends of Tawes are more than pleased to be able to sponsor this return to what used to be a regular series of casual concerts, pre-pandemic. As we begin our planning for 2023 we hope it may be possible to fully reinstate the series for the future.



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
- Apply to become a Friends of Tawes Board Member and help guide the Garden's future.
(Once-a-month meeting commitment, 4th Thursdays, 10am at the Tawes Garden)
 - Use the contact form on our website, www.tawesgarden.org to add your name to our Volunteer Resource List



Planting Day, Fall 2021

jewelry, and gift items for the environmentally minded. The shop is located in the lobby of the Department of Natural Resources headquarters building at 580 Taylor Ave., Annapolis, MD 21401



Tawes Garden Gift Shop

Tawes Garden Gift Shop

After an almost two-and-a-half year hiatus due to the global pandemic the Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden Gift Shop is now open. The small shop features reasonably priced books, cards,

Hours of operation are

Tues ~ Thurs. 10 am to 2 pm.

We are looking forward to welcoming 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 2 pm, starting June 21st*
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*



**Recent Contributions to the
Tawes Garden**

(June 11 thru September 10 2022)

Amazon.Smile
Charles County Garden Club
Donations Box
Donald Myers
(in memory of Susan Hottle-Shultz)
Jay, Cindy & Eric Myers
(in memory of Susan Hottle-Shultz)

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!



Dates to Note

Full moon: October 9, November 8, December 7
Daylight saving ends: November 6
November 8: Election Day VOTE!
December 21: Solstice - 1st day of Winter

