



Maryland Senator and Delegates Visit the Tawes Garden

On June 1, 2022 the Friends of Tawes Garden were pleased and honored to host Senator Sarah Elfreth and Delegates Shaneka Henson and Dana Jones, all representing District 30A in which Tawes is located, for a special guided tour of the Garden.

Accompanying the group on behalf of the Dept. of Natural Resources were Philip Hager, Assistant Secretary for Land Resources, and Bunky Luffman, Director of Legislative and Constituent Services.

Of course, when the Friends first extended the invitation late last Fall we had no way of knowing that June 1 would prove to be the hottest day of the year up to that point, well into the 90°s! Nevertheless, the intrepid legislators all arrived ready and eager for their visit and expressed no dismay over the heat, although they probably appreciated the fact that most of the Garden is well shaded.

DNR Ranger Jay Myers gave a short tour as the guests strolled the paths, pointing out some of the Garden's history, its beautifully designed and engineered topography, some of its unusual plants and educational attributes, and highlighting its role as a valuable open-space resource for Annapolis.

The tour was followed by a question-and-answer session during which the Friends had the opportunity to present their view that the Tawes Garden is an underutilized State asset with the potential to be much more than it presently is. We were also able to set forth some of the challenges the Garden faces with regard to funding for repairs and maintenance, status within the State Park system, and visitor access and parking.



The legislative guests, who describe themselves as a "get-things-done" trio, all expressed enjoyment of their tour and the Garden and agreed that it has unrealized potential. The Friends, in turn, greatly appreciate their giving their valuable time--on a very hot morning--to visit the Garden and listen to our concerns. We enjoyed having the chance to meet them and hope we may have gained some advocates for the future of the Tawes Garden.

Ranger Jay Myers giving a Tawes Garden tour to (l. to r.) Del. Shaneka Henson, Del. Dana Jones, and Sen. Sarah Elfreth

REMEMBERING STEVIE LYTTLE

Where'er you walk cool gales shall fan the glade;

Trees, where you sit, shall crowd into a shade.

(from *Where'er You Walk* by Alexander Pope)

Where trees crowd into a shade today, such was not always the case at the Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden. Prior to construction of the Tawes State Office Building (headquarters of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources) in 1970, the garden site was a flat cinder lot. For many years, it provided a home for the West Annapolis carnival. Fortunately for us, a part of the building contract included the garden's initial framework.



Stevie Lyttle (left) studying the Garden plan with Helen Avalynne Tawes and Mrs. James B. Coulter

By the fall of 1973, Stevie Lyttle had come on the scene. She was a woman with a vision of developing a "handicapped trail" in Annapolis. As a past director of District II of the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, she had been directed to meet with then Secretary of Natural Resources, James B. Coulter. He was receptive to her idea and set up a group of Natural Resources' employees to work with her. Department of General Services' employees including the Superintendent of Annapolis Public Buildings and Grounds became a part of this group as did other garden club members. Stevie's idea was soon expanded in concept to be a

completely barrier-free garden with a Maryland-in-miniature theme consisting of a Western Maryland forest, an Eastern Shore peninsula, and a Streamside Community.

Stevie worked tirelessly with this committee for more than twenty years serving as liaison to the District II garden clubs. Through this channel, she was able to solicit funds and gain the support of the various clubs. Over the years, much planning took place. Development, however, occurred at a slower pace. Despite this, Stevie was always delighted with every accomplishment, no matter how small. She was a very gracious lady and a most pleasant person to know and work with.

When Stevie Lyttle passed away in June 1994, many contributions were received in her memory. With those funds, improvements were made around an existing kiosk at the center of the garden. Surrounded by oak trees and colorful azaleas, this location created an inviting seating area. Four redwood benches were placed facing a bronze sculpture of a swan. The words of her favorite poem *The Mirror* (A.A. Milne), which speaks of a swan, are featured on a plaque.

The Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden passes recertification as a level II Arboretum

The Tawes Garden is a Garden *and* Arboretum. Every two years documentation pertaining to acquisition, mapping, and tracking of trees is submitted to ArbNet as a requirement for reaccreditation. Our recertification application has been reviewed and approved. Adhering to the standards required by the association aids the garden staff in maintaining the health and diversity of its tree canopy which is invaluable in combatting global warming.



About ArbNet

ArbNet is an interactive, collaborative, international community of arboreta. ArbNet facilitates the sharing of knowledge, experience, and other resources to help arboreta meet their institutional goals and works to raise professional standards through the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program. The accreditation program, sponsored and coordinated by The Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois in cooperation with American Public Gardens Association and Botanic Gardens Conservation International, is the only global initiative to officially recognize arboreta based on a set of professional standards. The program offers four levels of accreditation, recognizing arboreta of various degrees of development, capacity and professionalism. Standards include planning, governance, public access, programming and tree science, planting and conservation. More information is available at www.arbnet.org.





TAWES GARDEN FALL CONCERT

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
AT NOON ON THE GARDEN TERRACE
FREE



Join Crosswinds, a Woodwind Trio, for a delightful concert of familiar Classical arrangements, American Fiddle tunes and Classic American Show tunes. This Flute, Oboe and Bassoon trio has been performing throughout the region for over 15 years. The pieces selected for this concert will have you tapping your toes and humming long-time favorite tunes for the rest of the day.



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

Tawes Garden Gift Shop Reopening

After an almost two-and-a-half-year hiatus due to the global pandemic the Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden Gift shop is scheduled to reopen on **Tuesday, June 21st**. To celebrate the reopening all merchandise will be **25% off through July**

14th! The small shop features reasonably priced books, 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 Avenue Annapolis MD 21401.



Tawes Garden Gift Shop

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
Philip W. Tawes, Jr.
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

(March 16 thru June 10 2022)

Robin S. Lyttle
(in memory of Dick & Stevie Lyttle)

Naval Academy Garden Club

May Frances & Peter Ramsey

Cindy Wells

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: July 13/ August 12/ September 10

Maryland Primary Election, July 19

1st day of Autumn, September 22