



Fall 2025

It's been an unsettled year in many ways with numerous challenges both natural and man-made, from periods of extreme heat and humidity and infrequent, spotty rains to government funding/staffing uncertainties. All matters beyond our control, so it's a relief to walk through the Tawes Garden, always at its best in Fall, to enjoy the quiet and and admire

the changing beauty of trees, perennials, and grasses as we enter the final quarter of the calendar year.

Not that the Garden is immune to the challenges, and the Friends of Tawes have been kept busy with several repair and improvement projects—more on that below—but still the seasons have continued on their unhurried round, encouraging us, too, to slow down and enjoy contemplating something outside our own immediate concerns.

That's one of the wonders of a garden, and of nature in general: It will wait. So long as land is *preserved* and not covered over with concrete and buildings to the point that nothing natural can survive, it will take care of itself, in its own way. That way may not be in accord with our wishes, of course. Nature can take over quickly and aggressively on untended land in our temperate zone, establishing its own natural balance that takes no notice of our preferences. *Gardens* are creations of art and survive as such only as long as they are cared for.

Nevertheless—and this is another wonder—a garden need never be permanently lost. Any piece of protected land can go through multiple cycles of creation, decline, and renewal, always changing but never disappearing. The Tawes Garden will certainly face challenges in the foreseeable future, but we believe it still fulfills its purpose as a deliberately created green space for our enjoyment and for the protection of a piece of our natural world.

A Posy of Projects

Despite the summer's heat and humidity, the **Friends of Tawes** stayed active on various projects, several of which are still ongoing: Here are a few examples.

- In cooperation with the Tawes Garden Horticulturist and the AA Co. Master Gardeners, we sponsored a successful grant submission to Unity Gardens of Annapolis for plants for the last phase of the Plant Mural pollinator garden. The selection of shrubs and perennials has been purchased and is scheduled for planting in October. Extra topsoil needed for the project will be paid for by the Friends.
- We developed an updated text for the two Garden entrance signs, obtained approval from DNR, and signed a contract with Signcraft Annapolis for replacement of the text and repair of the shingle-roofed frames holding the signs. The project in its entirety will be paid for by the Friends.
- We set up and financed our new online payment system with PNC Bank.

- We manned a Friends' information table at the Master Gardener Native Plant Celebration, held at the Tawes Garden in September.
- And last but definitely not least, we provided pizza for the MD Conservation Corps workers who labored heroically in the heat carrying out heavy-duty garden chores.

The above projects, and others, clearly demonstrate why this is a perfect moment to express our heartfelt thanks to you, our supporters, for enabling us to in turn support the Garden. Grants and fundraisers like our bus trips do produce some income for our activities, but the bulk of our funds is provided by continuing donations from the District II Federated Maryland Garden Clubs and from the many individuals who care about the Tawes Garden.



MG volunteer and friend enjoying the Plant Mural.

We Thank You!

The Trees of Tawes

(An occasional series. No. 1)

Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*)

Although there are plenty of flowers to see at the Tawes Garden, the larger portion of its landscape consists of a certified Arboretum, a curated collection of trees from many regions, brought in and planted when the Garden was created. The majority of them thrived and grew robustly, so that now the Garden gives the appearance of a longer-established and more mature landscape than it really is.

One tree that provides a sense of settled age is the Baldcypress, of which the Garden has several. Baldcypress is an ancient native of the Coastal Plain from Florida up through Delaware. Its natural habitat is swampy ground and shallow streams—it's one of very few trees that can live happily in a couple of feet of water. The typical "knees", warty protuberances that thrust up out of the ground around its roots, were once thought to aid it in obtaining oxygen, like a snorkel, but it's now thought they more likely help anchor it in mucky soil. Makes sense: extra bracing against storms has to be important for a tree that can exceed 100' in height! You can see their brown, gnarled shapes from the wooden bridge crossing the stream on the path to the Lyttle Pavilion.



They look like a crowd of gnomes assembled for a weird woodland happening.

The Baldcypresses in the Tawes Garden almost certainly represent a re-introduction of the species locally. The low-lying ground and numerous creeks of the Annapolis area are natural Baldcypress habitat and were probably once thick with them, but they're a valuable commercial timber tree and Maryland was logged out of them long ago. (A rare remaining stand can be seen at the Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary, just down the road in Calvert County.)



As for the “bald” part of their name? Most conifers (trees with needle-like leaves that carry their seeds in cones) are evergreen, but every Fall the needles of Baldcypress turn coppery brown and then drop, leaving the tree with a bald crown until Spring.



These handsome, enduring trees, with their beautiful flared bases, high crowns that offer nesting sites for Ospreys and Bald Eagles, and curious knees, are important specimens in the Tawes collection. And they can live for 1,000 years... we can hope!

News Flash! ***The Friends of Tawes Garden join the 21st century*** ***(About time!)***

A long-delayed goal of the Friends has now been achieved, with the help of some of our more business-savvy Members. We have set up a secure online payment system through PNC Bank which will allow anyone to make a donation to the Garden through the Friends online rather than by check. Simply go to the link on our website's [Home page](#), or to the button on the [Supporters page](#).*

We plan to expand this service in the near future to allow online payment for bus trips as well, and will announce it as soon as available.

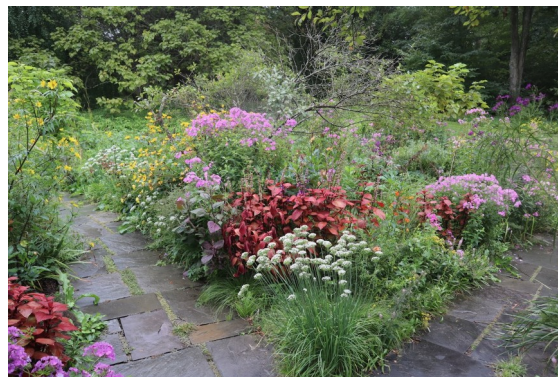
*However, you are still welcome to mail a check if preferred. As always, all donations to the Tawes Garden are tax deductible.

Two Great Gardens = One Great Trip

A drizzly day with lowering clouds might not seem the best for a garden tour, but the weather did nothing to dampen the spirits of a busload of enthusiastic and determined gardeners. They explored every inch of the Philadelphia Main Line estate gardens of Chanticleer and Stoneleigh, as true gardeners would.

The two estates lie only a couple of miles apart but are quite distinct in character. The hilly terrain of Chanticleer provides the canvas for a fabulous and ever changing array of unusual, beautiful plants from around the world, magnificently displayed in artistic settings. Stoneleigh's stated purpose is to showcase the best in modern garden design with native plants, and it does so with great skill and creativity throughout the mansion's extensive grounds.

And really, the weather caused no problem, other than making the conditions for photography less good than we'd hoped. So we mostly looked with our eyes rather than our cameras, which isn't necessarily a bad thing to do.



Join us next on our December 4 trip to "Yuletide at Winterthur". Another experience not to be missed!

❧ Christmas Bus Trip! ❧

‘YULETIDE AT WINTERTHUR’

Welcome in the season at the Mansion & Gardens of a great DuPont estate



Sponsored by Friends of Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden, Inc.

Thursday, December 4th

10:00 a.m. –7:00 p.m.

Cost of \$110/person includes
luxury motor coach transportation, admission,
snacks, beverages and gratuity

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

All proceeds benefit the Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden

Board Members:

(of Friends of Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden, Inc)

Mary Stuart Sierra, *President*
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Bonnie Pavlak
Pam Peters
Barbara Small *(FGCMD Dist. II Rep.)*
Lisa Siciliano *(Tawes Garden Historian)*
Judy Speaks
Cindy Wells *(AA Co. MG Rep.)*

HOURS:

Garden: Daylight Hours, Daily

Gift Shop: Wed. & Thurs.
10 am to 2pm

Admission: Free

Tours: The CR-coded **Tawes Garden Tour**, providing information on the Garden's history and features, can be accessed through visitors' phones. CR code stations are placed at various points around the Garden. Groups wishing to schedule a personally guided tour may request one through the Friends of Tawes website: www.tawesgarden.org. Guided tours are not provided on a regular schedule, so please allow several days advance notice for making tour arrangements.

Maryland Park Service General Information:
dnr.maryland.gov

Toll Free Number:
1-800-830-3974

GARDEN STAFF:

Curtis Dale, Ranger
William Steckman, Ranger
Suzanne Weber, Horticulturist

Recent Contributions to the Tawes Garden

(Jun 11, 2025 through Sept 10, 2025)

Chanticleer/Stoneleigh Gardens
fundraiser

Charles County Garden Club

Chesapeake Garden Club

Philip W. Tawes, Jr.

Unity Gardens Grant

Ellen Wakefield

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 at the corner of Rowe Blvd. and Taylor Ave. near downtown Annapolis. The Garden can be entered through the Tawes Building lobby or by following the signs on the sidewalk along Sachs Dr. to the wheelchair-accessible entrance. **(Please note that the Tawes Bldg. is closed on weekends. The wheelchair-accessible entrance is open every day from dawn to dusk.)**

Dates to Note

Full moons: October 6,
November 5, December 4

Daylight saving ends:
November 2

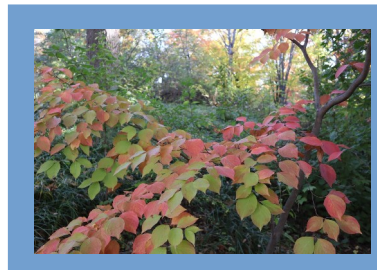
Winter solstice - 1st day of Winter -
shortest day of the year:
December 21

Visitor Parking

Parking availability is limited during the work week, but there are several spaces designated as visitor parking on Sachs Dr. across from the Tawes Building entrance. Spaces are generally available after work hours and on weekends. Handicapped parking is available by the Garden's wheel-chair accessible entrance near the Court of Appeals building on Sachs Dr. The Garden is also accessible by foot or bike from either Rowe Blvd. or Taylor Ave.

Seeing spots before your eyes?

Sometimes it's a good thing!



Fall Foliage & More

*Maples, Holly, Beautyberry,
Asters, Dogwood, Grasses,
Goldenrods, Hydrangeas, etc.*

