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# The BLACK-EYED SUSAN

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*Quarterly Newsletter of The Friends of Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden, Inc.*

Volume 26 number 1  
Jan - Mar 2024

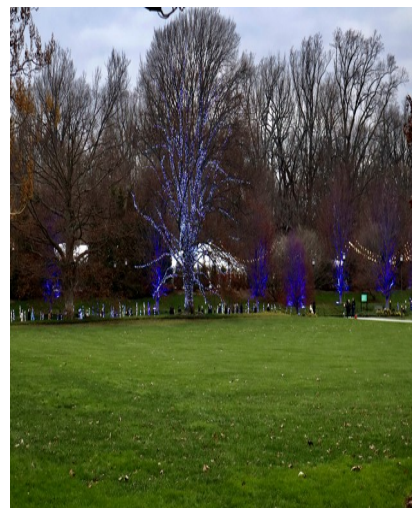


## And We're Off!

Welcome to a new year! We've left 2023 in the rearview mirror, but the Friends of Tawes Garden can look back on it with some sense of accomplishment—a welcome contrast to the covid years. A few of our activities in 2023: Setting up a QR-coded tour of the Garden, which allows visitors to use their cellphones to access Garden information as they walk the paths. Giving a special tour of the Garden to incoming DNR Secretary Josh Kurtz—to introduce him to the assets of his own backyard! Providing for plants, maintenance, and repairs not covered under DNR's very limited budget for the Garden, and collaborating with the A. A. County Master Gardeners on a native-plant outreach event and the continuing renovation of the display garden. In this latter project we have been assisted by several grants from Unity Gardens Annapolis. And we were able to once again offer bus excursions to the Philadelphia Flower Show (See the April – June '23 edition of the Black-eyed Susan) and Longwood Gardens. The latter trip took participants to see Longwood's fabulous Christmas displays in



early December. Different every year and always stunning, they're the traditional start to the Christmas season for many and always a wonderful trip.



Income from these fundraisers is a good part of what allows us to carry out our Garden projects—and why we will be going back to Philadelphia this year. Check out the trip flyer on page 4.

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The crowning event of the Friends' year was the October reception and garden party in honor of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of former MD First Lady Helen Avalynne Tawes. The program included reminiscences by Mrs. Tawes' grandson Phil Tawes, the planting of two Virginia Rose bushes in her memory, and the debut of a new, original sculpture commissioned by the Friends and purchased through a generous gift from the Four



*One of the gorgeous arrangements generously donated by local Garden Clubs*



*Mrs. Tawes' birthday cake, but we skipped the 125 candles!*

Rivers Garden Club of Annapolis. It was a lovely afternoon for guests to sit on the patio and listen to a



harpist while enjoying light fare, admire the new sculpture, or stroll the paths through the Garden.



*Phil Tawes*



*A beautiful day for a garden party*

Owing to efforts by DNR staff, Friends, local Garden Clubs, and volunteers, the Garden looked truly ready for a party. We hope Mrs. Tawes, known for her gifts as a hostess while in Annapolis, would approve.



*The new Tawes Garden sculpture, 'Black-Eyed Susan'*



*Board Treasurer Don Myers and Garden Club guests*

But that was last year. This year we'll strive to maintain, or increase, momentum, starting with the luxury bus excursion to Philadelphia in early March. Following that we have a long wish list of projects we'd like to undertake throughout 2024, including several new initiatives. We'll be discussing them at the January Board meeting—looks like we'll have a packed agenda! The next edition of the Black-eyed Susan will

be out in April with news of our progress. To close, if any of what's described here sounds like something you'd like to be involved with, from volunteering in the Garden, to assisting in the Gift Shop (See p. 5), to becoming a Board member, contact us.... We'd really like to make some new Friends in 2024.

BUS TRIP  
**PHILADELPHIA FLOWER  
SHOW**

The largest horticultural extravaganza in the United States  
*Sponsored by Friends of Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden, Inc.*



**Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:00 a.m. –8:00 p.m.**

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

Meet at Naval Academy Stadium parking lot,  
Gate #6 (Taylor Avenue), 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*

Find photos and information about the Show at [phsonline.org](https://phsonline.org)





*Tawes Garden Gift Shop*

## *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**. All merchandise is 50% off at this time. Christmas merchandise may be discounted further. We are creating shelf space for new inventory. Once new inventory is received, old inventory will continue to be 50% off, new inventory will be regularly priced.

If anyone wishes to consider volunteering for weekly two hour shifts in the gift shop, please reach out to [suzanne.weber@maryland.gov](mailto:suzanne.weber@maryland.gov).

Volunteers would also be greatly appreciated for all aspects of seasonal inventory transitions, including merchandising, as well as decorating the gift shop.

Thank you!

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## MAY FRANCES RAMSEY

*November 21, 1942 – December 14, 2023*

### ***In Memorium***

May Frances Ramsey was a delightful person to know. She was a world traveler and friend to many. Over the years, she proved herself to be a lifelong volunteer. Locally, she served on the Board of the Friends of Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden. In that role she ably assisted with the Friends' activities in many ways. On different occasions she might make a homemade treat for a bus trip, emcee a special Garden ceremony, or create a floral centerpiece for a reception. One time I recall asking May Frances if she'd like to help with a particular function—her reply “I’ll do anything you want me to.” (The words of a true volunteer!) She also worked as a volunteer in the Tawes Garden Gift Shop, capably assisting customers with their purchases, and always with a smile. She was a charming woman; she will be greatly missed.

Don Myers



*May Frances Ramsay providing an introduction for a guest speaker at the Garden*

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*The*  
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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**  
**Pam Ildefonso** (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

**Cafeteria:** Closed currently

**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

Dates to Note

Full Moons: January 25, February 24,  
March 25

February 16 - 19: Great Backyard Bird  
Count

March 10: Daylight saving begins

March 19: Vernal Equinox - 1st day of  
Spring

**Recent Contributions to the  
Tawes Garden**

*(Sept 11 2023 thru Dec 10 2023)*

District II,  
Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland,  
Inc.

Donations Box

Four Rivers Garden Club

Betty Knupp

Longwood Gardens fundraiser

Philip W. Tawes, Jr.

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!**

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

Evergreen Ferns, Grasses,  
Hellebores, Hollies, Bloodroot,  
Early Daffodils



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