



A Gift for the Garden!

We are tremendously pleased and excited to announce the debut of a new outdoor sculpture in the Tawes Garden. A gift from the Four Rivers Garden Club of Annapolis in honor of the Club's 100th anniversary in 2024, it is, fittingly, a representation of Maryland's State flower, the Black-eyed-Susan. Except that none of the other Black-eyed Susans in the Garden are over 8' tall and made of steel!

An original work of art, the piece was directly commissioned by the Friends from sculptor Annie Lee Mariano, an artist based in Danbury, CT. Her nature-inspired works can be seen in various venues both private and public around the United States, and she is particularly proud to be represented in several arboreta. She received a first place award in the "Wild Art" outdoor sculpture showcase of the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville, and is currently in the planning stage for a solo exhibition at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

The
BLACK-EYED SUSAN

The Garden’s “Black-eyed Susan” has been installed near the patio just outside the lobby of the Tawes Building, at an intersection of the main pathway around the Garden. Highly visible to visitors for its size and the contrast between its stainless steel and bronzed patina surfaces, it’s also a kinetic sculpture! While firmly “rooted” in its granite base, the leaves, petals, and hovering butterflies will sway gracefully in a breeze—just like any other Black-eyed Susan.

The Friends of Tawes Garden are most grateful to both the Four Rivers Garden Club and to artist Annie Mariano for this wonderful new artwork. Information about the Club may be found on Facebook, and Ms. Mariano’s portfolio may be viewed at: www.annieleesculpture.com However, we hope that visitors will come to the Tawes Garden to see the “Black-eyed Susan” for themselves—we think they’ll love it!



Artist Annie Mariano with her sculpture, “Black-eyed Susan”

Helen Avalynne, Meet Josh Kurtz

The windows of DNR Secretary Josh Kurtz’s office overlook the Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden, but that doesn’t mean he gets to see much of it except treetops. With responsibility for all the State’s parks and designated natural areas, comprising some 223 sq. miles, he doesn’t have a lot of time for relaxing strolls along the Garden paths.

However, the Friends felt he should at least be acquainted with his own backyard, as it were, so we invited him on a tour of the Garden—and were honored by his prompt acceptance. In fact, not only did he tour the Garden, but he spent over an hour with us hearing about its history and listening to our hopes and concerns for its future. In turn he told us



something of the new administration's plans for the DNR and the Maryland parks system of which the Garden is a part.

We made use of the opportunity to offer Secretary Kurtz our viewpoint that the Tawes Garden is a valuable asset which has been underused in recent years. We believe that as the DNR headquarters campus, it is not only an urban park/garden unique within the MD park system but can also play an important role as the Department's public face.



We are very grateful to have had this time with Secretary Kurtz. We learned from him and we feel he listened to us. We hope we'll have other opportunities to communicate in the future.

And he said he does eat lunch on the Garden's patio whenever he has a chance!

The Tawes Garden Expands its Native Horizons

The first Tawes Garden Native Plant Festival, sponsored by the Anne Arundel Co. Master Gardeners in cooperation with the Garden, was held on Saturday, September 16th and, by all accounts, was a great success. We had over 70 visitors come through the garden which was very exciting as it was our inaugural event. It helped that it was a beautiful warm fall day and that there were lots of other happenings in downtown Annapolis which may have brought people into town. The Plant Festival featured seven organizations who offered information and guidance on a range of topics -- Bay Wise practices, bees and pollinators, sustainable gardening, Master Gardener best practices, lawn and garden care, Bay-friendly landscaping and much more. The array of information held something of interest to both experienced gardeners and those just starting out. Several attendees didn't need converting to the logic and beauty of native plants – they were already convinced and were well on their way to incorporating native plants into their landscape. Others were open to new ideas and suggestions on which native plants were appropriate for their gardens and skill level. We also had a few dozen asters, milkweeds and butterfly weed plants that were given away to interested visitors.



For many attendees, this was their first visit to Tawes Garden and they enjoyed exploring the different pathways that wind through the garden, discovering the Eastern Shore area as well as the

The
BLACK-EYED SUSAN

Western Maryland section. This served one of our hoped-for goals of the day--to introduce more of the public to Tawes Garden and to raise awareness of this under-appreciated city park. Having a higher profile for Tawes in general will hopefully encourage additional state funding and support. For visitors who were already familiar with Tawes, many had not visited recently and they were reminded of what a peaceful and private urban space Tawes offers.



One of the highlights of the garden and the focus of several years of Master Gardener work and attention is the Plant Mural. Thanks to funding from Unity Gardens over the past three years, the Plant Mural has been transformed into a vibrant demonstration garden of native perennials. Many people



commented on how impressive the Mural was and how well it showcased such a variety of low-maintenance yet beautiful native plants. Given the past summer's drought, visitors were also surprised at how little watering the Mural had required, with plants which were obviously quite happy and healthy. Many of the summer-blooming beds have lost their flowers but will still display handsome foliage and color well into the fall months. Visitors were provided with a colorful diagram of the Plant Mural with each group of plantings labeled so that they could take notes and hopefully be inspired to incorporate more natives into their own gardens.

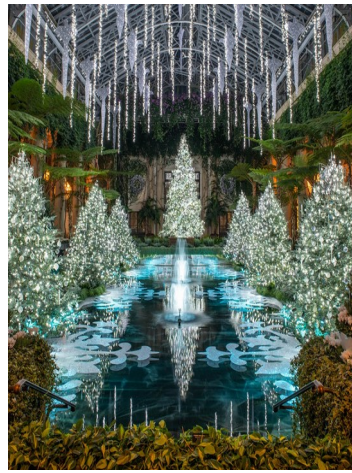
Master Gardeners were on hand to answer questions about the Mural as well as about gardening in general and native plant choices.

We are already planning the 2024 Plant Festival and hope to see an even greater attendance as more Marylanders discover Tawes Garden. Thanks to all who helped make this initial Tawes Garden Native Plant Festival such a success.

Cindy Wells,
Anne Arundel Master Gardener

BUS TRIP
LONGWOOD GARDENS

to view its outstanding holiday displays



Sponsored by Friends of Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden, Inc.

Tuesday, December 5th

10:00 a.m. –8:30 p.m.

Cost of \$120/person includes
luxury motor coach transportation,
admission to the gardens, 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*



Tawes Garden Gift Shop

Tawes Garden Gift Shop
FALL SALE!

ALL MERCHANDISE 20% OFF THROUGH OCTOBER!

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

Current hours of operation are Wednesday and Thursday,
10 am to 2 pm.

We have welcomed back several of our loyal volunteer shopkeepers and there is still room for more. **If you are interested in volunteering contact Garden Horticulturist Suzanne Weber at suzanne.weber@maryland.gov**



Board Members:

(of Friends of Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden, Inc)

- Mary Stuart Sierra, President**
- Diane Fehely, Vice President**
- Alison Burbage, (Secretary)**
- Donald Myers, Treasurer**
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- 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 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: Oct 28, November 27, and December 26
November 5 – Daylight saving ends
November 23 – Thanksgiving
Dec. 21: Winter solstice – shortest day of the year and official 1st day of Winter

Recent Contributions to the Tawes Garden

(July 11 2023 thru Sep 10 2023)

Amazon.smile

Charles County Garden Club

Donald Myers

(in memory of Ruth Page)

Unity Gardens grant

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 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!



Autumn Bounty

(October - December)

Fall foliage, Asters, Goldenrod, Mums, Grasses, Dogwood berries, Rose hips, many different seedpods