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# *The* BLACK-EYED SUSAN

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

*Volume 27 number 2  
April - June 2025*



## *Springing Ahead*

Spring has arrived, despite colder winter weather than we have seen for ages and a severely dry start to the year. In the Tawes Garden, daffodils, Virginia bluebells, and cherry trees are blooming in abundance, and mallard ducks are disporting in the pond. Every day

something new pushes up from the ground and stretches out its crumpled leaves. Nature is taking its challenges in stride.

Humans have to do the same. Drought conditions in much of the state is one challenge. Looming budget cuts that will impact many state programs in ways we can't even envision yet is another. We have no choice but to face up to them and deal with the impacts as best we can.

And that's why volunteers are so wonderful. Even in the best of times, countless places and programs that we treasure and depend on to enrich our lives would languish or go out of existence without the dedication of myriad volunteers performing myriad tasks. This is true for immense parks covering hundreds of square miles and protecting some of the most important natural areas in the country...and for small parks like the Tawes Garden preserving a little green space in a congested urban setting.

The volunteers who do the work do it because they treasure such spaces and appreciate the value they bring to our lives and environments. The Friends of Tawes Garden is a volunteer organization, too; a group of people who happen to think the Garden is worth preserving. We cooperate with the Maryland Park Service—which has far too many pressing calls on its funds—to help maintain and where possible enhance this small green space in Annapolis. Our funds come from the bus excursions and other occasional fundraisers we sponsor, and from donations either in cash or in kind from individuals and other organizations. So in this sense we're all volunteers together, pooling our efforts and/or our funds on behalf of the Tawes Garden. Let's have a round of applause for us!

**National Volunteer Week, April 20 -26**



**April 22 - Earth Day**



**Are you looking for a worthwhile way  
to celebrate Earth Day 2025 and *also*  
take part in National Volunteer Week?**

**Look no further! We've got you covered:**

**On Tuesday, April 22, 8 am to noon,  
the Anne Arundel County Master Gardeners  
will be holding a volunteer workday at the Tawes Garden.  
All volunteers are welcome!**

**For information please contact**

**Cindy Wells, AACMG: [cwells5953@cs.com](mailto:cwells5953@cs.com)**

**Or**

**Suzanne Weber, DNR: [suzanne.weber@maryland.gov](mailto:suzanne.weber@maryland.gov)**

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### **A Part of Something Bigger**



Although we generally just say “the Tawes Garden” for brevity, the full name of our site is the Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden & **Arboretum**. That’s a bit of a mouthful for everyday use. Even Maryland’s First Lady herself was known as “Lou” to her family. However, we periodically like to remind everyone that the Garden is indeed also an Arboretum, a Level II accredited collection of trees and shrubs.

The certification is provided by ArbNet, an organization headquartered at the Morton Arboretum near Chicago, IL, which describes itself as “an interactive, collaborative, international community of arboreta and tree-focused professionals. 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.”



Founded in 2011, ArbNet has grown exponentially and now has hundreds of members all over the world. It serves as an information resource, networking channel, and a center for collaboration among arboreta large and small. Some of the sites gathered under the ArbNet umbrella are not dedicated arboreta, but rather organizations with widely differing purposes: churches, cemeteries, schools, urban parks, even residential developments, which have curated collections of trees they wish to protect and preserve. If they meet the certification requirements, membership in ArbNet gives them enhanced recognition as affiliates of a widely respected scientific institution.

The Tawes Garden & Arboretum was accredited in 2016 and will need to renew its accreditation in 2027. Recently, Park Service Manager Ranger Curtis Dale and the Friends of Tawes Garden realized that, owing mostly to personnel changes over the past few years, we no longer had a good grasp of our relationship with ArbNet and its work.

So, he arranged for DNR staff and the Board of the Friends to meet via Zoom with Sue Paist, ArbNet Coordinator, in March. In a very informative and enjoyable session she brought us up to date on ArbNet's purpose and work, its many resources, its opportunities for scientific collaboration, and much more that can be found on its website, [ArbNet.org](http://ArbNet.org). Although the Tawes Garden isn't likely to ever have a major scientific role in ArbNet—although who knows?—its wide range of member benefits make it an excellent resource and a good partner to have.



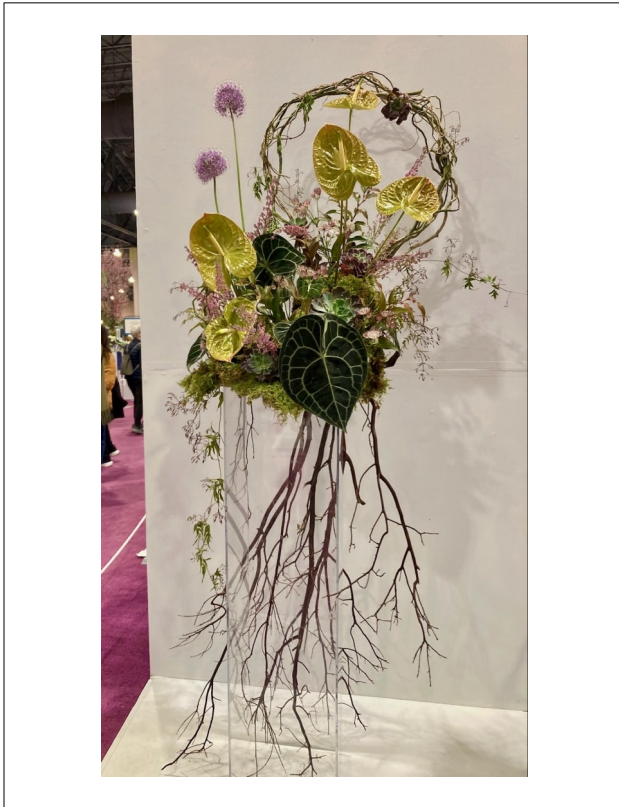
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## Looking Ahead, and Afar

In early March the Friends of Tawes completed another successful excursion to the Philadelphia Flower Show. This year's theme was "Flowers for Tomorrow", and as always



the exhibitors showed tremendous inspiration and originality in their interpretations. The emphasis of the major landscape displays was on lush, naturalistic designs relying more on dense planting schemes and complex textures than on color. But there was plenty of color too; it is a flower show!



**The Friends are already in the process of planning for fall/winter trips. Be sure to check out upcoming issues of the *Black-eyed Susan* for more information.**



## **Board Members:**

*(of Friends of Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden, Inc)*

Mary Stuart Sierra, *President*  
Diane Feheley, *Vice President*  
Alison Burbage, *(Secretary)*  
Donald Myers, *Treasurer*  
Suzann Barthold  
Robert B. Bender *(Consulting)*  
David Davis *(Consulting)*  
Sarah Hilderbrand  
Robin Lyttle  
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:** Tues ~ Thurs.  
10 am to 2pm

**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

**William Steckman**

**Suzanne Weber**, Horticulturist

## **Recent Contributions to the Tawes Garden**

*(Dec 10, 2024 through Mar 11, 2025)*

Donald Myers  
*(in memory of his parents)*

Shipley's Choice Garden Club

Mary Stuart Sierra

Philadelphia Flower Show fundraiser

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 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**

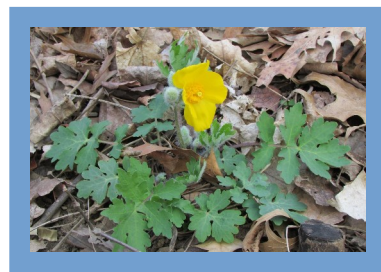
Visitor parking is available through Gate 6 of the Navy/Marine Stadium on Taylor Ave. (FREE) Parking closer to the Garden is limited during work hours, but there are several spaces designated as visitor parking on Sachs Blvd. across from the Tawes Building entrance. Spaces are generally available after 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!**



## **Spring Beauties**

*Daffodils, Dogwoods, Cherries  
Lenten Roses, Redbud, Forsythia,  
Azaleas, Bluebells, and many  
more*

## **Dates to Note**

Full moons: April 12, May 12, June 11

April 22 - Earth Day

June 20 - Solstice, 1st day of summer



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