

The
BLACK-EYED SUSAN
Quarterly Newsletter of The Friends of Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden, Inc.

Volume 24 number 2
April - June 2022



The Tawes Garden in Spring

Welcome to the NEW **Black-eyed Susan**, the quarterly e-newsletter of the **Friends of the Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden!** Although the Garden itself has remained open to visitors throughout the pandemic, the Newsletter was forced into dormancy. Now, with the arrival of Spring 2022, we're excited to see the first signs of new growth. We're hoping to nurture them and to reconnect with all who appreciate and enjoy this unique Annapolis greenspace.

We hope you will enjoy this inaugural edition, and we also invite you to visit our website at www.tawesgarden.org for more news, articles, photos, and our contact form.

Looking Back...

We start by looking back, to a lead article slated to appear in April 2020 but never published due to the Covid lockdown. That was two years ago, but the significance of Earth Day is even greater now. Read the article and we think you'll agree. This year Earth Day falls on April 22, and the theme is "Invest in Our Planet". The Friends will be investing in our little piece of it, the Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden.

Earth Day Turns 50

It's been 50 years since the first **Earth Day** celebration. Is the planet in better shape? There are those in the scientific field who unequivocally say no; it is not. **Earth Day** was born from a grassroots movement whose objective was to spread awareness about environmental protection at a time when many people were not aware of some of the serious environmental issues from air pollution to toxic dumps to pesticides to the loss of wilderness. Up until this time there were no environmental acts to safe guard planet earth. In 1970 Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson and peace activist John McConnell separately asked Americans to join in

recognizing the importance of protecting our planet. For an official date, McConnell chose the spring equinox [March 21st] and Nelson chose April 22nd. Nelson chose the later date in order to maximize participation on college campuses for what he conceived as an "environmental teach-in". He determined the week of April 19-25 was the best bet as it did not fall during exams or spring breaks. Moreover it did not conflict with religious holidays such as Easter or Passover, and was late enough in spring to have decent weather. His choice prevailed and **Earth Day** is now officially celebrated on April 22nd not only in the United States but globally by 141 nations. That same year, in support of the Earth Day movement President Nixon created the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] whose mission has been to ensure that Americans have clean air, land and water. This is accomplished by developing and enforcing regulations, and dispensing grants to state sponsored environmental programs, non-profits, educational institutions and others. The EPA studies environmental issues through laboratories across the country, developing sponsorships with the public and private sector on issues such as water and energy conservation, minimizing greenhouse gases, re-using solid waste, and identifying pesticide risks. It also works to educate the public on environmental matters through programs and printed materials. A few of the EPA's accomplishments over the past fifty years include the Clean Air Act, restricting the



use of lead base paints, banning the pesticide DDT, establishing the Clean Water Act, and phasing out the use of leaded gas and chlofluorocarbons [CFC's]. It is estimated that the first **Earth Day** brought together more than twenty million Americans; this year it is projected that almost one billion people world-wide will take pause to recognize, celebrate, reflect on and experience the earth's beauty and natural wonders as well as its current health. During the past fifty years there have been various themes or focuses to attract the attention of the global public, These include; "**Only One Earth**", "**Human Settlements**", "**Environment**

and Climate Literacy", "**Tomorrows World**", "**New Energy for a New Era**" and "**Reduce**" to name a few. This year **Earth Day** falls on a Wednesday and the theme is "Climate Action" a very timely focus. Kathleen Rogers, the president of a private organization called EARTH DAY NETWORK, had this to say "*Climate change represents the biggest challenge to humanity's future and the systems that make our world habitable,*". Numerous celebrations, events and activities are scheduled around the globe. If you are looking for things close to home the Anne Arundel County chapter of the Sierra Club will be sponsoring a day of activities at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis. Consider organizing a cleanup in your own community or planting a tree or a pollinator garden to encourage bees. If attending an event or celebration isn't possible you can observe the day by embracing a few simple acts to help to improve our planet. Consider using reusable bags instead of plastic when shopping. Walk or use public transportation instead of your car. Learn what you can and cannot recycle. Turn off lights when not in use. Use reusable water bottles. However you chose to observe the day make it count.



The unofficial Earth Day flag created by John McConnell includes The Blue Marble photograph taken by the crew of Apollo 17.



President Richard Nixon and First Lady Pat Nixon plant a tree on the White House South Lawn to recognize the first Earth Day, circa April 22, 1970

And Looking Ahead...

The pandemic has been hard on the Tawes Garden. Gardens can't catch Covid, but two years of enforced neglect, added to years of decreasing State funding and staffing, has definitely taken a toll. Today both the 45-year-old Garden and its Arboretum are in need of renovation. The Friends of Tawes don't underestimate the difficulties that lie ahead. Nevertheless, we will continue to do everything in our power to advocate for and actively assist with the revitalization of this small green jewel in Annapolis' crown. We hope visitors will see the positive effects over time--and even be inspired to join us in the effort--as we look ahead.

Meanwhile, we're also looking around: It's Spring at Tawes! The blooming season has begun and there will be lots to enjoy over the next three months. Drifts of naturalized daffodils are blooming through the woods, half drowned in seas of sky-blue Virginia Bluebells. Other woodland natives--Bloodroot, Wood Poppy, Mayapple, and



Virginia Bluebells

Columbine, poke up through the brown

leaf carpet. Flowering shrubs add color and scent here and there along the paths, And don't forget to look up: Dogwood, Redbud, Weeping Cherry and Magnolia are all showing off their blooms, while the exquisite flowers of Yellowwood, a rare Southeastern native, dangle and sway in the breeze. By late May/June the annuals and perennials of the display garden take the stage and begin their summer-long performance. We invite you to come and enjoy it.



ConeFlowers



Cherry petals star a pond



Eastern Columbine



American Yellowwood

**Tawes Building Complex Anti-Bird
Strike Campaign
March 2022.**

This spring, Safe Skies Maryland will be helping with the next stage of installation of Feather Friendly's 2x2 bird safe dot pattern to be applied to selected first floor windows at the Tawes Building complex including the front entrance area. These adhesive dots are applied in large sheets as designed for commercial buildings. The product will be used to cover 900 sq. ft. of glass, with the goal of preventing birds from hitting the windows.

Why Does this Matter? **Up to about 1 billion birds die from window strikes in the U.S. each year**, according to a recent study by Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute. Migratory birds live in forests, meadows, or wetlands, and do not understand the concept of glass. To a migratory bird, glass is an invisible and dangerous obstacle. They see the landscape reflected in windows and mirrored building exteriors and mistake the reflection for shelter. Where windows line up with each other front and back (i.e., glass breezeways) **birds perceive clear passage** and try to fly through to the trees they see on the other side.



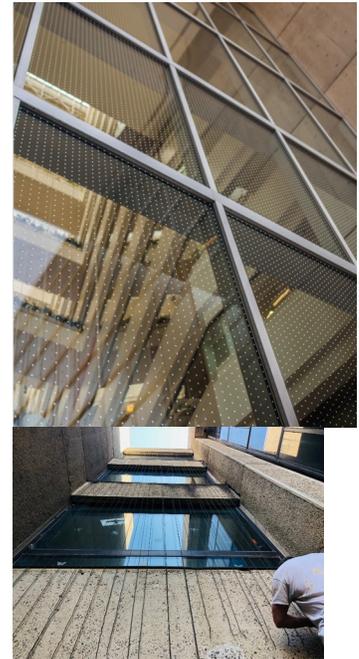
Bird-building collision fatalities are second only to the impacts of habitat destruction brought about by changes in forestry, agriculture, urban development, climate change, and invasive species

Why did DNR staff decided to do something about it at Tawes Buildings?

Because an estimated 1 to 10 birds die per building, per year. The Tawes building is responsible for a documented **average of 36 birds per year**, but gaps in data moves this number closer to **100 birds per year**. Although our whole building is problematic as it is made of glass, our breezeways are responsible for the most collisions at Tawes, so this is an easy, targeted fix. We are luring migratory birds in concentrated numbers with good habitat-stopover. However, this is increasing chances of window collisions. Nighttime lights may also be a problem, as well as the numerous potted plants by office windows.

Bird casualties from window-strikes are **easily recognizable**. Apart from their proximity to windowpanes, their neck is visibly broken from the impact. Although the rest of the body is stiff from muscle contraction (normal in fatality), the neck remains limp. What is the solution?

Studies have shown that the Feather Friendly dots approach will help solve bird strike problems here at the Tawes Building complex



To Learn more about Safe Skies Maryland - an entity of Maryland Ornithological Society 501c3. Check out <https://mdbirds.org/safeskiesmaryland/>

Also, more about how to protect birds from window strikes at the American Bird Conservancy at <https://abcbirds.org/glass-collisions/>

If you would like to volunteer to please contact Claudia Donegan at Claudia.donegan@maryland.gov.

BeFRIEND THE TAWES GARDEN!

Join the Friends of the Helen
Avalynne Tawes Garden
as we work to revitalize a unique
Annapolis greenspace.

Here are some ways to show
your support:

1. Sign up to receive our new
quarterly e-newsletter, "The
Black-eyed Susan",
using the "[Subscribe](#)" form on our
website, www.tawesgarden.org

2. Support the Friends financially.
Mail your check for any amount to:
Friends of Tawes Garden, Inc.
POB 5907, Annapolis, MD
21403

3. Join our Volunteer
Community. Do you 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?
(No regular commitment required.
Add your name to the list
using the "Subscribe" form on our
website)

4. Apply to become a Friends of
Tawes Board Member

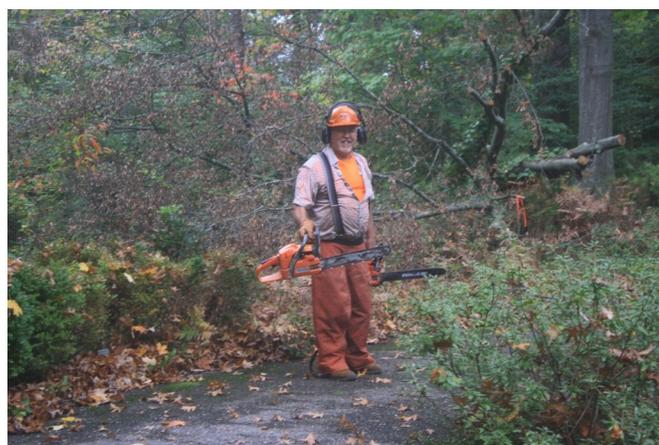
and help guide the Garden's
future.
(Once -a-month meeting
commitment, Thursday 10 am at
the Garden.
Apply using the "Contact" form
on our website.)

5. And finally: Visit the Garden
and send us your comments
through the website!

THANK YOU!



Planting Day, Fall 2021



After the storm: Damage control

Board Members:

(of Friends of Helen Avalynne Tawes Garden, Inc)

Mary Stuart Sierra, President
Philip W. Tawes, Jr., (Secretary)
Donald Myers, Treasurer
Alison Burbage
Suzann Barthold
David Davis (Consulting)
Diane Feheley
Sarah Hilderbrand
Bonnie Pavlak
May Frances Ramsey
Lisa Siciliano
Beth Stader

HOURS:

Garden: Daylight Hours, Daily
Gift Shop: Closed currently
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**

(Jan 1 thru March 15 2022)

Chartwell Garden Club
Chesapeake Garden Club
Crofton Village Garden Club
District II,
Federated Garden Clubs of
Maryland
Moonflower Garden Club
Shipley's Choice Garden Club
Mary Stuart Sierra
Ward & Karen Wensch

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

Please check our website,
www.tawesgarden.org
for more information.

Important Dates

Mother's Day - May 8
Father's Day - June 19
Summer solstice - June 21
National Pollinator Week –
June 20 -26

