How Kathy Vannozzi Transitioned Her Backyard into a Native Plant Paradise

Like Rome, native plant landscapes aren’t built in a day. Just ask Kathy Vannozzi, a long-time Preserve volunteer who has spent the past seven years transitioning much of her backyard lawn in Pipersville into a native plant paradise.

Her results were on full display this past June when her garden was one of six private gardens featured in the annual Designed for Nature Garden Tour. For the past three years, Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve has partnered with the tour’s sponsor, the Bucks County branch of the Women’s National Farm & Garden Association.

“We don’t want the Preserve to be just a green oasis amidst a sea of development,” says Miles Arnott, the Preserve’s executive director. “We’re also about inspiring action and changing behavior, and Kathy’s property and the other tour stops showed visitors that there is something you can do in your own backyard that’s enjoyable and will make a real difference in enhancing the environment.”

Vannozzi and her artist husband David Deakin—both landscape designers—moved back to Bucks County in 2009 after spending nearly 30 years in California. They were immediately confronted with drainage and deer browse problems, and were struck by their property’s lack of colorful flowers. So they erected a deer fence around part of their backyard. They had a shallow, rock-strewn dry creek bed dug to control stormwater and provide a variety of wet and dry planting areas. And when first Hurricane Sandy and then emerald ash borers decimated some ash trees, they created more meadow areas.

“It was basically just one woman and a shovel,” says Vannozzi, who purchased most of her native plants—flowers, grasses, shrubs and trees—from the Preserve’s Native Plant Nursery. “Obviously, plants seed themselves and they keep spreading, so I keep dividing the perennials to expand the garden into what had been lawn.”

Even in late September now, her property is ablaze with color: bright yellow goldenrods and purple, blue and white asters. And it is alive with pollinating insects and birds—American goldfinches and ruby-throated hummingbirds—that feed on her plants. Forty-five different bird species have visited the garden.

Sitting in her breakfast room that overlooks the sprawling garden, she says, “I do it because I am concerned about the great loss of farmland and of natural lands, and for the ecological sustainability of birds and pollinators. We attract monarch butterflies and many of the swallowtails. When I sit here in the morning, I often see bees that have been sleeping under the leaves waking up. Suddenly, there are hundreds of pollinators and so many different kinds of bees.”

“It’s very renewing and energizing.”

Story continues on page 3.
2018: A Lot to be Proud About

It is worthwhile—especially at year’s end—to reflect upon the many ways we have inspired action and changed behavior in pursuit of a healthy and diverse natural world. Highlights include:

PROGRAMS

In March 2018, in partnership with Delaware Valley University, we hosted the 18th annual Land Ethics Symposium. We educated over 250 native plant professionals on subjects ranging from storm water mitigation to native plant landscape design. Growing to over 300 attendees, the Native Plants in the Landscape Conference at Millersville University helped us expand our reach as a regional resource for native plant information.

Meanwhile, 16 participants have completed our signature naturalist training program. This spring we hope they will be leading afternoon guided walks and assisting plant sales customers. There’s no shortage of ways to become involved!

This past summer, the Preserve also hosted four interns: two in education and one in horticulture, supported by several generous donors, and a general intern funded by Foundations Community Partnership (FCP). They learned interpretation skills, horticulture and environmental non-profit management. Training the next generation of conservationists is an important endeavor for us.

PROPERTY

Thanks to another FCP grant, a just-installed universal access trail now provides all visitors an opportunity to explore nature. Generously wide and level, the trail leads from the visitor center through Penn’s Woods, past the moss garden to and around the pond. In addition, we completed restoration work on Founder’s Pond, with a generously priced and phenomenal job by Enviroscapes Inc. of Bristol in restoring water flow into the pond.

We also made great progress on our five-year Aquetong Meadow project. With mountains of storm debris cleared and the first seeds planted, we are on our way to a beautiful and diverse meadow that will be a haven for pollinators and a learning resource.

Plan B for Aquetong: In 2018, we also secured $100,000 from PA State Rep. Helen Tai, a state grant to improve our accessibility to visitors and to enhance their experience here (see Page 4).

Finally, thanks to PA State Rep. Helen Tai, we just received a $50,000 state grant to improve our accessibility to visitors and to enhance their experience here (see Page 4).

PLANTS

With the support of the Norman Raab Foundation and the efforts of our curator and the Collections Committee, we have added new species to the collection in a variety of habitats. Also, thanks to a MacLean Contributionship grant, we installed a new point-of-sale system, in both the Twinleaf Book & Gift Shop and plant sale area, that is helping us track inventory and efficiently ring up our visitors’ thousands of purchases.

We also completed a multi-year project to update the Native Plant Nursery. We now have two new greenhouses, new office space for our grounds and nursery staff, additional meeting and working space for volunteers—and even a new cold storage room for the seeds collected by our curator!

PEOPLE

As a member, donor or volunteer, you played a major role in making all these amazing things happen—as exemplified by many of the articles in this newsletter. There’s lots to be proud of in 2018 and much more to do in 2019! Thank you for your generous, ongoing support.
Native Plant Paradise (continued from page 1)

THE DESIGNED FOR NATURE GARDEN TOUR

On Saturday, June 16, approximately 160 visitors toured six different private gardens where the owners had incorporated native plants into their landscapes. For the third straight year, the Designed for Nature Garden Tour represented a partnership between the Preserve and the Bucks County branch of the Women's National Farm & Garden Association (WNF&GA).

In addition to the garden owners, tour visitors also had the opportunity to speak with 14 knowledgeable Preserve volunteers who were stationed at the six gardens.

“A lot of people understand the importance of native plants in terms of how they attract pollinators and help create a healthy natural environment,” says Jeff Buckwalter, the Preserve’s lead liaison with the WNF&GA for the garden tour. “But most of us don’t have the background necessary to transition our traditional gardens to those featuring native plants.

“That’s the kind of expertise people can get every day at our Native Plant Nursery or our educational programs, and that’s why we’re happy that so many of our volunteers were able to help the garden tour visitors.”

Details about the 2019 Designed for Nature Garden Tour will be posted both in the spring issue of this newsletter and on the Preserve’s website: www.bhwp.org.

Volunteer Voice: Jean Barrell

Jean Barrell’s Passion for Birds Led Her to the Preserve

Blame it on the birds. Twenty years ago, Jean Barrell had an empty yard and wanted more birds. After finding a list of the top 10 plants that attract birds, she learned that Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve was the only place near her Pineville home that sold them.

So she purchased a few shrubs and perennials, then came back each year for more. The employment specialist with the Bucks County Opportunity Council so liked the Preserve’s volunteers and staff she met that she started helping with the plant sales and special events. Then, after retiring in 2008, she took the Preserve’s naturalist classes and began leading guided walks, and also started up-potting native plants with the Native Plant Nursery’s volunteer propagation team.

One of the Preserve’s most active volunteers, she usually averages at least 250 volunteer hours per year. This year, including the time she spent selling plants on Sunday afternoons, she logged 300 hours—and even 400 hours last year when she also helped write plant copy for the Preserve’s revised website.

Many of her exquisite photographs also have been featured on the Preserve’s website and in this newsletter.

“I like the people, I like the mission, I like the plants,” she explains. “It’s my happy place.”

That was also true of her late husband Pete Barrell, a former engineer who contributed his expertise to building the Preserve’s large greenhouse and many other things for the nursery and visitor center before his untimely death in 2015—just 17 months after he retired. A nursery vehicle shed that he had planned now bears his name: Pete’s Shed.

Today, Jean Barrell enjoys the native plant ecosystem she has created and the scores of birds it attracts to her yard. Six clutches of house wrens, two clutches of bluebirds and one clutch of tufted titmice fledged there this year.

She also loves sharing her passions with Preserve visitors: “I feel like every time I teach someone how the ecosystem between insects and plants works, and how dependent we are on native plants, or every time I encourage a visitor to buy a plant, I know I am making a difference.

“I’ve asked myself, ‘What can I do in my life to affect change?’ and the Preserve seems to be the niche I’ve found.”
$50,000 PA Grant to Enhance Access & Experience for All at the Preserve

Pennsylvania State Representative Helen Tai, whose 178th District includes the Preserve, on Oct. 23 presented BHWP with a $50,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. Sponsored by Tai, the grant will be used to improve access to the Preserve, expand educational programming and better serve community needs.

“The Visitor Interpretive Experience Plan” will identify opportunities to provide greater accessibility to underserved members of the community, including those with physical, developmental and emotional challenges. As part of the planning process, the Preserve will identify opportunities to introduce the health benefits of nature to all members of the community.

In Memoriam: The Preserve Mourns the Passing of 3 Strong Supporters

GUDRUN ALEXANDER
Gudrun Alexander, a mainstay volunteer with the Native Plant Nursery’s propagation team since 2006, passed away in September. For years, the Yardley resident reigned over the propagation work tables.

“She was our prop taskmaster and hid her big heart behind her prickly façade,” recalls volunteer Kathy Vannonzi. “She kept us all in line with procedures that kept the work flowing and reminded us that cleanup afterwards was also our job.”

“I cannot say enough good things about Gudrun,” adds volunteer Dave Shanno. “She rewarded you for good work with her homemade schnapps. She never appeared without pretzels, so if you needed fuel to continue working, it was there.”

BRUCE ROUSH
Bruce Roush, a long-time propagation volunteer from Lumberville, passed away June 22.

“Bruce was the kindest guy,” says Nursery Manager Jake Fitzpatrick. “He always wore a smile and was so pleasant to be around.

“Once, when he was the only volunteer willing to up-pot prickly pear cactus, he got hammered with skin-piercing bristles—but never complained.”

He formerly taught at the New Hope-Solebury Elementary School and, with his wife Estella and daughter Megan, for 38 years owned and operated the Strawberry Jam gift shop in New Hope.

In his honor, propagation volunteers contributed to build “Bruce’s Shelf” in front of the propagation house.

H.F. “GERRY” LENFEST
Preserve supporter H.F. “Gerry” Lenfest passed away on August 5, 2018. He and his wife Marguerite were named Pennsylvania’s top philanthropists, having donated over $1.3 billion to public charities over the past two decades. His charitable giving was funneled mostly through his Lenfest Foundation, which was established from the 2000 sale of his cable communications company to Comcast.

His philanthropic interests focused on education, journalism and cultural entities in the Philadelphia area, where his impact will be felt for generations. He has left the Preserve and many institutions throughout the region better off through his kindness, interest and generosity. The Preserve is deeply grateful.
Welcome Julia Snyder, the Preserve’s New Development Associate

Julia Snyder joined the Preserve’s staff as development associate in September 2018. She provides administrative support to the Development Office, handles database management and oversees recruitment and retention of the Preserve’s membership. Julia has a diverse background in the environmental field and has worked at an organic farm, a wolf sanctuary and, most recently, at Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space. She received her BS from Rutgers University – New Brunswick in ecology, evolution & natural resources in 2016. Julia was raised in central New Jersey and currently resides in Pittstown, NJ, with her boyfriend and their two dogs. She is an avid runner and also enjoys baking, knitting and yoga.

2019 Annual Wildflower Gala to Increase Preserve’s Native Plant Collection

The annual evening event celebrates spring at the Preserve with wildflower walks, cocktails, gourmet fare, music, dancing and auctions.

The 16th Annual Spring Wildflower Gala—known as the “Best Party in Bucks”—will once again celebrate and support the Preserve on Saturday, April 27, 2019. The black-tie-and-muck-boots event will start with woodland walks that highlight stunning wildflowers, like ephemeral Virginia bluebells, *Mertensia virginica*. Guests will also enjoy a cocktail reception, silent and live auctions, a gourmet dinner, desserts and a night of dancing—all for a good cause.

The Gala is the Preserve’s largest fundraiser, and over the years the community has responded by providing vital support for our mission: to inspire the use and appreciation of native plants and serve as an educational resource and sanctuary for conservation and stewardship. Last year’s Gala, whose theme was “Protecting the Gem,” raised over $150,000 to secure the Preserve’s perimeter with gates and fencing to keep browsing deer at bay. The related 2019 theme, “Polishing the Gem,” targets the need to diversify our living native plant collection.

BHWp is the country’s only botanical garden accredited by the American Museum Association that focuses on native plants. Spread across our 134 acres, our living collection includes about 700 species—one-third of all the native Pennsylvania plants. “While the Preserve hosts some 60 species of rare, threatened or endangered native plants, there are many more species that are missing or underrepresented on the Preserve’s grounds,” explains Preserve Executive Director Miles Arnott. “By ‘Curating our Natural Heritage,’ we hope to increase our collection to over 800 species native to the Delaware Valley Region, so that the common plants found today do not become rare tomorrow.”

“Now that the work to protect the Preserve from deer browse is underway, it’s time to focus on increasing the variety of plants.” says Lynn Holzner, one of the Gala’s co-chairs. “We’re expecting the 2019 Gala to be a great success in supporting the Preserve’s seed collection, plant propagation and curatorial efforts.”

Holzner and Heather Lovell, her Gala co-chair, are joined by Gala Committee members, including: Deborah Agnew, Dee Bowman, Sue Eveland, Betsy Falconi, Dot Gaboda, Lisa Garvey, Jacqui Griffith, Sally Henriques, Julia Klossner, Donna Lacey, Pat Ludwig, Tricia Reines, Trisha Ritter, Julie Spears, Steve Swanson, Francine Verwiel, Susan Vigilante and Sandy Weisbrot.

There’s still time to join the Gala Committee’s dedicated, fun-loving volunteers to help plan this exciting event.

The committee meets monthly at BHWp, with additional sub-committee meetings scheduled as necessary. We hope you’ll consider joining our committee, or contact us if you know someone who’d like to participate.

For more information, contact: Kellie Westervelt, director of development, at 215.862.2924 x105 or westervelt@bhwp.org.
Welcome to Our New Members*
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE PRESERVE!

Chuck and Robin Abraham
Joanne Adar
Amarotico Family
Barbara Baker
Dan Baynes
Bendixen Family
Nancy Bennett
Lindsay Brewster
Chad Brizek
Michael Burchill
Marie-Laure Chemin and Joseph Balmos
N. Ciampa
Jon Clark
Mike Devlin
Alescia Dingle
Ian Dingwall and Ashley Politakis
Michelle and Michael DiSantis
Robert and Lori Dolnick
Heather and Niles Dunbar
James Fairfield
Deborah Fanslow
Susan Fiefhaus
Lisa Harrigan and Ronald Fisher
Nicole Frazier
Alicia Gasparovic
Cathy Gilbert
Corri Gottesman
Christopher Gow
David Haase and Esther Schwab
Judith Hastie
Katherine and William Hastings
Jill Henry
Richard Hunt
Carolyn B. Husk
Viren Kapadia
Kelly-Rohrbach Family
Cynthia Carlisle Ketner
Brian and Alison Kuhn

Judy and Randy Link
Holly Miara and Justin Lorenzo
Diane Louie
Lauren Mandel
Bryan and Angie Maransky
Melissa Mayer
Kevin McGrath
John McManamon
Mocanski Family
Lynn Moceri
Carolyn Morris
Aubrey Nagle
Nicholas Naprawa
Timothy Nilson
Maureen O’Connell
OWowCow
Andrew Pединoff
Eric Petersen and Kathy Rhodes
Rob Pitts
Vincent Polito
Carol Raposo
Lisa Reece
Claudia S. Reid
Will Rice
Daniel Rizza
Judith Robinson
Lucy Rummler
Jennifer Savino
Heidi Shiver
April Silverman
David and Barbara Stoller
Albert Tamashausky
Delaware Botanic Gardens
Terry Vanliew
Margaret Watson and Paul Brown
Rick Welsh
John and Sheila Wright

*New members since Aug. 3, 2018

THANK YOU, MEMBERS for your contribution in the effort to preserve native plants and the wildlife that depend on them. With your support, we fulfill our mission.

Recommended from the Twinleaf Book & Gift Shop

Two Outstanding Books:

The Naturalist’s Notebook by Nathaniel T. Wheelwright and Bernd Heinrich

This book, whose subtitle is An Observation Guide and 5-Year Calendar-Journal for Tracking Changes in the Natural World around You, makes an ideal gift. It offers a great way for naturalists to record their daily observations—What date did your first Eastern phoebe appear? When did your first goldenrod bloom?—and easily compare how such milestones change over the course of five years.

Spring Wildflowers of the Northeast: A Natural History by Carol Gracie

Illustrated with more than 500 exquisite, full-color photos, this book provides a great in-depth look at spring-blooming wildflowers in our region. It also delves more deeply into the life histories, lore and cultural uses of more than 35 plant species.

FUN FINDS

As winter sets in, cozy up with one of our new books while sipping a variety of locally prepared caffeinated and non/caffeinated wildflower and fruit flavored teas. They are available in beautiful, variously sized metal tins decorated with the Preserve logo. We also offer a variety of naturally scented soy candles in trendy Mason jars, as well as fun socks with holiday, bird and flower patterns.

SAVE A TREE!

Get your newsletter digitally.
Contact: development@bhwp.org
1. WILDFLOWERS IN WINTER

Standing winter wildflowers are equally beautiful as they are when in bloom, but in a completely different way. They also provide food and shelter for insects, birds and other animals during the winter. You can learn to identify wildflowers in winter using some of the same characteristics you would use during the growing season. For example, mint family members have square stems and opposite leaves.

2. SIGNS OF OVER-WINTERING INSECTS

Most insects survive the winter in a sheltered place. They may be underground, underneath loose bark, hiding in fallen leaves or in rotting wood. Others create their own shelters by spinning silk and using it to tie leaves together to make a cozy winter hideaway. Some survive in plant galls, a growth on a plant triggered by the presence of an insect living inside.

3. WINTER FRUIT

Some plants have evolved to have their fruit ripen in winter when less food is available, often partnering with animals to help them disperse their seeds. Some of these plants have fruit that is showier than their flowers—the better to attract birds and other animals to consume the fruit.

4. BUDS AND BARK

Trees in winter have a stark beauty that’s quite different from their appearance during the summer months, yet they show characteristics unique enough to reveal their identity. A tree with smooth, pale gray bark and parchment-like leaves clinging to its branches throughout the winter is easily identified as American beech. Many other trees can be identified by their distinctive buds and bark.

5. ANIMAL TRACKS

Go for a walk after a new snowfall and look for animal tracks along the trails. Fox tracks are very common, but you also see signs of raccoons, squirrels, mice and birds. Look to see where the tracks turn off the trail and disappear up a tree or into a shelter.

Photos by Mary Anne Borge
As daylight diminishes, I frequently find myself in conversations with people who say, “You must hate winter because there is nothing to do.” Au contraire!

As curator, one of my duties is to collect new material, mostly seeds, to grow at the Preserve. Winter is a great time to clean and prep those seeds before they can be grown. As winter continues, we also shift from cleaning and storing to planting and stratifying seed that will germinate in the spring.

Even into February, I am still busy collecting seed. Many species, such as various bush-clovers (Lespedeza spp.), have seed available throughout the winter—which is great for both human seed collectors and animals such as American goldfinches that eat the seeds. While gathering some of these late-season species, I can often use seed capsules, pods, etc., to identify the species, even though flowers and leaves are long gone.

During the winter, wildlife activity is also quite different as well. We don’t see butterflies or bees moving from flower to flower, spider webs catching flying insects or hear birds calling quite as much. But these spiders and butterflies aren’t gone; they are just overwintering somewhere. Some of the birds are still here too. What are they doing until the weather warms up?

All of these questions and any others you can think of can be answered by observing the winter world. Most of us see a bleak landscape full of dead plants and naked trees. But look closer—those butterflies aren’t gone (okay, the monarchs are); they are overwintering with the spiders: some as eggs, some as caterpillars or spiderlings, and some as adults or pupae.

The winter landscape, including your yard, provides irreplaceable habitat—such as bunches of dead grass stems, drifts of dead leaves and protective seed heads—for these creatures to overwinter. Hollow or pithy stems such as rose mallow (Hibiscus spp.) may provide a safe place for native bees or beetles to overwinter. Leaf and twig debris also provide food and habitat for many species of fungus and other organisms that help create healthy soil environments.

So, whether you go out into the winter wilds or leave your garden a bit less tidy, winter is a great time to get ready for next year while contemplating where the wonderful creatures you saw this year have gone.

—Jason Ksepka, Curator
Save the Date: 2019 Events

19TH ANNUAL LAND ETHICS SYMPOSIUM: CREATIVE APPROACHES FOR ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPING
Thursday, March 14, 8 am – 4 pm
Location: Delaware Valley University, Doylestown, PA

Aldo Leopold asked us all to consider ourselves as citizens of the land, and not conquerors, whenever we sought to use or change it. This “Land Ethic” guides us in protecting our most precious natural resources. Open to all professionals and property owners with an interest in sustainable design and land management, the Land Ethics Symposium features relevant and thought-provoking presentations by regional and national experts. The event will be held on the beautiful grounds of Delaware Valley University, easily accessible by car or SEPTA. Continuing education credits are available. Registration information will be available in mid-December.

Keynote speakers include:
• Kelly Gutshall, Land Studies, Inc.
• Fritz Steiner, UPenn
• Mallory Gilbert
• Steven Handel, Rutgers University

NATIVE PLANT NURSERY SEASON OPENING
Saturday, April 13, 11 am – 5 pm
The Native Plant Nursery opens on Saturday, Apr.13, 2019 from 11 am - 5 pm. We kick off the day with a FREE Members’ Only Lecture, featuring blueberry grower Richard Stevens, from 10 - 11 am. Shopping is open to the public, while members receive a 10 percent discount on plants. So, come join us!

16TH ANNUAL SPRING WILDFLOWER GALA
Saturday, April 27, 5 – 10 pm
Make plans now and don your “black tie and muck boots” for an elegant evening at the peak of our spring splendor. Join us for an evening of cocktails, native wildflower walks, extraordinary silent and live auctions, dancing and a delicious dinner by Max Hansen Caterers. All proceeds will benefit the Preserve’s conservation efforts and educational programs, with a special focus on regeneration.

Invitations will be mailed to members in March. For more information about this unique event, contact Kellie Westervelt, development director, at 215-862-2924 or at westervelt@bhwp.org.

NATIVE PLANTS IN THE LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE MILLERSVILLE
June 5 – 8, 2019
The 28th Annual Native Plants in the Landscape Conference offers opportunities to learn from expert speakers, participate in educational workshops and exceptional field trips over the course of three days. A native plant sale is also held during this event. The purpose of the conference is:
• to increase the knowledge, propagation, cultivation, and use of native plants in the Mid-Atlantic and New England regions
• to promote methods of land management and design that respect a “sense of place” by preserving and restoring native species and natural processes
• to engender an appreciation of regionally appropriate landscapes that are harmonious for people and nature.

While the subject of the conference pertains to native plant communities, the spirit of the conference is to build human communities among a broad range of participants by designing a conference affordable to all; encouraging formal and informal exchanges of information; and, providing opportunities for social interaction. Registration and event details will be posted on our website in late March.
2019 Winter Lecture Series

Every Sunday in January and February, 2 – 3 pm

Enjoy energizing and enlightening experiences at our annual Winter Lecture Series. It features presentations by regionally renowned experts who address a wide range of topics related to natural history, biodiversity, ecological gardening, native plants, native wildlife and related topics. All lectures are held in the auditorium, which is located in the Preserve’s visitor center.

Members: $8 per lecture; Non-members: $12 per lecture
Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Walk-ins welcome as space permits.

Special Offer!
Purchase a ticket punch card for all eight lectures and save over 20%. Members: $50 (full price: $64); Non-members: $76 (full price: $96)

Each ticket entitles the holder to one admission per lecture. Purchase in advance by calling the Preserve or purchase at the door. Seating for all lectures is general admission; please arrive early to get the seat of your choice.

A note about winter weather: If we must cancel or postpone a program, we will try to get the message out via Facebook, our website, and email. Please check those sources before venturing out in a storm.

JANUARY 6

THE GREEN AMENDMENT: SECURING OUR RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT – MAYA VAN ROSSUM

For decades, communities have relied on federal and state laws to ensure protection of a clean environment. And while achieving some important environmental protection successes, overall the health of our environment has continued to degrade from a growing number of sources. The truth is, our laws are designed to accommodate pollution as much as, perhaps even more than, to prevent it. As a result, people feel powerless when it comes to preserving the quality of their water, air, public parks and natural spaces. But there is a solution for achieving better, and much needed, protection of our environment: bypassing the laws and turning to the ultimate authority—our state and federal constitutions.

This lecture will discuss and inspire a new way of thinking about, and pursuing, environmental protection from both policy and legal perspectives.

Maya K. van Rossum is the long-time Delaware riverkeeper and leader for the Delaware Riverkeeper Network. Using advocacy, science and litigation, the DRN works throughout the four states of the Delaware River watershed (NY, NJ, PA & DE) and at the national level. Her book, “The Green Amendment, Securing Your Right to a Healthy Environment,” was the 2018 Living Now Evergreen Awards GOLD Winner in the nature conservation category.

JANUARY 13

OF A FEATHER: A (BRIEF) HISTORY OF AMERICAN BIRDING – SCOTT WEIDENSAUL

From the moment Europeans arrived in North America, they were awestruck by a continent awash with birds—great flocks of wild pigeons, woodlands alive with brilliantly colored songbirds. Join naturalist and author Scott Weidensaul as he traces the unpredictable history of bird study in America, from frontier ornithologists (one of whom barely escaped pursuing Apaches with a precious hawk egg hidden in his mouth) to society matrons who organized the first effective conservation movement; from luminaries like Alexander Wilson (a convicted libeler) and Audubon (an accomplished liar) to modern geniuses like Roger Tory Peterson. Based on his book “Of a Feather,” this whirlwind history shows how ornithology and birding grew from eccentric hobbies into something so completely mainstream they’re now (almost) cool.

Scott Weidensaul is the author of more than two dozen books on natural history, including “Living on the Wind,” a Pulitzer Prize finalist. Weidensaul is a contributing editor for Audubon, a columnist for Bird Watcher’s Digest and writes for a variety of other publications. He resides in eastern Pennsylvania, where he studies the migration of owls and hummingbirds.

JANUARY 20

THE FORGOTTEN TREES OF THE NORTHEASTERN FORESTS – JASON KSEPKA

As late as the early 20th century, American chestnuts, butternuts and elms dominated northeastern forests. Today, they are a rare find. What happened? Join Preserve Curator Jason Ksepka to learn why we want to restore these important native trees, what work has been done by others to do so, how the Preserve can help, and what you can do, too! Discover the problems that impact these trees and the actions we can take to help improve our forests for future generations.

Jason Ksepka ensures that the Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve conforms to the highest standards of museum practices by fully documenting the Preserve’s living plant collections, as well as monitoring the health of the living collections. Jason received a B.S.F. in forestry and a B.S in fisheries/wildlife management from the University of Missouri in Columbia. He is a passionate gardener who maintains a bog garden of carnivorous plants.

Advance registration for these programs is strongly encouraged.

REGISTER ONLINE AT BHWP.ORG/EVENTS
Donald A. Eggen is the forest health manager for the PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry. He worked on the Governor’s Invasive Species Council’s writing team that produced the commonwealth’s Invasive Species Management Plan, and represents DCNR on the Invasive Species Council. He also created the Delaware Invasive Species Council, the first such state council in the U.S. He has a Ph.D. in forest entomology from the SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry and a B.S. in zoology and M.S. in forest entomology from the University of Michigan.

In light of the increasingly urban future of our planet, a thorough understanding of the biological processes at work in urban areas is necessary for the continued survival of Earth’s inhabitants. The first step is to know what is thriving, surviving or perishing in cities now—and what has done so in the past. Funded by the National Science Foundation, the Mid-Atlantic Megalopolis (MAM) Project has begun this study with the digitization of nearly one million plant specimens from 13 herbaria in the urban corridor from New York City to Washington, D.C. As the country’s largest and oldest urban corridor, this area and its flora present a unique opportunity to study urbanization.

Cindy Skema is a botanist at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania and the lead principal investigator of the MAM Project. When not digitizing specimens, she studies the evolution of plants in the field, herbarium and lab. She earned a Ph.D. from Cornell University, a M.Sc. from the University of Edinburgh, and a B.A. from Bryn Mawr College.
2019 Program Highlights
The Preserve offers learning opportunities for all ages to enjoy. See the complete listing of programs and register online at bhwp.org/calendar.

KIDS & FAMILY PROGRAMS

WINTER NATURE PLAY DAY
Saturday, Feb. 2, 1 – 4 pm
Members: FREE; Non-members: $3 per person (includes Preserve admission)
Come join us for an afternoon of play in nature! Our visitor center will be filled with FUN and thematic self-guided activities, art projects and opportunities for a guided hike. This is a drop-in, family program.

TALKS, WALKS & LECTURES

EXPLORING NATURE

THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT (GBBC)
Saturday, Feb. 16, 10 – 11 am
FREE to all!
Advance registration is requested.
Join Michael O'Shea from Wild Birds Unlimited of Buckingham for a GBBC event at the Preserve. It’s FREE, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds! This annual four-day event (Feb. 15-18) engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. The event takes place at the bird observatory in the Preserve auditorium. Binoculars aren’t necessary, but would be helpful.

KNOWING NATIVE PLANTS

Members: $15; Non-members: $20
Pre-registration is recommended.
Presentation/discussion will be followed by an outdoor tour (except Plant ID).
Professional CEUs available.

PLANT IDENTIFICATION
Saturday, Jan. 12, 1 – 3 pm
This indoor class will introduce you to the basics of identifying conifers and flowering herbaceous and woody plants using dichotomous keys. Ed Lignowski, Ph.D., former botany/plant physiology college instructor, will teach you the vegetative and reproductive morphological features and terminology needed to use a typical plant identification key. Emphasis will be placed on leaf and floral characteristics.

FORGOTTEN FLOWERS
Saturday, Mar. 30, 1 – 4 pm
The promise of spring is just around the corner. Meet the early flowering plants and learn how they have adapted to this potentially harsh time of year. This program will focus on early-blooming species such as snow trillium, skunk cabbage and hepatica. We will attempt to identify spring-blooming species from the shoots that will just be poking through the soil.

GROWING NATIVE PLANTS

MAKE & TAKE TERRARIUM GARDEN
Sunday, Jan. 13, Noon – 1pm
Members: $25; Non-members: $30
Enjoy some green in the dead of winter and warm up with a unique terrarium workshop in our propagation house. Participants will utilize native plants that overwinter in our nursery to create their very own terrarium. All materials are included.
GROWING NATIVE PLANTS: PROPAGATION FROM SEED
Saturday, Feb. 23, 10 am – Noon
Members: $20; Non-members: $25, includes all materials.
Advanced registration is required by Thursday, Feb. 21.
Start your wildflower gardening early! Take advantage of BHWP Curator Jason Ksepka’s expertise and learn how to start native wildflowers from seed. Jason will discuss interesting seed germination processes while you plant a variety of wildflower seeds in class to bring home and grow on.

PROPROPAGATION PRIMER WITH JAKE FITZPATRICK
Sunday, Mar. 24, 1 – 2:30 pm
Members: $10; Non-members: $15
Join our nursery manager on a behind-the-scenes tour of our propagation facilities, then get your hands dirty and learn how to properly pot plants and care for them. Each participant will receive a native plant to take home.

SPECIALTY WALKS
NATURE IN WINTER WALK
Saturday, Jan. 5, 1:30 – 3 pm
Members: $5; Non-members: $7.
Advance registration is required by Thursday, Feb. 3
Explore the Preserve in its winter brilliance with Education Coordinator Kelly Joslin! Enjoy the quiet beauty of our habitats while learning how plants provide winter food and shelter for birds and small mammals. We’ll investigate skeletal stems, diverse seed heads, buds that promise next spring’s leaves and flowers, and look for signs of wildlife on this very special walk. Please dress for the cold weather.

COLLECTIONS WALK: PENN’S WOODS
Saturday, Feb. 9, 1 – 2:30 pm
Members: $8; Non-members: $10
Advance registration is required by Thursday, Feb. 7
The Preserve is home to more than 700 species of native plants. Join us for an informative walk as we take a look at rare, unusual, and/or unique favorites of our curator, collection committee and naturalists. This walk will feature the collection found within Penn’s Woods. Please dress for the weather.

WORKSHOPS & EVENTS
ART, HEALTH & NATURE
HOLIDAY CARD MAKEOVER WORKSHOP
Saturday, Jan. 19, 3 – 4 pm
Members: $8, Non-members: $10; includes all art materials.
Advance registration is required by Thursday, Jan. 17
With just a little cutting and folding, holiday cards and calendars can be made into beautiful little boxes. Bring your large folded cards (6 inches minimum measured from the shortest side), old calendars, and a long ruler if you have one. Learn how to transform them into cute little boxes, ready for regifting! Scrapbook paper also makes a nice box; so if you have that, bring it along! Once you know how to do it, you’ll be hooked.

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION AND MOVEMENT FOR HEALTH AND HEALING
6 Wednesdays: Jan. 9 – Feb. 13, 10 – 11:15 am
Members: $72; Non-members: $90 (cost is for series)
Most of our time is spent lost in thought, reviewing the past or planning for the future, while it is only in the present moment that we are truly living. Mindfulness brings us into the present moment, cultivating awareness and felt experience, by paying attention, moment-to-moment. Mindfulness is accompanied by the attitudes of non-judging, acceptance, non-striving, letting go, patience, trust, beginner’s mind, curiosity, and kindness. This series will explore mindfulness through guided meditation and Qigong as a way to cultivate awareness for health and healing.
Sandy Unger, MA, is trained in teaching Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) by Jefferson Hospital’s program in Philadelphia. She is also a certified Qigong teacher through the Institute of Qigong and Tai Chi, and a member of the National Qigong Association.

Unless noted, advance registration is required for all programs.
REGISTER ONLINE AT BHWP.ORG/CALENDAR
ECOLOGY & NATURE

LANDSCAPE DESIGN - A PROCESS FOR THE HOMEOWNER
(4) Saturdays, Mar. 2 – 23, 1:30 – 3:30 pm
Members: $85; Non-members: $95
You may know what a landscape is, but do you know what "design" is? In this 4-part series, Landscape Architect Don Borden will share his expertise to help you understand the ins and outs of the design process. You’ll learn about the creative part of the process - from how to use texture, color and constructed aspects – and how to choose the best solutions for your landscape. The final class will help you put it all together.

Don Borden is a retired registered Landscape Architect who earned degrees from Rutgers University in landscape architecture and Temple University in landscape design. He has 47 years in professional practice and taught at Temple University in Landscape Design and Delaware Valley University in Landscape Architecture.

MAKE & TAKE WORKSHOP: FROM NATURE WITH LOVE
Saturday, Feb. 9, 10 am – Noon
Members: $15, Non-members: $18; includes all art materials.
Since ancient times, people have used plants to heal and care for themselves. But did you know that many herbal remedies can still be found in your backyard? In this make-and-take session, you’ll learn about botanicals used through history and make a healing lip balm to take home. Advance registration required by Feb. 6, 2019.

BIRDING PROGRAMS

FEEDING WILD BIRDS 101 WORKSHOP
Saturday, Jan. 5, 10 – 11:30 am
Members: $5; Non-members: $7
Do you enjoy watching all the activity at your bird feeder? Do you look forward to sitting and watching, even for a few minutes? Bird watching can be a stress reliever and we want to help you learn all the tricks for getting wild birds to flock to your feeders.
Join us and Michael O’Shea of Wild Birds Unlimited for our Feeding Wild Birds 101 Workshop designed to help you delve more deeply into the lives of the beautiful birds of the Delaware Valley. Learn how to identify both common and uncommon backyard birds and discover the secrets to preferred food choices and feeder types, as well as ways to attract more birds to your yard.

BAGELS AND BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS WITH PAM NEWITT
Saturday, Mar. 30, 8:30 – 10:30 am
Members: $12; Non-members: $15
Advance registration is required with payment by Thursday, Mar. 28
If you've wanted to begin watching birds, but didn't know where to start, here is your opportunity. We'll open with bagels and coffee, then learn the basics of field identification through visual and behavioral cues, as well as some common song recognition. Next we will head out to test our newfound knowledge in the field. Please bring binoculars if you have them.

RENETING YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS AS EASY AS 1-2-3
Choose to renew in one of three easy ways.

1. Visit bhwp.org and click on JOIN US.
2. Stop by our Visitor Center and renew in person.
3. Call 215.862.2924

Questions?
Email membership@bhwp.org or call 215.862.2924.

Unless noted, advance registration is required for all programs.

REGISTER ONLINE AT BHWP.ORG/CALENDAR
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<tr>
<th>JANUARY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TUE 1</td>
<td>1 – 30 Guided Wildflower Walks Daily</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT 5</td>
<td>9 am – 1 pm</td>
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<td>SUN 6</td>
<td>SAT 6 Earth Day Spring Cleanup</td>
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<td>WED 9</td>
<td>SAT 13 Spring Bird Walk</td>
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<td>SAT 12</td>
<td>SAT 13 Members Only Preview Lecture</td>
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<td>SUN 13</td>
<td>SAT 13 Native Plant Nursery Opens!</td>
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<td>WED 16</td>
<td>SAT 13 Drop-In Make &amp; Take: Bog Planter</td>
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<td>SAT 19</td>
<td>SAT 13 Flashlight Egg Hunt</td>
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<td>SUN 20</td>
<td>SAT 20 Spring Bird Walk</td>
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<td>WED 23</td>
<td>SAT 27 Spring Bird Walk</td>
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<td>WED 30</td>
<td>SAT 27 Spring Garden Gala</td>
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<td>FEBRUARY</td>
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<td>SAT 2</td>
<td>1 – 31 Guided Wildflower Walks Daily</td>
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<td>SUN 3</td>
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<td>WED 6</td>
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<td>SAT 9</td>
<td>SAT 4 Knowing Native Plants: Late Spring Lovelies 9:30 am – 12:30 pm</td>
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<td>SUN 11</td>
<td>SUN 5 Birding by Kayak on the Delaware Canal 8 – 10 am</td>
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<td>WED 13</td>
<td>SUN 5 Behind the Scenes Nursery Tour 12 – 1 pm</td>
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<td>SAT 16</td>
<td>SAT 11 Spring Bird Walk</td>
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<td>WED 16</td>
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<td>WED 23</td>
<td>SAT 11 Mother’s Day Make &amp; Take Basket (Drop-in) 10 am – 2 pm</td>
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<td>WED 30</td>
<td>SAT 12 Mother’s Day Make &amp; Take Basket (Drop-in) 10 am – 2 pm</td>
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<td>SAT 18 Knowing Native Plants: Focus on Ferns 1 – 4 pm</td>
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<td>SAT 18 Walk When the Moon is Full</td>
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<td>SAT 25 Knowing Native Plants: Flowering Shrubs 9:30 am – 12:30 pm</td>
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<td>MON 27 Memorial Day: Visitor Center Open 9 am – 5 pm</td>
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<td>MARCH</td>
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<td>1 – 30 Guided Wildflower Walk Daily</td>
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<td>SAT 9</td>
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<td>SAT 9</td>
<td>SUN 2 Behind-the-Scenes: Nursery Tour 12 – 1 pm</td>
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<td>SAT 16</td>
<td>SAT 5 Native Plants in the Landscape Conference 7 – 8:30 am</td>
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<td>SAT 23</td>
<td>SAT 15 Invasive Species ID and Management 9:30 am – 12:30 pm</td>
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<td>SUN 24</td>
<td>THU 20 Children’s Summer Reading</td>
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<td>SAT 30</td>
<td>SAT 22 Collections Walk: The Fern Trail 10:30 am – 12 pm</td>
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<td>SAT 30</td>
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<td>SAT 28 Fascinating Fireflies</td>
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<td>SAT 29 Pollinators &amp; Pollination Strategies 1 – 4 pm</td>
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<td>ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR MOST PROGRAMS. Visit bhwp.org/events for more information and registration.</td>
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Bowman’s Hill
Wildflower Preserve
Check your mailing label for your membership expiration date.