



Bowman's Hill
WILDFLOWER PRESERVE
Where Mind, Heart and Spirit Bloom

Twinleaf Newsletter

Volume 24, Issue 1

Spring 2017



April 22 Opening for Plant Nursery this Year

Lots of exciting changes at the Preserve this year and many of them are in our Native Plant Nursery. This year the nursery will open earlier in the season. Join us for the Spring Opening on Saturday April 22, 2017 and see all of the changes. This year we're opening the Nursery gates to give you a sneak peek at where we propagate our native plants. All of these plants get the "Propagated with Pride" sticker which denotes plants that were nurtured on-site by our dedicated propagator volunteers.

We've made some changes in the plant sales area to showcase plant groupings that you can include in your new or existing garden. As you wander around feel free to consult with our knowledgeable volunteer naturalists and propagators to answer your plant and garden questions. We will also have reference information about the plants you selected.

Adding native plants to your garden will provide you with year round enjoyment as the birds, butterflies, and bees visit. Many of our plants have been grown from seed in our nursery, and were collected at the Preserve. Our Curator, Jason Ksepka, along with propagation volunteers collected seeds to add to our seed bank. Our Greenhouse is filling up so we can

**NEW
MEMBER BENEFIT
10% Off Plants!**

BHWP Returning to Millersville for Annual Native Plants Conference

The Preserve will again sponsor the Native Plants in the Landscape Conference (NPILC), held from June 7-10, 2017 at Millersville University, in Millersville, PA. Open to landscape professionals, property owners, and everyone in between, NPILC host inspiring field trips, educational workshops, engaging topics of concern, a native plant and book sale, and native plant merchandise. This is a conference you don't want to miss!

Last year's visit to local restaurants was so much fun, we'll once again enjoy an off-site dinner on Wednesday evening. This year we'll travel to the scenic John Wright Restaurant, along the Susquehanna River in Wrightsville, PA. Chef Jim will demonstrate cooking with foraged native and non-native species, share restaurant history, and give a tour to make for a delightful evening. This is an add-on event, with bus transportation, food, and drink included in the cost.

provide fully rooted plants for you to take home and plant in your garden. We will be offering native plants for sale throughout the growing season. Check our website for plant availability, www.bhwp.org.

The Spring Opening kicks off with a Members-only "Fascinating Plants of the Delaware Valley" presentation. From plants that create their own heat to plants that shoot their seeds 25 feet, the Delaware Valley is full of fascinating flora. Bucks County Extension Horticulture Educator Kathy Salisbury will take you on a journey to explore these captivating plants and have you looking a little differently at the nature around you.

Can't make the conference but would still like to purchase native plants? The Plant and Book Sale will be open to the public on Friday, June 9th from 4:00-9:00 pm and again on Saturday, June 10th from 8:00am-noon. On Friday evening, we will screen "Hometown Habitat," a 90-minute documentary showing how and why native plants are critical to the survival and the vitality of local ecosystems. The screening will be free for the general public.

The 2017 NPILC conference schedule will post in February and registration will open in March. For further details, please email our Conference Coordinator Wendy Brister at brister@bhwp.org, or visit www.MillersvilleNativePlants.org.

Full conference and partial registration is available, as are a la carte workshop options. Campus lodging is available. Continuing education credits are available to landscape professionals.



We've added some perks to our membership program to encourage more native planting in our communities. Preserve members will now receive a 10% discount on plant purchases at the Spring Opening and throughout the entire growing season. New plants will be added to our sales area, so be sure to check back often.

Spring Opening Schedule

- 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. Members-Only Lecture featuring Kathy Salisbury
- 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Members-Only Shopping
- 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Make & Take Bog Garden Table
- 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Shopping Open to All

TWINLEAF

Published three times per year as a benefit of Preserve membership.

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve
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New Hope, PA 18938-0685
Phone: (215) 862-2924
Fax: (215) 862-1846
Website: www.bhwp.org
Email: bhwp@bhwp.org

The Preserve is located 2 ½ miles south of New Hope, PA at 1635 River Road (Route 32). Open year-round. Grounds are open 9 am – sunset daily.

Visitor Center and Twinleaf Gift Shop
Open 9 am – 5 pm, Tuesday through Sunday, Memorial Day, and Labor Day.
Closed Thanksgiving Day and 12/24 through 1/1

Admission:
Preserve Members: FREE
Non-members:
Adults: \$6
Seniors (62+): \$4
Full-time students: \$4
Children 3-14, \$3
Children under three are FREE

Preserve Staff:
A. Miles Arnott, Executive Director
Jake Fitzpatrick, Nursery Manager
Rick Fonda, Grounds Manager
Rich Gallagher, Facilities and Maintenance Coordinator
Amy Goldstein, Membership Coordinator
Susan Harrington, Administrative Assistant
Lauren Johnson, Communications Coordinator
Kelly Joslin, Education Coordinator
Jason Ksepka, Curator
Jo Ann Mitidieri, Visitor Services
Regina Moriarty, Volunteer Coordinator
Sue Owens, Bookkeeper
Donna Rhodes, Development Director
Maggie Strucker, Pocket Meadow Coordinator

Botanical Illustrations by Heather Lovett

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve inspires the appreciation and use of native plants by serving as a sanctuary and an educational resource for conservation and stewardship.

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve is managed by the Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve Association, Inc. in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



Bowman's Hill
WILDFLOWER PRESERVE
Where Mind, Heart and Spirit Bloom

1635 River Road New Hope, Pennsylvania www.bhwp.org

Message from the Director

You may have noticed some activity along the area on the left hand side of the road along the exit drive. This portion of the property is part of President's Drive and was initially created in the 1940's as a place to plant memorial flowering trees for the outgoing president of the Federation of Women's Clubs. The few existing historical photos show the trees planted in a park-like or arboretum setting.

Time, tornados, and ice storms, have all taken their toll on the area, and volunteers from the Women's Club days of the mid-twentieth century have dwindled. Ample sunlight, periodic disturbance, and no formal management structure of the area led to a few aged specimens (some of them particularly interesting) growing amidst a tangle of Japanese honeysuckle, mugwort, multiflora rose and poison ivy.

In 2012, nearly half of President's Drive was improved during the construction of the New Pond. We eradicated substantial patches of multiflora rose and Japanese honeysuckle. Shrubs and flowering trees were planted along the edges near the road and near the new pond itself. A new native meadow was installed from seed mix and is currently competing and helping keep the invasive plants at bay. Prior to construction we identified and were able to keep many educational specimens during this phase of the project, including wafer ash, sweet fern, and lots of wild senna. The grounds staff and volunteers continue to manage this evolving ecosystem.

In 2015, we undertook the second part of the President's Drive project to return the lower part the Drive to its original glory. However, we wanted to be sure to take a more sustainable ecosystem approach to the site rather than try to recreate the original parkland vision of the 1940s. We asked for and received input from volunteers, naturalists, and staff about which plants on the site we needed to keep for collections and educational purposes (e.g. specimen of *Rosa virginica* used for Rosaceae and flowering shrubs classes and for 2:00 p.m. walks).

With important specimens mapped out, the staff set to work clearing the understory of non-native invasive and aggressive species. Aging specimens of redbuds, dogwoods, and fringe trees were pruned to rescue them, or removed if they were too badly damaged to save. Volunteer seedlings of redbud trees were flagged and saved as were all of the large specimens of native azaleas. The improved air circulation provided by the rejuvenation pruning will be of great benefit to the remaining trees and clearing of the invasive plants will greatly improve the health of the mature specimen azaleas in the years ahead.

This fall the grounds staff planted the area with a diverse selection of flowering trees and shrubs, with special emphasis on native azaleas. In all, 18 azaleas were planted: 3 *Rhododendron arborescens*, 3 *R. atlanticum*, 5 *R. periclymenoides*, 3 *R. calendulaceum*, and 2 *R. viscosum*. Although not native to the piedmont ecoregion of PA, we also planted 1 *R. cumberlandense*, and 1 *R. prunifolium* for comparative educational interest. They are now in exclosures to help guard against deer damage (more on the deer situation in an upcoming communication!). Taking the lead from wish lists that were created by the naturalists and the Education committee and approved at Property and Collections Committee meetings, we will be adding wahoo (vegetative propagules collected from the PA state champion tree) prickly ash, and red-osier dogwood to the President's Drive planting selection. The information on species names, provenance, and planting location will be recorded in our existing plant database before year's end and available for educational/interpretive programs and collection inventory.

We are letting the fallen leaf litter this autumn form a natural weed barrier until we can seed the area next year with a meadow mix similar to that used near the new pond. The end vision is an aesthetically pleasing display of native azaleas, flowering shrubs and small flowering trees in a savannah-like setting, with a meadow like herb layer similar to the existing plant assemblage around the pond. Once completed it will be an accessible display of native plants and a valuable educational resource for the public to learn from and enjoy.

– Miles Arnott, Executive Director

PEOPLE & EVENTS

Meet our Volunteer Propagators

Judy Hallberg moved to Bucks County a year ago and became a volunteer propagator a short time later. She is the former director of an art gallery and is a resident curator of a timber house built in 1677, including its 12 acres with seven gardens and a meadow. Before she took over the meadow she mowed regularly and she “never saw wildflowers.” Then she stopped mowing and became interested in wildflowers. Her first volunteer role at BHWP was at the front desk, but then she saw the propagators wearing jeans and gardening gloves. As she puts it, “I wanted to be with them, and now I am. I enjoy learning, and I really enjoy the people.”



Patsy Wang-Iverson, a member for many years, became a volunteer propagator in 2016. She came to hear Pat Sutton speak, and was inspired to volunteer. Patsy responded to a propagation ad has been doing it every other week. “The other volunteers are very welcoming,” she says. A biochemist who has also worked in math and science education, Patsy wants to keep learning and as a propagator she gets that chance — about the plants, planting conditions, locations, and the different types of native plants and what wildlife they attract.

David Shanno, is a retired math professor who still conducts research. He has degrees from Yale and Carnegie Mellon and taught for 41 years in major universities. David began volunteering 17 years ago and discovered it was a wonderful escape. “It’s dirty work, but it makes you feel good,” he says. “Volunteering involves people you want to be with and jobs you want to do.”



Terri Layton, a native of South Korea and graduate of Villanova University, is a retired accountant. Sixteen years ago she moved into the woods near Lake Nockamixon and “started getting curious about birds and plants and started going to seminars at the Preserve.” Terri was drawn to propagation volunteers and found them to be a diverse group. “We talk about anything and everything. After retiring, I was not getting a lot of intellectual stimulation. I live with four dogs, and they don’t talk much,” she jokes. “I feel like I’m part of small community with fantastic talent.”

Jeffrey A. Buckwalter, M.D. is a retired ear, nose and throat doctor. He is a new member of the Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve board and a propagation volunteer since August of 2015. Jeffrey was drawn to these roles by a longtime fascination with plants and how to replenish them. “The relationships at the preserve, and what one learns about nature, can be a remedy for the human tendency to ‘live too much in the moment,’” he says. “Nature teaches us about the important relationship of things in life, and how insignificant the time a human lives is compared to all of nature.”



A Fond Farewell...

Long-time Trustee and good friend Naudain Sellers recently moved to Tennessee to be closer to her children and grandchildren.

Naudain joined the Preserve as a Trustee in 2004 and served four consecutive three-year terms. On the Development Committee she helped raise operating and grant funding for the Preserve. She was also Chair of the Membership Committee for many years and worked closely with staff and other volunteers to promote membership and programming to the general public.

Along with fellow board member Sandy Ryon, Naudain conceptualized and spearheaded the Preserve’s first “Wild about Flowers Spring Garden Gala” in 2004. Her care and nurturing of that small event grew the Gala into the major fundraising and public relations event it is today.

Everyone who has had the pleasure of working with Naudain will tell you what an amazing person she is and how she has positively influenced them with her guidance and wisdom. We will miss you Naudain. Thank you for so many wonderful years! You truly did leave the Preserve better than you found it.

...a Happy Return

Trustee Alison Hamilton is returning to serve another term on the Preserve’s Board of Trustees after talking a required year off.

We are very fortunate to have Allison returning to share her experience as the former Chair of the Board as well as her considerable expertise in planning and networking. Welcome back Allison!

PEOPLE & EVENTS

Thank You, BHWP Volunteers

Our volunteers are the heart and soul of Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, and they are vital to helping us fulfill our mission. Each fall, we have the wonderful opportunity to recognize, thank and celebrate our dedicated, talented and generous team at the annual Volunteer Recognition Brunch.

In 2016 our volunteers donated over 10,000 hours, helping the staff achieve goals, keeping the property looking pristine, taking care of our seeds and plants, greeting the public, running programs and fundraising. We certainly have a lot to be grateful for! This year, our recognition event was held in November at Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church which held the crowd of 70 volunteers, staff and board members quite nicely. We enjoyed a meal of gourmet sandwiches, salads, roasted vegetables and delicious desserts. It was a great time to share stories, connect with other volunteers and say thank you.

We are able to support this event with the help of our community sponsors who donated or discounted food or gifts. Special thank you to **Riverside Symphonia**, Lambertville, NJ; **Lambertville Station**, Lambertville, NJ; **Grounds for Sculpture**, Hamilton, NJ; **Philadelphia Museum of Art**, Philadelphia, PA; **Barnes Arboretum**, Merion, PA; **Sand Castle Winery**, Erwinna, PA; **Wilcox All Pro Tools**; **Bucks-Mont Party Rental**, New Britain, PA; **The Family Cow**, Chambersberg, PA; and **DiNapoli's**, Lambertville, PA.

Clockwise from top: Executive Director Miles Arnott (left) with top volunteers; addressing the group; volunteers enjoy lunch together.

Top Volunteers by Hours: Jean Barrell, Dave Horn, Dolores Labrum, Barbara Sheinmel, Monica Flint, and Margie Rutbell.

Volunteers with 100-200 hours: Stephanie Lovenguth, Lynn Holzner, Ed Carpenito, Barbara Bailes, Dot Gaboda, Kathy Vanozzi, Mary Ellen Sibley, Chris Dewaghe, Terri Layton, Mary Anne Zupick, Leah Hight, Pat Coleman, Susan Vigilante, Janice Rockmore, Emily Grace, and Paul Teese.

Volunteers with 50-100 Hours: Joyce Koch, Rob Barrett, Carolyn Mora, Trig Tregaskis,

Nancy Putnam, Rick Anderson, Mary Heaton, Dave Shanno, Les Swartley, Kathie Shanno, Julie Davies, Carol Welsch, Marna Elliot, Michael Glenn, Marty Kalbach, Priscilla Hayes, Gudrun Alexander, Rekha Mehta, Bruce Roush, Carl Homnick, Mary Nogami, Judy Eby, Julia Klossner, Trey Wilson, Sue Hurst, Marion Kyde, Nancy Quanstrom, Melanie Kavanaugh, Donna Shumpert, and Mare McClellan.

We sincerely thank all of our enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering at the Preserve, contact Regina Moriarty at moriarty@bhwp.org.



Follow Us!

Be sure to follow us on your favorite social channel to learn about upcoming programs, events, and all things native!

FACEBOOK

@BowmansHillWildflowerPreserve

TWITTER

@Bowmans_Hill_WP

INSTAGRAM

@wildflowerpreserve

The Earth Needs YOU!

Earth Day is the perfect time to explore nature AND to take action in an effort to help our planet. Put together a group – co-workers, friends, family, or a shared-interest group – and reach out to us. We will work with you to find a mutually agreeable date throughout the month of April to spend a morning at the Preserve, while you join our mission to preserve native habitat. It is a great time to get the Preserve ready for all of our spring visitors. We'd love your help! We have many different projects to choose from to fit your activity level.

Volunteering at the Preserve offers a unique opportunity for corporate groups, service groups, students, families and individuals to learn and work together.

To learn more or schedule a time for your group, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Regina Moriarty at moriarty@bhwp.org.

PEOPLE & EVENTS

Helping Children Grow with Our Pocket Meadow Program

The pilot year of the Pocket Meadow program has afforded us many memorable experiences. We have worked with many wonderful teachers, students, volunteers, and scouts. We greatly appreciate the supportive principals and facilities people that have taken time from their busy schedules to help to coordinate site work, material deliveries and class schedules. The joy of seeing the enthusiasm of both the children and the staff as they helped to create their own outdoor classroom is something that has been extremely rewarding.

When The Preserve first began this program, we envisioned not only taking a small piece of the meadow beyond our fence, but also delivering an educational opportunity to the community that would promote the importance of native plants. As our partnerships developed, we discovered that the success of this program also depended on people coming together to make these gardens a sustainable reality.

The work day at Tinicum Elementary School where the principal, parents, teachers, and the Tinicum Conservancy moved materials donated by local businesses, and the transformation of Doyle Elementary School's site from an abandoned garden to a real outdoor classroom are just two examples of how people working together has added so much value to our vision.

Clockwise from top: Doyle Elementary School; Jamison Elementary School; New Hope-Solebury Elementary School

The Preserve would like to thank all of those whose hard work and dedication to our Pocket Meadow efforts have made such a difference. We have enjoyed the partnerships with Jamison Elementary School, Doyle Elementary School, Sol Feinstone Elementary School, Tinicum Elementary School, and Souderton High School.

We also want to thank Girl Scout Troop #2024 and the New Hope-Solebury Free Library and for their efforts that led their garden to being honored by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society as a "Garden of Note."

We have learned so much in the first year that will help strengthen the program as we move forward. We now realize that with so many diverse sites, "meadow" may be too narrow a designation and we have shifted the focus to "Pocket Habitats" in order to accommodate a broader range of possibilities. We look forward to these opportunities and new partners in the coming year.

If you would like to discuss a new Pocket Habitat opportunity for a school or community center, contact our pocket habitat coordinator Maggie Strucker at strucker@bhwp.org.



EDUCATION

Wings & Wildflowers Weekend **Saturday, June 3** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. FREE!

Stop by the Preserve for an admission-free Open House that focuses on pollinators and plants. This family-friendly event will include the unveiling of our new butterfly trail, along with self-guided activities and an art project in the Visitor Center. Get a special behind-the-scenes look at our native plant nursery and help propagate plants for pollinators. Bring your family, friends and neighbors. Find out more online at www.bhwp.org/specialevents.



NEW! Birding in the 21st Century **Sunday, April 9**

8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Members: \$20; Non-members: \$25

Advance registration with payment required by April 5

Kick off the spring birding season with a hike led by local birding experts followed by a discussion with noted Naturalist Pete Bacinski. First, we will hit the trails of the Preserve in search of early spring migrants, then join Pete as he leads a discussion that provides answers to many interesting bird questions. Why do birds migrate thousands of miles to North America? Has climate change affected Neotropical migrants? Is the southern quarter of New Jersey the best place to find birds and where is the best migrant trap? What impact does development and wind turbines have on migratory birds? What boreal bird species are under the most stress and why? These are some of the topics covered in this lively discussion, with questions welcomed.

Pete Bacinski is a naturalist, photographer and field trip guide, who has been a leader in the field of ornithology for many decades. He has written for numerous local, state and national publications and has won the World Series of Birding Competition three times.

Approaching Nature with Photography **Tuesdays (2), May 9 & May 16**

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Members: \$45; Non-members: \$50

Advance registration with payment required by May 2

This two-part class for naturalists and nature lovers looks at photography as a tool for learning and communicating about the world of plants. Session 1 will focus on shooting, including time spent out on the trails (bring digital camera, macro and landscape lenses, and tripod). Session 2 will cover image handling and collection management, including color correction, metadata, and web posting. Creating a meaningful body of work will be emphasized over crafting perfect images. Participants should be familiar with the basic operation of their cameras. Home computer with internet access is recommended. Class taught by Naturalist Tom Potterfield.

NEW! Starlight Stroll

Friday, March 31

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Members: \$5; Non-members: \$7

Advance registration required by March 28

There's something special about exploring nature at night. Set your sense of adventure on high, and join us for an evening full of folklore and stories under the light of the moon and stars. Program will end with a marshmallow roast around the campfire.

Flashlight Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 8

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Members: \$12/child with non-paying adult;

Non-members: \$15/child with non-paying adult. Space is limited!

Advance registration with payment required by April 4

Kids ages 3-7 can join us to learn about some of the animals that come from eggs. We'll read a story about oviparous animals, decorate a special basket, and then head outside for a very special egg hunt. A trail of goody-filled eggs has been left in the forest. Bring a flashlight and find some of those eggs to take home. It's going to be an EGG-citing time. Don't miss it!



NEW! Campfire Magic: Tuning Into Nature

Sunday, June 11

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Members: FREE!; Non-members: \$5 (children 2 and under free)

Advance registration is required by June 5

Join us alongside our spectacular pond for a lovely summer evening of stories and songs around a blazing fire. Led by music specialist Susan Sacks, we'll sing together about animals, birds, plants, insects, and the many seasonal happenings in nature. A chorus of frogs may sing right along with us! Our evening will end with a festive marshmallow roast. Audience participation is a must! Please bring your enthusiasm and blankets/chairs. This campfire sing-a-long is weather-permitting and may be cancelled if it is actively raining.

Since the age of 12, Susan Sacks has been playing the guitar and singing. For many years Susan has been teaching early childhood music classes and is also a religious school music specialist. Susan looks forward to our campfire event as she brings people of all ages together in song.

EDUCATION

Movie Night

"Hometown Habitat - Stories of Bringing Nature Home"

Thursday, May 11

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Members: \$8; Non-members: \$12

Seating is limited. Advance registration required by May 9

"Hometown Habitat" is a 90-minute environmental education documentary film showing how and why native plants are critical to the survival and vitality of local ecosystems. Entomologist Doug Tallamy, whose research, books and lectures on the benefits of native plants in landscaping, provides the narrative thread throughout the film. The message: All of us have the power to support habitat for wildlife and bring natural beauty to our patch of the earth. This movie fosters the mission of The Meadow Project to educate and raise awareness about sustainable, native, healthy, easy and affordable land care practices that support wildlife and human life.



NEW! The Healing Power of Nature: Integrating Body, Mind and Spirit

Wednesdays (4): May 24 – June 14

10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Members: \$40; Non-members: \$48

Participants must register for entire series to attend

Join Sandy Unger for this four-part series as she shows you a variety of mindfulness techniques that will help you become more in tune with nature and yourself. Please dress to be outdoors and wear comfortable shoes.

Week 1: Healing the Mind with meditation-mindfulness, concentration and relaxation

Week 2: Healing the Body with Qigong-breathing and movement

Week 3: Healing the Spirit by exploring nature with our senses, connecting with something larger than us

Week 4: Integrating the Mind-Body-Spirit in nature

Sandy Unger, MA is a Qigong and Tai Chi Easy instructor certified through the Institute of Integral Qigong and Tai Chi (IIQTC); a member of the National Qigong Association; and has received mindfulness training through University of Pennsylvania's Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction program.

NEW! Make & Take Workshops

Do you have a small yard or no yard at all? Don't let a lack of space prevent you from enjoying the benefits of native plants! Our solution is a mini garden filled with beautiful native plants that you can keep indoors, on your patio, or on a deck. Fees vary by workshop. All materials are included. Drop by on the following dates:

Saturday, April 22 - Mini Bog Garden

Drop in between 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Members: \$22/planter; Non-members: \$25/per planter

Saturday, May 13 - Mother's Day Planter

Drop in between 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Members: \$15/planter; Non-members: \$18/per planter

Saturday, May 20 - Mini Fern Planter

Drop in between 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Members: \$22/planter; Non-members: \$25/per planter

Celebrate National Wildflower Week at the Preserve

Always the first full week of May, National Wildflower Week commemorates the colorful blossoms that bring our landscapes to life. This week-long celebration was started by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas. As Johnson once said, wildflowers "give us a sense of where we are in this great land of ours." There's something for everyone this week.



Guided Wildflower Walks

Daily (April through June)

Tue - Fri (July through March)

Nature Buddies: Flower Power

Thursday May 4

10:00 am – 11:15 am

Wildflowers After Hours

Friday, May 5

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Knowing Native Plants: Late Spring Lovelies

Saturday, May 6

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Visit www.bhwp.org for program details and fees. Won't you join us?

EDUCATION

NEW! What Makes a Bee a Good Pollinator?

The pollination and foraging ecology of spring bees
by Colleen Smith and Mark Genung

Saturday, June 17

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Members: \$15; Non-members: \$20

Colleen will talk about her research on how the amount of food available to a bee can affect its foraging behavior. By looking at the pollen bees collect, we can learn about both their foraging behavior and how good they are as pollinators. In turn, Mark will describe how the behavior and preferences of different bee species make them better or worse as pollinators of two native wildflowers (bee balm, *Monarda fistulosa* and spring beauty, *Claytonia virginica*). The new and exciting element of this study involves watching how bees behave on flowers and actually measuring how effective each species is, by collecting flowers and counting the number of pollen grains it deposits during its visit.

Colleen Smith is currently a third year Ph.D. student in Dr. Rachael Winfree's lab at Rutgers University. As an undergraduate, she studied Ecology and Spanish at the University of Michigan. For her Ph.D. she is researching the pollen use and foraging ecology of native bees. Ms. Smith collects bees in the springtime, and examines their pollen under a microscope during the rest of the year.

Dr. Mark Genung is a postdoctoral researcher in Dr. Rachael Winfree's lab. He splits his time between mathematical ecology and field work collecting native bees. Currently, he is working with Dr. Winfree and studying how many bee species we need to ensure adequate pollination of native plants across multiple seasons and habitats.

How to Create a No-Fuss Wildlife Pond with Pat Sutton

NEW DATE! Sunday, April 23

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

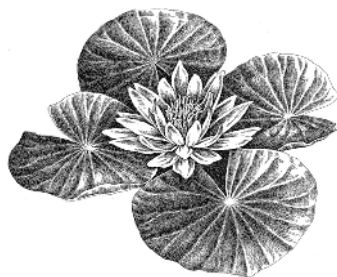
Members: \$45

Non-members: \$50

Advance registration with payment required by April 20

Frogs, toads, and dragonflies all need freshwater ponds for egg laying to create future generations. Even a tiny pond will attract and support them. Learn what a true wildlife pond is and how simple it is to create – with no need for running water, filters, fish, and all the fuss. Pat Sutton will share the basics of how to create a wildlife pond and, even more importantly, how to maintain it so that wildlife benefits. Learn which native plants to add to the pond (and which problem plants to avoid), and don't be surprised if Sutton offers to share native plants from her very own ponds. Don't make the same mistake that others have made by creating a pond for exotic fish that supports little else. In a true wildlife pond, expect to attract and get to watch the amazing life cycle of huge Green Darner dragonflies or count a growing population of Leopard Frogs and Green Frogs that find your pond as if by magic. Create it and they will come!

Patricia Sutton, in her long-time capacity as Naturalist and Program Director with the Cape May Bird Observatory, researched and wrote the New Jersey Audubon Society booklet, Backyard Habitat For Birds, a Guide for Landowners and Communities in New Jersey.



Summer Camps



Magical Fairy Gardens

Monday and Tuesday, June 26 & 27

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Members: \$65; Non-members: \$75

Children ages 7-12

Advance registration with payment is required by June 20

Art inspires whimsical fairy gardens in this two-day camp. Explore the outdoors as you collect objects at the Preserve such as pinecones, moss, branches and more that will attract your fairies. Learn how to plan and sketch the design for your fairy garden. Then execute your garden by planting, building, and painting. Materials are included. Wear sneakers; bring a water bottle and a snack.

NEW! Nature Adventure Summer Camp

Monday, July 17 – Wednesday, July 19

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Ages 8 - 12

Members: \$150*; Non-members: \$175*

We're thrilled to partner with the fine folks at Delaware River Canal State Park to offer a NEW nature adventure summer camp. Budding, young scientists will explore the marvels of nature as they learn and play amidst our 100+ acres of ponds, meadow, and forests. We will learn about birds, ecology and the natural and cultural history of our region. Campers will also learn to orienteer, geocache and go kayaking on the Delaware Canal. Space is limited.

* A \$75 deposit will hold your registration and full balance is due three weeks before camp begins.

Children's Summer Reading Program

Every Thursday: June 16 through August 18

10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Members: Free!; Non-members: \$7 for one child with adult, \$3 for each additional child

Pre-registration required by the Tuesday prior to each program

Join us to explore the wonders of nature! We will read exciting books about the outdoors, take hikes through the Preserve in search of the plants and critters in our stories, and make nature crafts to take home. This program is appropriate for ages 3 through 8. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Each session is unique, so join us for as many as you like.

Notes from the Curator

For the 2017 growing season, Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve will add some new milkweed varieties that we hope to offer for sale. We usually have *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly weed), *A. verticillata* (whorled milkweed) and *A. incarnata* (swamp milkweed). For 2017, we intend to grow two forms of swamp milkweed including *A. incarnata incarnata*, the subspecies that grows in the Piedmont; and *A. incarnata pulchra*, which is the subspecies from the Coastal Plain. Additionally, we have seed for *A. purpurascens* (purple milkweed), *A. viridiflora* (green comet milkweed), and *A. exaltata* (poke milkweed) and intend to have these species for sale. We also have seed for *Asclepias quadrifolia* (four-leaved milkweed), and plan to plant that species on the Preserve to make available in the future.

In the past, we have not had the best success with growing milkweeds in pots. They are a difficult genus to make happy. This year we will be trialing a custom soil mix that we are making specifically for the milkweeds. I reached out to several resources for help with formulating our soil, and we hope to see significant improvements in the milkweeds that we offer for sale this spring at our native plant nursery.

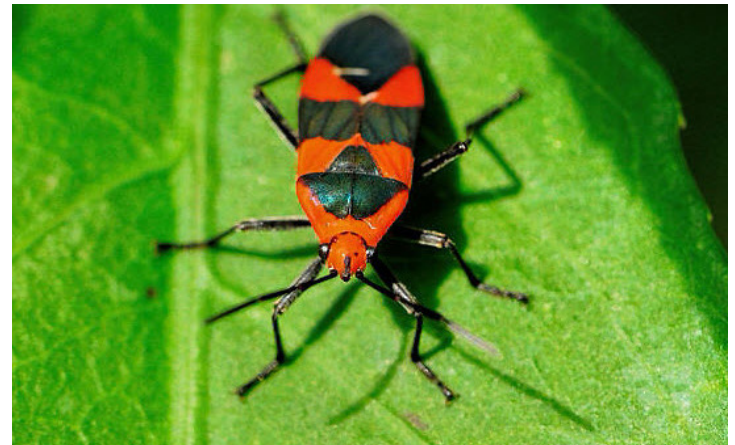
You may be wondering, "Why would we want to sell milkweeds?" I think that most people who know native plants understand that milkweed leaves are the only food source for *Danaus plexippus*, monarch butterfly caterpillars. This fact has gotten a lot of attention in recent years and people all over the country are trying to plant more milkweeds to help monarchs increase their numbers after severe population declines in recent decades.



What I think most people don't know about milkweeds is the variety of other insects that use it as a food source as well. Three of these other insects also rely only on milkweeds, and cannot survive and reproduce without them. *Euchaetes egle*, the milkweed tussock moth caterpillar also feeds on milkweed leaves and can often be found close to monarch caterpillars.

These are attractive, fuzzy caterpillars with red/orange, black, and white hairs and are quite eye-catching in the garden. The adult moth is less impressive though, unlike the magnificent monarch butterfly.

Oncopeltus fasciatus, the large milkweed bug is a true bug, which uses "piercing-sucking" mouthparts to drink its food. Many true bugs are predatory and stab other insects to drink their fluids. The milkweed bug uses its needle-like mouth (rostrum) to inject enzymes into the nearly ripe seed of milkweeds, then to drink the contents after they have been liquefied. In the wild, this bug feeds exclusively on the seed of just a few milkweed species, and has been found feeding on related species in the *Apocynaceae* family, to which milkweeds belong. But without milkweeds, we would not have these beautiful red and black bugs to enjoy during the summer.



The last insect group that relies on milkweeds for its survival is the beetle genus *Tetraopes*. This is a group of longhorned beetles with about 15 species found throughout North America. In our area, we have the common *Tetraopes tetrophthalmus* and *T. melanurus*. *Tetraopes tetrophthalmus* feeds primarily on *Asclepias syriaca*, common milkweed, while the much rarer *T. melanurus* feeds on *Asclepias*

tuberosa, butterfly milkweed. *Tetraopes* adults lay their eggs in the stem of the milkweed plant. The larva feeds on the plant tissue from inside the stem and by winter it has tunneled into the roots of the milkweed, where it overwinters. In spring it pupates and the adult emerges in mid-late summer to start the cycle again.

Those of us that do grow milkweeds are familiar with a common pest on our plants. Aphids are tiny insects that reproduce very quickly, and similar to the milkweed bug, they feed by drinking the juices from the plant using a rostrum. *Aphis nerii*, Oleander aphid, is an introduced pest from Europe, but some native aphids also feed on milkweed; and aphids are the food for a number of native insects in turn.

Numerous pollinators also visit milkweeds. Huge numbers of ants, butterflies, moths, beetles, bees, flies, wasps, and others will drink nectar from milkweed flowers. We can enjoy these insects for what they are. But the insects also benefit humans because native pollinators will also visit other nearby plants in our gardens. The wasps attracted to the flowers hunt large numbers of caterpillars, which they feed to their larvae, serving as natural pest control for our gardens.

One final thought on milkweeds is their usefulness during the winter. The soft pithy stems potentially offer cover for insects such as native bees or beetles, many species of which overwinter in hollow or pithy stems.

So plant lots of *Asclepias* (milkweeds) in your garden, and remember to enjoy the wide multitude of creatures that you will see once these amazing plants have established themselves.

– Jason Ksepka, Curator

MEMBERSHIP

**Thank you to all our new Members.
We look forward to seeing you at the Preserve!**

Deirdre Alderfer
Andrew Anderson
Karin Anheiser
Suzanne Ardite
Myla Aronson
John Augenblick
Carol Bankes
Francine Barbetta
Jean Barrell
Eric Beckhusen
Michelle Belding
Sandra Bell
Beth Benn
Faith Bickley
Sara Bobbit
Patricia Bogdan
Robert Bowden
Richard Boyko
Christy Brehm
Lindsay Broadhead
Barbara Brooks
Mary Brown
Valerie Brown
Buxton Family
Cynthia Cappell
Andrea Carber
Margaret Carioti
Marc Celentana
Michael Cermignano
Ron Chen
Georgia Cinq-Maus
Kristina Clark
Linda Clark
Dana Collingwood
Rob Collins
Robbie Collins
Stevenc Cooke
Margaret Copenhaver
Carol Crawford
Zeta Cross
Joann Cusgrove
Philip Doerle
Eileen Donahue
Kory Dudash
Joan Durbin
Susan Edmunds
Kay Ehrenkrantz
Elizabeth Etzkorn
Connie and Craig Fairchild
Dawn Farver
Heidi Feigles
Virginia Ferrer
Leonard Fischer

Christine Forsstrom
Sarah Fuller
Lindsay Gallagher
Kathy Gallinagh
Rushabh Gandhi
Cari Garner
Robert Gaynor
Dean Giambrone
Emilie Gingras
Mary Gonzalez
Gayle Goodman
Donald Groff
Dennis Gutierrez
John and Joanie Halajko
Judith Hallberg
Theresa Hank
Alison Hargreaves
Susan Harrington
Tiffany Heater
Karl Helland
Michael Henderson
Janet Heroux
Joe Herres
Amy Hertzog
Cecilia Hobson
Lori Hoppmann
Barbara Hordis
Elizabeth Horn
Michael Howard
Sarah Huddleson
Noreen Hunt
Joan Husted
Kim and Jeff Ingram
Ronald Javitch
Joan Jenks
Janet Johnson
Carrie Kaiser
Demian Katz
Cheryl Kauffman
Paul Kennedy
Marlene Khouri
Julia Klossner
Samantha Klug
Anne Kokemor

Patricia Kollar
Justin Lacombe
Christophe Lamarque
Wendie Lapidus
Michelle Lapp
Andrzej Leszczynski
Diana Liott
Joseph Liptak
Ali Littman
C.J. Lonoff
Lori Mallison
Susan Marcel
August Marcello
Jeanne Martino
Linda Matula
James Mayer
Bruce McMordie
Raina Mehta
Abigail Meletti
Sufyan Mesameh
Mary Mieczkowski
Melanie Mieczkowski
Patricia Miller
Joanne Mills
John Mitchell
Gayle Moore
David Mount
Daniel Murphy
Rainer Muser
Sue Neely
Sara Nicolls
Natalia Ocasio
Jennifer O'Donovan
Mark O'Hara
Eddie Parnum
Iris Pearson
Joy Petzinger
Matthew Piccirilli
Lauren Piper
Barbara Raabe
Arrielle Regalbuto
Emily Ricketts
Linda Ritchie
Sharon Roache

Mary Robinson
Allen Rogers
Mary Roth
Disha Rupayana
Steve Saddlemire
Patricia Salmon
Catherine Savitsky
Margaret Savoca
Susan Scholer
Pamela Schuech
Nancy Scura
Paul Secraw
Scott Setzman
Peg Shaw
Kathryn Shelton
Muriel Shultz
Lisa Shuster
Linda Siecke
Heather Smith
Sergei Sosodov
Lucy Spears
Lawrence Steele
Marjorie Steinberg
Sarabell Stoll
Eric Sussman
Saveria Symons
Christina Tafel
Edna Telep
Susan Thomas
Carol Traveny
Douglas Turner
Sandra Turner
Stephanie Ullrich
Joseph and Jane Vacca
Gyorgy Vas
Mary Venettone
Arthur Venezia
Helen Villa
Meghan Walsh
Jacquelyn Watkins
Karen Weintraub
Pamela West
Holly Westergren
Laura Williams
Stephanie Wittmann
Judith Wolfram
Kelly Woodruff
Sonya Worosz
Kristin Yotko
Emily Zackin
Christine Zataveski
Guangming Zhang

**Refer a friend for
membership and receive a free plant at
the Native Plant Nursery Spring Opening on
April 22! Referred friend must include your
name on membership form for you to
receive your plant.**

DEVELOPMENT

Setting Our Sights on a New Website

Our website is one of the most valuable communications tools we possess in pursuit of our mission. It is long overdue for a new look (think large seasonal images of The Preserve, videos and a home page dedicated to what's happening now) and some much needed functionality (think online registration, improved navigation and the ability to search).

We recently received some funding from Visit Bucks County to create the next generation of our bhwp.org website. We do have a deadline - June 2017, and we do have limited resources, but we want this website to be defined by as much staff, board, and volunteer input as possible to create a website that is easy to use by our new and returning visitors while also helping to simplify as many administrative tasks as possible.

Deborah Agnew, as head of the Marketing Committee, held a kickoff meeting in December 2016 and many people have been contributing ideas for areas that they see need improvement.

Volunteer Judy Eby has generously offered to lead us in this effort as she has a great deal of professional experience in marketing and creating websites.

To facilitate the design process and help insure a successful launch of the new website, we've created committees for each area that demonstrates why The Preserve is unique. The areas are defined by 4Ps – Property, Plants, Programs and People. The teams include staff and board members, as well as naturalists and volunteers. The plan is for the teams to help define what we need to update on the website and create content that's missing.

We will need your support as we move forward with this project so please reach out to any committee member with your input. We'll use this wish list of ideas to define and prioritize what we can do right now and what may be part of the next phase. I am looking forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas for how to improve your website!

New Arrivals in the Twinleaf Book Shop

Looking for a good book for yourself or the young ones in your life? We've added some great new titles and have expanded the assortment of children's books which are sure to appeal to kids of all ages. Beginning this season we are featuring a different selection of books handpicked for you by our Naturalists and Speakers. Feel free to look for them as you browse through our Twinleaf shop!

This spring we are highlighting *The Bees In your Backyard* by Joseph S. Wilson and Olivia Messinger Carril. This wonderful guide to North American bees features more than 900 stunning color photos of the bees living all around us- in our gardens, on nature trails and in the wild places in Bee-tween.

Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, recommends shop favorite, *The Puddle Garden* by former staff member Jared Rosenbaum. In this children's story filled with native plants and wildlife, learn how Bear Cub invites friends to his new home- by creating a Puddle Garden. "Read *The Puddle Garden* to your kids, but while you are reading, please hear its vital message to yourself."

Be sure to take a look at our newest selection of t-shirts, hats and accessories. We've added a fantastic new assortment

of Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve logo items as well as native plant, pollinator and bird-themed merchandise including Infant and toddler items and novelty socks for both adults and children.

Merchandise from our shop makes a great gift for loved ones of any age! Please stop by the next time you are at the Preserve!





Bowman's Hill

WILDFLOWER PRESERVE

Where Mind, Heart and Spirit Bloom

1635 River Road New Hope, Pennsylvania www.bhwp.org

Spring Wildflower Gala *April 29th*

Please join us for our 14th annual Spring Wildflower Gala which will take place on Saturday, April 29th!

This year's theme, Regeneration, is timely as the Preserve transforms a 20-acre area from woods to meadow due to extensive damage the woodland area suffered during a microburst windstorm this summer. The Preserve is taking advantage of nature's unpredictability to rejuvenate this space by populating it with pollinator-friendly native plants. The meadow will create important habitat for a variety of wildlife species and include a new trail loop for visitors. Proceeds from the Gala will go towards supporting this preservation effort.

Gala guests will have the opportunity to explore the stunning spring wildflower beauty of the Preserve through an intimate evening woodland walk along the trails, enjoy a gourmet dinner featuring spring selections by Max Hansen Caterer, and participate in spirited live and silent auctions.

Event sponsorship opportunities are available at various levels and include Gala tickets; recognition in the invitation; program and press releases; listing in event advertising and on the Preserve's website; guest passes to the Preserve as well as membership.

Tickets for the Spring Wildflower Gala are available now. Please visit www.bhwp.org/gala.htm or contact the Preserve at (215) 862-2924 for more information on attending, sponsoring, or donating auction items.

