

THE TURK'S CAP

Volume 17, Number 3

Autumn 2014

The Newsletter Of The Delaware Native Plant Society

www.delawarenativeplants.org

GET INVOLVED! ATTEND THE OCTOBER 11TH AMERICAN CHESTNUT BENEFIT!

Delaware's native plants need you to step up and get involved by attending our October 11th benefit for The American Chestnut Foundation (ACF), to be held October 11, 6-9 PM at Abbott's Mill Nature Center, Milford, Delaware. By reading the DNPS newsletters and attending official events the last two years, you may be aware that the board of directors has voted to actively support bringing the American Chestnut back to Delaware through the creation of a Restoration Branch (RB) of The ACF, headquartered in Ashville, North Carolina. (Event details inside)

NATURAL QUOTES

"But it is the great trees stretching their arms above us in a thousand forms of grace and strength, it is more especially the trees which fill the mind with wonder and praise."

Susan Fenimore Cooper

The Delmarva Restoration Branch (RB), as it will be known, has been officially recognized as part of the the Maryland Chapter of the ACF. The link below leads to the official chapter site. [Maryland, TACF](#)

You ask, why are we doing this and what are the implications for our existing program? The list of questions and issues raised by this initiative are many, but let us begin by addressing a few of the most important and obvious issues.



Restoration 1.0 American chestnut hybrid at Meadowview Research Farms, Meadowview, Virginia. Photo from the American Chestnut Foundation.

First, we need to get more members actively involved and passionate with our native plants to save them from destruction, learn about them, and enjoy them. Simply put, the DNPS is competing with other conservation oriented non-profits for new members, and the time and attention of their existing members. As anyone who is involved in volunteering for these organizations knows, their demands can be heavy, but our time and energy is limited.

That being said, we believe that the fundamental importance of native plants is a key component of a healthy and bio-diverse environment. It places our DNPS mission in the first rank of importance, deserving of your support. (Continued on Pg 2)

Messages from the Editors



Mission accomplished. Since the last issue, I travelled to Uppsala, Sweden and paid homage to Carl Linnaeus, the Father of Taxonomy, visiting his home and garden.

He is entombed in the Uppsala Cathedral. But more fun than showing you that photo is the one above of the bust by Paul Granlund that grows out of a linden tree.

Four years ago, I became editor of the *Turk's Cap*. With this issue, I am turning over the editorship to Ed Crawford. Utilizing my library of nature-related books for resources was perhaps my greatest pleasure. Easy access to online resources shortened the preparation time. Happy reading!

Cindy Albright

Good-bye to Cindy Albright and thank you for everything you have done for the DNPS. There are some big shoes to fill here as the professionalism displayed by Cindy and the editors that preceded her, was of a very high order. All I can promise is that I will do my best to learn Microsoft Publisher and work to keep the *Turk's Cap* interesting, useful, and relevant.

Also, a big thank you to retiring contributor Bob Edelen, whom I have never met, but who wrote so many first-rate native plant articles over a span of many years. He will be hard to replace, but I know there is an enthusiast out there who wants to share his or her passion for native plants. Don't be shy, step right up!.

Next issue, the *Turk's Cap* will once again cover a wider variety of wild plants and related issues, with chestnut specific material relegated to one box. Feel free to make suggestions My email is coastalcoaster@gmail.com.

Ed Crawford

Support

(Continued from front page)

There was general agreement within the DNPS that we needed a new focus, a driver if you will, that could energize our organization.



Volunteers at the; American Chestnut Foundation demonstration orchard at Abbott's Mill Nature Center. Left to right: Steve Childers, Ed Crawford, Jason Beale, Allison Long.

Where does this leave the DNPS? The answer is that the core mission remains the same. The American chestnut tree has become the top layer forest icon and an important focus, but the DNPS mission will continue to embrace all categories and layers of native plants. If you believe that timing is important, this new mission addition fits neatly into the new native plant landscape approach, championed by Dr. Doug Tallamy and Mr. Rick Darke in their book, "The Living Landscape," which is discussed by Rick Mickowski later in this newsletter.

In short, the DNPS, and the Delmarva Restoration Branch will support one another, but remain separate organizations. The DNPS board and officers believe that many members will choose to support both organizations. We also hope that this change raises questions, and brings out opinions, so get involved and make your views known.



Attendees

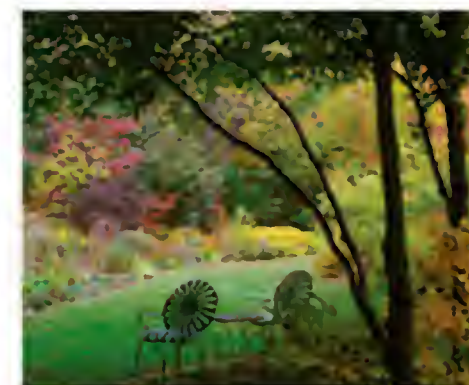
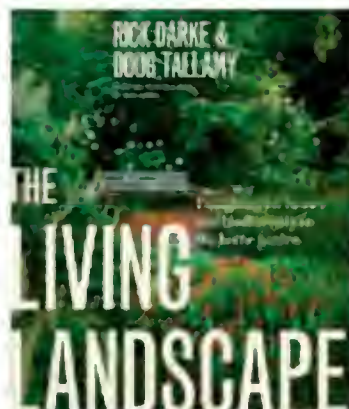
DNPS 10th Annual Plant Symposium with Bombay Hook Garden Keepers September, 2014



Examples of Living Landscape



Rick Darke autographing book



Photos by Rick Darke

10th Annual Symposium Features Author Rick Darke and Delaware Botanist Bill McAvoy

Article and symposium photos by Rick Mickowski, DNPS Vice-President

The 10th annual native plant symposium organized by Delaware Native Plant Society (DNPS) member Quentin Schlieder is now history. The DNPS officers sincerely thank Quentin for organizing this annual symposium for the past 10 years in conjunction with the Bombay Hook Garden Keepers. The Bombay Hook Garden Keepers provided all participants with the choice of a rooted Blackhaw Viburnum shrub or Paw Paw tree. After the lectures, everyone enjoyed a catered lunch. Guest speaker, Rick Darke, offered to sign purchased copies of his new book at a discounted price.

The first presentation was by noted botanist and past President of DNPS, Bill McAvoy, who gave an overview of the vegetative layers in Delaware forests. He covered the canopy layer (trees that grow 80-100 feet tall); the sub-canopy layer (trees that grow 40-60 feet tall); the shrub layer; and finally the herbaceous layer. In all, he covered 21 large trees, 13 sub-canopy trees, 17 shrubs, and 32 herbaceous plants. Delaware has no remaining virgin forests and most forested areas are less than 100 years old.

More information about Delaware flora can be found at <http://www.wra.udel.edu/de-flora/Introduction>.

Rick Darke, noted author, photographer, lecturer, and consultant gave a presentation based on his new book, co-authored with Doug Tallamy, entitled "The Living Landscape," that focuses on how the home gardener can establish an ecologically sound landscape by mimicking and re-creating the vegetative layers found in nature. His property near the White Clay Creek Preserve in Pennsylvania has been a living laboratory since he moved there in 1988. There, he has learned to incorporate native plants and to love color, textures, forms, and fragrances. Approximately 80% of the plants on his property are now native plants. He encourages gardeners to be open-minded and understand that as a result of human use, much of our land has been divided into disjointed and fragmented patches, which do not support essential living organisms. This fragmentation is caused and enforced by widely adopted ordinances and codes.



How are the Green Heron fledglings pictured in the top photo and the photo of the suburban home related? They were hatched from a nest located in the native American holly tree on the right, only 40 feet from the front door. Photos by Ed Crawford

(continued from page 3)

Now, due to extensive human development over centuries, nature cannot take its normal regenerative course to re-establish disturbed natural landscapes. One of the worst aspects of this change is the spread of invasive species, which have rapidly replaced native species in the disturbed areas, particularly along forest edges. It is important to combat these invasive plants before they become established by planting and encouraging native plants.

Planting and layering native plants from groundcovers to trees will by itself make the landscape more effective, useful, functional, and diverse. To understand comprehensively how the various vegetative layers work together, we must look at both the vertical layers and lateral layers or edges. Take into consideration the cultural layers of human impact, as well as temporal layers, which reflects how landscapes change over time. Once established, such a balanced bio-diverse ecosystem will be self-sustaining if harmful practices such as using sterile wood chip mulch and toxic mushroom soil are avoided.

Native plants can be part of an organic landscape architectural plan that is not only ecologically sound, but also beautiful, functional, and livable. So remember to design and plant your landscape for beauty and diversity by putting back the natural layers that support biological functionality. To learn more, read the book, "Living Landscape,:" by Darke and Tallamy. It is widely available at bookstores and through online sources.

Native plant is a term to describe plants [endemic \(indigenous\)](#) or [naturalized](#) to a given area in [geologic time](#).

This includes plants that have developed, occur naturally, or existed for many years in an area (e.g. [trees](#), [flowers](#), [grasses](#), and other plants). In North America a plant is often deemed native if it was present before colonization.

Some native plants have adapted to very limited, unusual [environments](#) or very harsh [climates](#) or exceptional [soil](#) conditions. Although some types of plants for these reasons exist only within a very limited range ([endemism](#)), others can live in diverse areas or by adaptation to different surroundings ([indigenous plant](#)).



Future Black Swallowtail butterflies enjoying the view of a clump of *Conoclinium coelestinum*. Photo by Ed Crawford

Upcoming Events

DATE: SATURDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2014

Time: 6:00 - 9:00 PM

A Benefit for Restoring the American Chestnut in Delmarva

Abbotts Mill Nature Center

15411 Abbott's Pond Road

Milford, DE 19963

A fun-filled evening that includes: dinner, craft beer, fiddle music, an American Chestnut souvenir, door prizes, raffles, speakers, exhibits, and 1 year memberships in The American Chestnut Foundation and Delaware Native Plant Society

Tickets: \$60 Single, \$80 Couple, Youth \$15 (12-17) Chestnut Leaf Sponsor \$340 includes sponsor and one guest. Comes with 4 Restoration 1.0 seeds.

For info and tickets contact Ed Crawford at: delawarechestnutrb@gmail.com, or go to the link below to purchase tickets by credit card

WWW.ACF.ORG

Sponsored by Delmarva Restoration Branch of the American Chestnut Foundation, Maryland Chapter, with the support of the Delaware Nature Society and Delaware Native Plant Society

Please consider coming to our event. It is a good deal! The price of a ticket includes a new membership to the DNPS or a one year renewal for existing members, membership in the ACF with all its great benefits, a delicious full dinner with craft beer, and the other items listed above, including a hand-crafted beverage coaster made from old American chestnut. There will be chances to win other great American chestnut items.

Speaking on the current state of the ACF effort, and representing the ACF, will be Ms. Sara Fitzsimmons, Regional Science Coordinator, North Central Region.. She holds a MS degree in Forest Ecology and Resource Management from the Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment.

Bill McAvoy, Delaware State Biologist will speak on the history of the American chestnut in Delaware.

The benefit is also educational in nature and there will be exhibits concerning the American chestnut and, also, the Delaware Native Plant Society. Those persons coming at 5 pm can enjoy a tour of the American chestnut Demonstration Orchard and, time permitting, portions of the Chestnut Trail.

We hope to make this a fun event and invite the participation of DNPS members and others to help us make the event go smoothly. Contact Ed Crawford or any of the officers and board members to volunteer.

Upcoming Events

Delaware Coast Day

Sunday, October 5, 2014 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

College of Earth, Ocean and Environment

Lewes, DE

Includes many exhibits related to Native Plants and their environment www.decoastday.org

Fall/Winter 2014—[Mt. Cuba Center](#) *Your pathway to native plants*

Install and Maintain a Native Plant Meadow

With Mark Gormel

Saturday, October 4

9:30 am – 11:30 am

\$30

Reduce your weekly lawn maintenance by starting your own native plant meadow. Properly planned, installed, and maintained native plant meadows are unmatched in their ability to provide nearly year round beauty with long-term, high-quality habitat and low maintenance requirements. This lecture covers the why, how, what, when, and where of what it takes to turn an area of turf grass into an aesthetically rich, environmentally functional, thriving native plant community. Get started today.

Native Plants for Fall Color

With Pete Ziegler

Thursday, October 23

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

\$30

What are the best plants for fall color? This fall enjoy the reds, yellows, burgundies, and oranges of autumn while strolling through the gardens of Mt. Cuba Center. Discover native plants that add spice and flavor to your fall landscape with blooms, bark, fruit, and leaf color. Once inspired, find out where, why, and how to use these plants in your garden. Be prepared to walk outdoors.

The purpose of the Delaware Native Plant Society (DNPS) is to participate in and encourage the preservation, conservation, restoration, and propagation of Delaware's native plants and plant communities. The Society provides information to government officials, business people, educators, and the general public on the protection, management, and restoration of native plant ecosystems. The DNPS encourages the use of native plants in the landscape by homeowners, businesses, and local and state governments through an on-going distribution of information and knowledge by various means that includes periodic publications, symposia, conferences, workshops, field trips, and a growing statewide membership organized by the DNPS.



Rhus glabra

Otherwise known as smooth sumac, *Rhus glabra* is a plant of edge habitats and, therefore, frequently seen by the roadside. They are an ideal native to outcompete invasives such as tree of heaven and multiflora rose. Smooth sumac came to my attention this summer at the height of bloom because their flowers were swarming with native bees collecting its bright orange pollen. In the autumn smooth sumac presents brilliant red leaves. Over the years they will gradually be overtopped by trees and disappear.

Notice in the full leafed photo, taken in October, that the flowers are gone and there are no seed pods in their place. The leaves have been tattered by insects so I assume caterpillars or other insects completely devoured the flowers. Photos by Ed Crawford

Membership Application

Delaware native Plant Society

Member Information

Name:

Business Name or Organization:

Address:

City and Zip Code:

Telephone (home/work):

- Full-time Student \$10.00
- Individual \$15.00
- Family or Household \$18.00
- Contributing \$50.00
- Business \$100.00
- Lifetime \$500.00
- Donations are also welcome \$_____

Membership benefits include:

Total Amount Enclosed: \$
Make check payable to: DE Native Plant Society

DELAWARE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

P.O. Box 369

DOVER, DELAWARE 19903

