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How Can I Get Involved?

The Delaware Native Plant Society is open to everyone ranging from the novice gardener to the expert botanist. One of the primary goals of the society is to involve as many individuals as possible.

The DNPS is working on several significant projects at this time. We are working on a forest conservation act that we hope will soon afford protection to our rapidly vanishing forests. A second initiative underway is the establishment of native plant nurseries. We have broken ground on one of these nurseries and it looks great so far. We encourage everyone to participate in these endeavors.

For more information on how to get involved, call 302.674.5187, or E-mail at dnplant@aol.com. Or visit the DNPS website at

A Call For Articles

If you would like to write an article for The Turk’s Cap, we would love to print it. With like minded individuals as an audience, The Turk’s Cap is a great venue for plant or habitat oriented writings.

We'll take just about anything from gardening tips to book reviews to poetry. Of course, it has to be about native plants, or issues related to native plants; just a minor constraint. Your imagination is the real key.

Contact Eric Zuelke for more information at (ezuelke@juno.com), or Keith Clancy at 302.674.5187.

A Breezy Sunrise Welcome To Our Newest Members

April through June

Arrowwood Nursery
Diane Chance
Gwendolyn Elliott
Holly and Charles Johnson
Deborah Paruszewski
Jim Plyler

Letter From The President

I trust everyone is enjoying their respective summers and finding the occasions to get out and enjoy our native plants in their intact habitats, a quickly vanishing resource in Delaware. We continue to see, at an unrelenting pace, loss of habitats through developments and road construction projects. As a result of these activities, we are seeing a further decline in native plant communities and in populations of our native plants and an increase in exotic species.

The Delaware Natural Heritage Program (DNHP) estimates that 44 percent (or 690 species) of the known native flora of the state is rare. Of

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Ah, summer. Bugs, heat, barbecues, mowing the lawn, picnics, humility, and gardening. The good, the bad and the ugly of summer! I hope everyone is having fun with their gardens, be them vegetable or flower, as gardens are one of the pleasures of this season. If you planted a flower garden of native drought resistant plants, then this issue’s feature article will be of interest. Summer is also a great time to visit some of the more unusual habitats of Delmarva, such as the wet meadows and coastal plain ponds discussed in our Native Plant and Natural Community columns. And after you read the Plant-animal Highlight, go into your attic, get that old fish aquarium and turn it into a terrarium for carnivorous plants. These plants are quite easy to purchase, and are really fascinating. But in the midst of all these plant activities, don’t forget the real purpose of summer: playing on a slip-and-slide and having mud fights.

Eric Zuelke, Editor

PLANT-ANIMAL HIGHLIGHT
TO PARTAKE OF ANIMALS

In the last installment of this column, I talked about how tough it was to be a plant; all those herbivores out there munching away on all those little plants. Well, now it’s the plants turn to get even. A plant is carnivorous if it attracts, captures, kills, and digests animal life forms. Only plants that do all four of these things are truly carnivorous. Protein digestion in plants is a truly amazing evolutionary turn of events. Your typical plant lives life as an autotroph. Autotrophic life forms survive on simple molecules that are not preprocessed by other life forms. Conventional, non-carnivorous plants require water, CO₂ (carbon dioxide), light, and simple mineral nutrients to survive and that’s all. Heterotrophic life forms require complex organic molecules that have been preprocessed by other life forms. Animals, parasitic and saprophytic plants, and most bacteria are all heterotrophs. By these definitions it would seem that carnivorous plants are heterotrophic. However, scientists have grown carnivorous plants in laboratories, where they were not given any insects as food. In these cases, the plants still grew fine as autotrophs, although they grew more slowly, and produced less seed. So carnivorous plants occupy an evolutionary and ecological gray zone, but are mostly autotrophs just like other plants, though they use complex organic molecules to enhance their survival and fertility.

If you happen to be a rotifer, daphnia, mosquito larvae, gnat, fly, moth, ant, spider, fish fry, frog, or a sick rat or bird and you’re near one of the nearly 600 species of carnivorous plants in the world, look out! Of course, not every species of carnivorous plant eats all these types of prey items. Some are aquatic, such as species of Utricularia (bladderworts) and Aldrovanda, that live with their traps submerged. Some are terrestrial and have sticky leaves, like species of Drosena (sundews), pitcher shaped spathes, like species of Sarracenia (pitcher plants), or have clamping jaw-like leaves, like Dionoea (Venus fly traps).

The mechanisms of how carnivorous plants digest their prey has been voraciously studied by scientists. Carnivo-rous plants must have a source of enzymes to digest their prey. Some carnivorous plants produce the digestive enzymes themselves, while others rely on bacteria to produce the appropriate enzymes. In this case, the plants themselves do not excrete the digestive juices; the food simply rots, and the carnivorous plants absorb the decomposed molecules. Some plants, particularly Sarracenia purpurea, rely upon their own enzymes and bacterially generated enzymes. A third mechanism for nutrient acquisition is the use of insects to process food for the plant. The most well know case of this type of co-evolution is the relationship between the Assassin bug and sundews (Drosera spp.). The Assassin bugs crawl around on the sundews, have the ability to not get caught themselves, and eat other bugs that have been captured. The Assassin bug then excretes its waste, and the plant absorbs the excrement. An extreme variation on this lifestyle is displayed by some species of Nepenthes—also called pitcher plants but native to Madagascar, Seychelles, Australia and New Caledonia—that grow in areas where birds routinely excrete their waste.

Carnivorous plants hold an important place in the ecology of the earth; just think how buggy it would be without them!

Eric Zuelke, Editor

RESOURCES AND REVIEWS

NATIVES FOR THE EDIBLE LANDSCAPE: AN ARTICLE REVIEW

“More and more gardens are getting native these days.” So begins an informative article in the May/June 2000 issue of The American Gardener, the magazine of the American Horticultural Society. Lee Reich states that “fruit plantings seem stalled in the past, with most people still planting apples or peaches or pears—all non-native species that reflect the European heritage of the first colonists.”

In the article, Mr. Reich talks about several native, to North America, fruiting trees and shrubs (please note that some of these species are not native to Delaware and may not be appropriate for planting here) that would make excellent additions to our yards and landscapes. Some of the plants described are:

- American persimmon (Diospyros virginiana) – a plant deeply rooted in American folklore. The best-flavored persimmons have the rich flavor and texture of apricots that have been soaked in honey. Persimmon trees grow to 50 feet tall or more and are adorned with drooping slightly bluish leaves that turn a golden yellow in autumn. You should plant a male and female tree for fruit.

- Pawpaw (Asimina triloba) – this tree gives a lush, tropical look to the garden. It bears fruit that should be picked when their yellowish skins become speckled brown and exude a richly sweet fragrance. The trees grow 15-25 feet tall and are seldom bothered by pests or diseases. Plant two or three to ensure cross-pollination.

- Juneberries (Amelanchier spp.) – these small trees or large shrubs are known as serviceberries or shadblows. June

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Native Plant Community Highlight
Cephalanthus occidentalis/Glyceria spp.-Polygonum amphibium shrub Community
Buttonbush/Mannagrass-Water smartweed Shrub Community

Introduction
This community is rather common in a region of Delaware (NW Kent and SW New Castle Counties) known for its abundance of seasonal ponds, also referred to as Delmarva or Carolina Bays, or Coastal Plain ponds. These ponds are elliptical, round or irregular in shape, have a very gradual slope from the pond’s edge to the deepest central part, and may have various orientations. Few in this region have the features of the classic Carolina Bay; i.e., mostly with elliptical shapes, a SE to NW orientation and a high sandy rim around the southeastern side of the Bay.

Community structure/composition
This community is characterized by an abundance of Cephalanthus occidentalis, several species of Glyceria (usually pallida or septentrionalis), and Polygonum amphibium. The buttonbush, between 1-1.5 m in height, usually forms a dense ring around the pond somewhere between the middle and the periphery, but may also occur as scattered individuals in ponds where it has not yet become well established. Additionally, the buttonbush is usually absent from the extreme periphery and center of the pond. The mannagrasses and the smartweed often may be co-dominants in the herb layer or, conversely, one may be more prevalent than the other. In many of the ponds of this region Bidens frondosa (devil’s beggar’s-tick) may be a co-dominant herb, “replacing” either the mannagrass or smartweed. Additional species, but usually in low numbers, include Cyperus strictus (false nutsedge), Echinocloa crusgalli (barnyard-grass), Dulichium arundinaceum (three-way sedge), Triadenum virginicum (marsh St. John’s-wort), Lindernia dubia (false pimpernel), Lycopus radiatus (stalked water-horehound), Panicum virgatum (warty panic-grass), Polygonum punctatum (dotted smartweed), Rhexia virginica (Virginia meadow-beauty), Decodon verticillatus (water willow), Scirpus cyperinus (woolgrass), Carex lupulina (a sedge), Carex striata (a sedge), and Proserpinaca palustris (marsh mermaid-weed). Around the perimeter of the pond there is often a narrow zone that is devoid of vegetation; also in this zone there may be an abundance of Sphagnum spp. Within the pond there may be scattered trees of such species as Diospyros virginiana (persimmon), Liquidambar styraciflua (sweet gum), Quercus palustris (pin oak), Populus heterophylla (swamp cottonwood), and Acer rubrum (red maple). Around the edge of these ponds may be found such species as Vaccinium corymbosum (highbush blueberry), Itea virginica (Virginia willow), Clethra alnifolia (sweet pepperbush), Leucothoe racemosa (fetterbush), Rhododendron viscosum (swamp azalea), Smilax rotundifolia (roundleaf greenbrier), Acer rubrum (red maple), Quercus phellos (willow oak), Liquidambar styraciflua (sweet gum), and Quercus palustris (pin oak).

Other species
There may be a number of rare species present within this community and pond and these include Eragrostis hynoides (teal

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Natural Quotes
‘We can to a certain extent understand how it is that there is so much beauty throughout nature; for this may be largely attributed to the agency of selection.’
Charles Darwin, The Origin of Species

Feature Article
Summer blooms with butterflies

I have long combined my love of gardening with my desire to preserve and create natural wildlife habitat. Because I garden on dry, sandy soil, I concentrate on using those adaptable native plants which can survive, and even thrive, in dry conditions. Many drought-resistant native perennials are attractive, beneficial to wildlife, and suitable for use in cultivated gardens.

One of the earliest to bloom (late-April-May) is the lyre-leafed sage (Salvia lyrata) with ten inch long blue flower spikes rising from a dark green rosette of leaves. It does well in part to mostly shade and, like all the salvias, is frequented by hummingbirds.

A mid-summer bloomer is clasper-leaf, or hemp dogbane (Apocynum cannabinum). It has small white to greenish white flowers that attract a number of butterflies and likes a dry soil. Blooming late in the summer is the horsemint, or spotted bee balm (Monarda punctata), with yellowish, purple-spotted flowers.

I’ve heard people say they get tired of black-eyed susans, but I can never have enough. The common Rudbeckia hirta is a biennial for me, but since it self-seeds so prolifically, it is always there. A member of the same family, roundleaf thoroughwort (Eupatorium rotundifolium) is also drought-tolerant and a true perennial.

The various goldenrods (Solidago spp.) begin blooming in this area in August and are still blooming in October. While they may wilt during drought conditions, they always manage to bloom well. I like them with blue and purple New England asters (Aster novae-angliae) that have done surprisingly well in an area where they received little irrigation since they generally prefer moist conditions. There are other asters that tolerate quite dry conditions. These include the late purple aster (Aster patens), purple-stemmed, or swamp aster (Aster puniceus), and the goblet aster (Aster lateriflorus). The most common here is the white heath, or hairy heath aster (Aster pilosus), which is an important late nectar source for bees and butterflies. It will bloom through the first heavy frost. Maryland golden aster (Chrysopsis mariana) is another good choice for dry areas in part-shade to full sun. All of these are valuable to bees and butterflies, and the seed heads provide food for songbirds.

Some of our native grasses are very drought-tolerant and provide interesting form and texture to meadows or gardens throughout the year. They are also important as nesting sites and seed sources for songbirds. Switchgrass (Panicum virgatum) holds up especially well in drought conditions.
One of my favorite plants is the butterfly weed, or butterfly milkweed (Asclepias tuberosa). I love the orange, red, or yellow flowers and so do many butterflies. The Monarch butterfly larvae feed on the foliage of all the milkweeds, absorbing a toxin which makes them unappetizing to birds. Even if they defoliate the plant, new growth will emerge, so I just let them eat. It’s one of the reasons I plant it. One of the few benefits I can think of to last year’s dry summer was the tremendous number of Monarchs, the most I have ever seen.

The Monarch butterfly (Danaus plexippus) is worthy of its name. A large butterfly, its wings are reddish-gold with black veining and white and orange (in the migratory generation) spots. The caterpillar is white, banded with black and yellow stripes, while the chrysalis (or pupa) is a pale, luminous green spotted with metallic gold.

It is the life-history of this butterfly, however, which makes it so unique. Alone of all the North American butterflies, it is unable to withstand freezing temperatures at any stage of its life and must seek a tropical climate during our winter. In the early fall of the year, these tiny, fragile creatures will fly up to 20 miles a day and travel 3,000 miles from southern Canada and the eastern U.S. to a remote mountain valley in Mexico. There they will remain for several months before maturing and beginning the return migration to the north. As they travel, the females will lay their eggs on the underside of milkweed leaves before dying. These eggs will hatch into small larvae that will grow and shed their skins four times before pupating and then metamorphosing into the showy adults. These adults will then mate and continue to move northward, repeating the reproductive cycle two to three more times. An adult Monarch may live 2 - 5 weeks. The last generation to hatch, however, can live from 8 - 9 months and will make the full migration to a place they have never seen! How they are able to do this is a wonderful mystery.

Adult Monarchs must have nectar sources to sustain them as they reproduce, move northward, and then begin the arduous return to Mexico. They feed on the flowers of many native plants, including milkweeds, buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis), Joe-pye-weed (Eupatorium maculatum), ironweed (Vernonia noveboracensis), goldenrods, and asters.

The caterpillars do not have this luxury of choice. They must feed on milkweed leaves to survive. And human activity is taking its toll on all our native plants, including milkweed. They are being mowed, sprayed, and replaced by development of all types. In addition to this destruction of their only food source, we are using insecticides that not only kill undesirable insects but the butterflies which we all enjoy. We can help to mitigate this loss by encouraging our state and county road departments to mow and spray less - and to include milkweeds in their wildflower plantings - and by leaving and planting milkweeds on our own property. We can also avoid the use of controls harmful to butterflies whenever possible.

Because of their deep taproots, milkweeds are extremely difficult to transplant and have little chance of survival if dug from the wild. Leave them where they are, unless you know they are going to be lost to development of some kind. Milkweeds are very easy to grow from seed whether in a seedbed or a flat. They need no chilling to germinate. Simply cover them lightly, keep the medium evenly moist, and they will germinate in 1-2 weeks. Just remember where you planted them, or mark them, because they are slow to emerge in the spring. Butterfly weed also roots easily from tip cuttings.

Any gardener is an optimist, or he/she wouldn’t bother planting at all. I’m hoping this summer will be wetter and cooler than last. But just in case it’s not, I’m trying to ensure that I will still have plants that will thrive and bloom, providing beauty, as well as cover and food for wildlife.

Margaret Carter, DNPS member

Native Plant Community Highlight
Continued from page 3

lovegrass), Hottonia inflata (featherfoil), Carex gigantea (large sedge), Funistrisylis perpusilla (Harper’s fimbry), Ambystoma tigrinum (tiger salamander), Ambystoma maculatum (Spotted salamander), Hyla chrysoscelis (Cope’s gray treefrog), and Hyla gratiosa (Barking treefrog). The featherfoil and Harper’s fimbry are found in the lowest portions of the ponds and the former can be seen in full bloom in early spring.

Community dynamics/succession

The dynamics of this community are very complex. In its simplest, this community type is driven by hydrology. The length and depth of flooding will determine, in large part, the species composition of the pond. The species composition or the abundance of each species may change from year to year as the flooding regime varies. While most years the water draws down to below the surface of the soil, in extremely wet years there may be standing water year round. Some species may “vanish” from the pond for years and only reappear when conditions are appropriate (e.g., Harper’s fimbry). If conditions are right for the buttonbush you may see its expansion throughout the pond, if not, it may contract and its numbers become reduced. Ultimately, it is thought, that these open shrub and herb-dominated wetlands will succeed to a closed canopy forest. More studies are needed to determine the true dynamics and successional attributes of this community.

Distribution

In Delaware, primarily restricted to northwestern Kent and southwestern New Castle Counties.

Conservation Status

The so-called Delmarva Bays (which includes this community type as well as others) is considered to be a habitat type of conservation concern and one which merits attention and protection. The Cephalanthus occidentalis/Glyceria spp.-Polygonum

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Native Plant Community Highlight
this number, 187 are known from only 1-5 populations (with 78 known from a single population!), 147 are known from 6-20 populations and 241 are characterized as being historical or extirpated (Bill McAvoy pers. comm.). At the same time, the number of non-native (i.e., exotics or aliens) vascular plants found in Delaware as reported by the DNHP in December 1998 was at 541 species, or 25% of the state’s total vascular flora. This number is currently being revised, as many newly reported non-native species have been discovered since the date of this report. As more and more surveys of the state’s flora are undertaken it seems likely additional exotic plant species will be discovered and the further declines of native plant populations will be noted.

But all is not doom and gloom. The DNPS is in a unique position to act proactively to reduce or even reverse some of the actions that result in the deterioration of our native plant communities and the plants and animals dependent on them. But we cannot do so effectively without the participation of our members. I would like to mention, probably for the second or third time, some of the projects that we are working on and to appeal for your help.

The DNPS recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Division of Soil and Water, DNREC, to establish a native plant nursery at the St. Jones National Estuarine Research Reserve near Dover. This MOA covers a period of three years and will give US an opportunity to propagate the many species of native plants that are in demand throughout the state by land restorationists and stewards. We have broken ground on this nursery and have recently planted nearly 3 dozen plants rescued from a DelDOT Route 1 construction site. We plan to propagate many species of trees and shrubs and some herbs in the coming months and hope to be able to fill some of the huge demand for native plants that exists. We need help with the nursery to ensure its success. In the fall we will be looking for volunteers to help in several seed collecting outings (stay tuned for dates and times). Anyone interested in helping with the nursery please contact me in the near future.

Related to this effort we are working to ensure that we can be advised, well in advance, of construction projects that will result in habitat loss so that we can mobilize plant rescue efforts. The plants rescued from these sites will then find a home in our nursery for future habitat restoration projects (e.g., reforestation projects), future annual plant sales, or to be planted on members’ properties. We need someone to make the necessary contacts so that we are “in the loop” on these projects.

A second major initiative that needs further work and refinement is our draft Forest Conservation Act. This is a draft document, adapted from Maryland’s Act of the same name. We are currently considering discussing this Act at the next meeting of the Governor’s Biodiversity Working Group. We are also planning on drafting a letter to certain (all?) members of the legislature that would focus on developing legislation that requires all state agencies mitigate for the loss of upland forest habitats. Currently, the state’s most imperiled habitat has no protection afforded to it. Your help on this front is needed.

We will be working with the Division of Fish and Wildlife, DNREC, on a reforestation project beginning this fall and will need help in collecting seed, planting and direct seeding, as well as weeding.

Finally, a third major project that we are working on, though it has been on the back burner for the last six months is legislation that will result in a state list of endangered and threatened plants. The numbers for Delaware’s rare and historical plants, as calculated by the DNHP, should be sufficient reason to develop a state list of T & E plants with corresponding habitat protection measures. We need help in gathering information on other states that have state listed plants. We will use the best aspects from these states’ respective legislations to produce a draft for Delaware. We will then lobby for its passage in Delaware.

So, the next time you happen to pass by a forest that is being cleared to make room for a new road or subdivision (progress they call it), or visit a favorite natural area to discover its overrun with exotic species or is now surrounded by urban sprawl, rather than grumble about it and complain (which I always do), think about what you could have done or can do to lessen this onslaught. I hope that you remember this letter and my plea for your help. Delaware’s natural resources, and specifically its plants and plant communities need your help. Your participation in DNPS projects could mean the difference.

Savor the most that you can this summer from the native plant communities and native plants you encounter in the wild and join us in the struggle to protect what we see vanishing before our eyes.

Sincerely,

Keith Clancy

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**Native Plant Highlight**

**Common Native Plants of Wet Meadows**

“Wet meadows” in Delaware are open, freshwater non-tidal wetlands that occur on the landscape in topographical low areas that contain poorly drained soils. The hydrology of wet meadows is primarily driven by ground water that percolates to the surface. Their origins may be somewhat artificial, in that they may be an artifact of past land-clearing activities, usually for agricultural purposes. Nevertheless, they are often quite diverse botanically. Below is a list of the more common plants seen in wet meadows in Delaware. Many of these species are available commercially and can be used in native gardens. All these species prefer poorly drained areas with full sun.

**Scientific Name**

- Alisma subcordatum
- Asclepias incarnata
- Aster novae-angliae
- Aster puniceus
- Bidens laevis
- Boehmeria cylindical
- Carex stricta
- Chelone glabra
- Eupatorium fistulosum

**Common Name**

- broadleaf water-plantain
- swamp milkweed
- New England aster
- swamp aster
- smooth bur-marigold
- false nettle
- tussock sedge
- white turtlehead
- hollow Joe-Pye weed

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amphibium Shrub Community has a Natural Heritage state rank of S2S3 (intermediate between the two, 6-20 occurrences versus 21-50 occurrences); more surveys are needed to accurately assess its rank.

Comments
While many examples of this community and of Delmarva Bays, as a whole, do occur on protected lands (e.g., within Blackbird State Forest), many more are threatened. These threats include pressures from development (urban sprawl), road construction and hydrologic changes.

Keith Clancy, DNPS President

NATIVE PLANT HIGHLIGHT
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Eupatorium perfoliatum common boneset
Juncus effuses smooth rush
Lobelia cardinalis Cardinal flower
Ludwigia alternifolia bushy seedbox
Lysimachia terrestris swamp loosestrife
Milium ringsens square-stem monkeyflower
Onoclea sensibilis sensitive fern
Polygonum arifolium halberd-leaf tearthumb
Polygonum pensylvanicum Pennsylvania smartweed
Polygonum punctatum dotted smartweed
Polygonum sagittatum arrow-leaved tearthumb
Rudbeckia laciniata coneflower
Sagittaria latifolia broadleaf arrowhead
Sambucus Canadensis common elderberry
Schonoplectus long-stem bulrush
Tabernaemontani
(Scirpus validus)
Stachys hispida hispid hedge-nettle
Thelypteris palustris marsh fern
Verbena hastata blue vervain
Vernonia noveboracensis New York ironweed

William McAvoy, DNPS member

RESOURCES AND REVIEWS
Continued from page 2

berries offer year-round beauty from the white flowers in spring, to the delicious blueberry-like fruit, to the outstanding fall color. For tree-like dimensions try A. arborea or A. laevis.

Blueberries (Vaccinium spp.) can be grown almost anywhere that moist, humus-rich, acidic soil can be provided. In our area, plant highbush blueberry (V. corymbosum) or lowbush blueberry (V. angustifolium). They offer white blossoms in the spring, luscious fruit in the summer and great color in the fall.


Rick Mickowski, DNPS member

EVENT HIGHLIGHT
DNPS ANNUAL MEETING: AN ENJOYABLE AFFAIR

If you didn’t attend the Annual meeting on April 29th at Blackbird State Forest, you missed a beautiful day of learning, sharing and planning. Our time started off with a tour of the flora of Blackbird State Forest. The walk was led by Jim Dobson, the New Castle County forester, and Keith Clancy, DNPS President.

After the plant hike, we returned to the new meeting facility for a potluck meal, show and tell session and a native plant raffle. Joining us were Dave Paterson and his wife who run a plant nursery in Maryland. We enjoyed homemade sausage, baked beans, chicken wings, a mexican dish, broccoli salad and a delicious soup prepared by Mrs. Paterson. After the meal, some members showed slides related to native plants issues. Rick Mickowski showed slides of a project enhancement of a stormwater facility, Rick McCorkle shared slides of some of his home landscaping efforts using native plants, and Keith Clancy addressed the issue of plant loss due to habitat destruction from highway construction.

We then had a raffle for some really great plants. Jim Plyler of Natural Landscapes, Inc. was made an honorary member to the DNPS for his donation of approximately a dozen native plants to the raffle. Species donated by Jim included coast azalea (Rhododendron atlanticum), pinxterbloom azalea (Rhododendron periclymenoides), mountain laurel (Kalmia latifolia), sheep laurel (Kalmia angustifolia), red chokeberry (Aronia arbutifolia), sweet-bay magnolia (Magnolia virginiana), flowering dogwood (Cornus florida), and Atlantic white cedar (Chamaecyparis thyoides). The public can visit his establishment by appointment only and he can be contacted at 610-869-3788. Dave Paterson and his wife, Jan, also donated plants to the raffle. If you’d like more information about the Paterson’s plant nursery, please contact them at paterson@shore.net.

We closed out the event with a business meeting. A big thanks is due to Jim Dobson and Blackbird State Forest for hosting our event and for all those who took the time to attend and be involved. We especially appreciated the donations of plants, and the food was excellent. We hope everyone can make it to next year’s event.

Rick Mickowski, Rick McCorkle and Eric Zuelke
Upcoming Events

Saturday, 12 August 2000 – Joint field trip with the Maryland Native Plant Society. We will explore a 52 acre private property that contains a variety of habitats that includes an open meadow with an abundance of wildflowers, grasses and sedges, and a pine-oak forest that grades into a wetland forest. This property is adjacent to the Nanticoke Wildlife Area which may be explored for those who want to stay longer. Bring water, insect repellent, appropriate clothing and lunch. From 10 AM to 12 Noon. Contact Keith Clancy at 302.674.5187 for more information.

Saturday, 23 September and Sunday, 24 September 2000 – Fall conference, annual meeting and native plant sale of the Maryland Native Plant Society. This conference includes guest speakers, concurrent sessions related to native plants, field trips, a poster session, native plant sales, and a Saturday evening social. To be held at the Hartford Glen Environmental Education Center in Bel Air, Maryland. Contact Jerry Hudgens at 410.836.2469, or at gahudgens@juno.com for more information.

Saturday, 30 September 2000 – Harvest moon revel and auction. Hosted by the Delaware Nature Society at the Ashland Nature Center. This is a fundraiser for DNS’s education programs that includes a silent auction, dinner and live music. From 6 PM to Midnight. Registration is $70 for members and $80 for others. On the web at www.delawarenaturesoociety.com for more information.

Saturday, 7 October and Sunday, 8 October 2000 – Harvest moon festival. Hosted by the Delaware Nature Society at the Ashland Nature Center. There are many exhibits, demonstrations, games and walks at this family event. From 10 AM to 5 PM both days. On the web at www.delawarenaturesoociety.com for more information.

Saturday, 7 October and Saturday, 21 October 2000 – Tentative dates for seed collecting trips to the Prime Hook area and Blackbird area for DNPS reforestation projects. Details to come.

Don’t Miss This Upcoming Event!

Tree Spree 2000

New Castle County Tree Commission is planning activities that tree lovers won’t want to miss: the seventh annual Tree Spree event at the Red Clay Reservation near Hockessin, Delaware. The event will be on Saturday, October 14, 2000, from 10:30 a.m. until 2:30.

On Tree Spree day, the 250-acre reservation will be filled with tree plantings, exhibitors, Treeture Creature activities, nature hikes, hayrides and live demonstrations on everything to do with trees from pruning to building oak baskets, and attendees will be guided on scenic forest walks throughout the day. New for this year will be an “ask the experts” on a one-on-one basis about pruning, planting and basic tree care. A big hit last year was the children’s activities and this year, expanded children’s activities are planned.

Shuttles and guided hayrides will showcase the cultural and biological splendor of Red Clay. At 12:00 Noon, Mrs. Lamott Copeland and last year’s honoree Ned Cooch with a special tree planting.

If you have any questions about this celebration of the benefit of trees or other tree planting initiatives, please give Gary Schwetz, Greening Program Manager for Delaware Center for Horticulture, and New Castle County Government Tree Commission Secretary, a call at 658-6265.

Gary Schwetz

DNPS Website

The DNPS website is continuing to experience a bit of a lag at the moment. Keith has volunteered to take over as webmaster but hasn’t yet managed to find the time to get into it. Your continued patience is appreciated. A notice will be placed here in a future issue when the website has been updated. Until then, if you want to revisit any past newsletter articles for Vols. 1 and 2, you can check them out at www.delanet.com/~dpswp.
Membership Application

DELWARE native Plant Society

Member Information

Name:

Business Name or Organization:

Address:

City and Zip Code:

Telephone (home/work):

E-mail address:

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

Membership benefits include:

* The DNPS quarterly newsletter, The Turk's Cap
* Native plant gardening and landscaping information
* Speakers and field trips

Total Amount Enclosed: $

Make check payable to:
DE Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 369, Dover, DE 19903

DELAWARE native PLANT SOCIETY

P.O. Box 369

DOVER, DELAWARE 19903