

## Strawberry Hill Foundation Inc. – 2022 Final Grant Report

The Strawberry Hill Foundation Inc. would like to again express our gratitude and thanks to the Hardy Plant Society/Mid-Atlantic Group Grant Committee for awarding us with a grant in the sum of \$772.00. Strawberry Hill has succeeded in using the funding provided by the HPS/MAG grant to add the proposed native plant garden and expand our environmental educational programming. Nearly all of our goals were completed and in some cases exceeded. For instance, we were able to almost double the proposed area of the native plant garden due to a large volunteer turn out and a sizable discount offered to us by a local native plant supplier.

More than fifty students volunteered to help us create the native plant garden from a local area high school, boy scout group and college. This gave Strawberry Hill an opportunity to educate the public on the importance of native plants. Adams County, PA is one of the largest fruit growers in the United States and much of our economy is based on agriculture making it extremely important for our residents to understand the relationship between native plants, pollinators and food. Volunteers were also instructed on invasive species, removal techniques, garden preparation and maintenance. A small group of the high school volunteers enjoyed the process so much that they discussed starting a landscaping company after graduating. In addition, Strawberry Hill staff donated many hours to planting, creating an irrigation system and sign construction.

Strawberry Hill created a new program focused on adults to instruct members of the public on how to create their own native plant garden at home. We held two classes that included a power point presentation given by two of our local Master Gardeners. These classes focused on native plant species and why they are essential for pollinators, invasive species removal, gardening techniques and native plant species selection. Although, program participation was not as large as we had hoped, we feel that the students that did attend had better access to one on one instruction given the smaller class size. Strawberry Hill was able to learn from this program and created new ways of inspiring the public to attend adult programming.

The funds provided by the Hardy Plant Society/Mid-Atlantic Group were used to purchase mulch, more than seventy five individual native plants, an irrigation system and materials for educational signage. Some funds were used for the native plant garden program creation as well as speaker fees. At every opportunity, we voiced our thanks to your organization for funding the creation of Strawberry Hill's native plant garden to the students, volunteers and Master Gardener speakers. The Hardy Plant Society/Mid-Atlantic Group was also credited on our educational signage.

Strawberry Hill is very proud of our new native plant garden and we are excited to watch the garden flourish as well as our new native plant garden programming. Thank you very much for awarding Strawberry Hill with funding to inspire stewardship of our natural world.

