



Hardy Happenings

the newsletter of HPS/Mid-Atlantic Group

April 2025 • Volume 39, Number 2

The purpose of the Hardy Plant Society/Mid-Atlantic Group is to cultivate, foster, and promote interest and participation in horticulture. hardyplant.org

EVENTS CALENDAR

See page 2 or hardyplant.org for more information about events and Special Interest Groups. Also visit the website for calendar updates and cancellations.

APRIL

- 24** Thu, 2:00–4:00 PM
[Hypertufa Workshop at Floral & Hardy, Skippack, PA](#)
- 25** Fri, 10:30 AM–2:00 PM
[SIG Native Gardens – Shenks Ferry Wildflower Preserve](#)
- 26** Sat, 2:00–4:00 PM
[Hypertufa Workshop at Floral & Hardy, Skippack, PA](#)
- 27** Sun, 10:00 AM–3:00 PM
[Discount Shopping Day – Miller Greenhouses, Wallingford, PA](#)

APRIL 28 – MAY 3

[HPS/MAG Trip to Virginia and North Carolina](#)

MAY

- 5** Mon, 11:00 AM–2:00 PM
[Ellen and Bob's Collectors Farmland Garden, Oley, PA](#)
- 6** Tue, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM
[A Visit to Garden Designer Susan Silverstein's Garden, West Chester, PA](#)
- 7** Wed, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM
[Carolyn's Shade Gardens at Whitehall Farm Gardens, Worcester, PA](#)
- 7** Wed, 7:00–9:00 PM
[Virtual / Fabulous Lilies and How to Grow Them with Charles Cresson](#)

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President's Message by Dawn Freeman, hpspresident@hardyplant.org

Rejoice!! Spring has awakened. The days are getting longer and warmer, the trees and plants are budding, spring ephemerals are sprouting and blooming, and the birds are singing and scouting nesting sites. Have you been out in your garden looking for signs of spring?

After a winter that was drier and colder than in recent years, you may find that there is even more than usual to do in the garden to open the season. In addition to the usual suspects, too many recently planted woodies and a few old favorites seem to have been overcome by the dry harsh conditions while broken branches and heavier than usual runaway invasives need attention. Not wanting to be overwhelmed, I am choosing to upend my thinking—how can I do less work and maybe enjoy the work more. Can I be a lazy gardener?

Lazy gardeners do love gardening but want to keep it simple and low maintenance. We don't neglect our garden but do try to make thoughtful decisions that help encourage our garden to thrive with minimal effort and allowing the plants to do more of the work.

The foundation of lazy gardening lies in smart planning such as choosing plants that thrive in your garden conditions with minimal attention like native perennials, selecting easy-to-maintain tools, and gardens designed with simplicity in mind.

While some suggest mulching generously is a key component of lazy gardening, living mulch is, over time, much lazier and much more beneficial. Using plants to cover the ground instead of traditional mulch, offers benefits like weed suppression, moisture retention, soil enrichment, and pollinator support. Two of my favorite living mulch choices are *Geranium maculatum* (our native cranesbill) and *Carex plantaginea* (seersucker sedge).

Letting go of perfection is essential. Our gardens, like ourselves, are constantly changing, hopefully getting better with time. A little overgrown here or an untidy corner there can create a charming, natural aesthetic. Lazy gardening isn't about having a perfectly manicured space. It is about enjoying the process of watching nature take its course with minimal intervention.

To encourage your naturalistic garden, let the grass grow a little longer between mowings, allow wildflowers to bloom, leave the leaves where they fall, and let stems stand at least 18" for overwintering wildlife. These not only reduce your workload but also attract pollinators, like bees and butterflies, which are beneficial for your garden's overall health and your wellbeing. Embrace imperfection!

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EVENTS *and* SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

MAY, *continued*

- 8** Thu, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Another Year at Brandywine Cottage Tour #2
- 14** Wed, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
An Outing to Fernbrook Farms, Chesterfield, NJ
- 15** Thu, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Native Azaleas: Propagation Demonstration and Nursery Visit, Pennsbury Gardens, West Chester, PA
- 17** Sat, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Guided Tour of Henry Botanic Garden, Gladwyne, PA
- 20** Tue, 2:00 – 4:30 PM
Container Planting Deep Dive with Andrew Bunting, Swarthmore, PA
- 22** Thu, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
Stoneleigh: a natural garden, Villanova, PA
- 24** Sat, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Cairns Grove Gardens and Apiary, Pottstown, PA

JUNE

- 3** Tue, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Leslie's Hillside Garden, Coatesville, PA
- 5** Thu, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Bob and Nancy's Seven Springs Farm, Chester Springs, PA
- 7** Sat, 12:00 – 6:00 PM
Members' Garden Tour 2025
- 10** Tue, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Discount Shopping Day in Maryland – Putnam Hill Nursery and Cavano's Perennials

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SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

HPS/MAG membership includes being a member of all Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and all members are invited to participate in SIG events. Contact individual SIG leaders for more information.

NATIVE PLANTS

Margaret Moore, sig-nativeplants@hardyplant.org

TENDER PERENNIALS

Mary Ann Thomas, sig-tenderperennials@hardyplant.org

WATER GARDENS

Victor Barsky, sig-watergarten@hardyplant.org

Save the date! – Saturday, June 7th

2025 HPS/MAG MEMBERS' GARDEN TOUR

GARDENS OF THE UPPER AND LOWER BUCKS COUNTY AREA

Garden Tours: 12:00–4:00 PM

Followed by a Reception: 4:30–6:00 PM, Fordhook Farm, Doylestown, PA

This is a rain or shine event. Members only. The tour is free, but registration is required. Guests are welcome but are required to join HPS/MAG at the first house that they visit. We will be prepared at each house to sign up your guests. Dues are \$35.00 for one year and \$60.00 for two years. **Important: Exact cash payment or payment by check is required the day of the tour.**

Addresses and parking directions will be sent to all registrants a few weeks prior to the event via email.

Contact: Elizabeth Stinson at vicepresident@hardyplant.org

Volunteers are needed for this event. Please consider volunteering when registering for the event.

Here are some of the highlights of the wonderful gardens you will be touring. Enjoy!

The Garden of Michael and Fran Kates

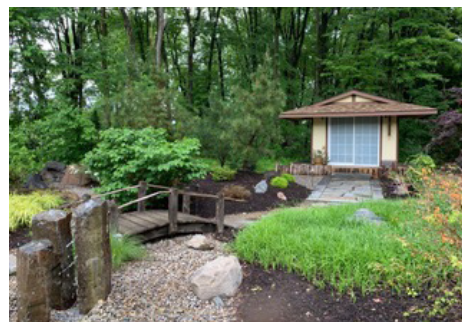
This mature garden, comfortably situated on a one-acre lot in suburban Bucks County, features upwards of 150 conifers representing 14 genera and a wide variety of species/cultivars. All the conifers have been procured, sited, planted, and pruned by the owner and caretaker Michael. Rambling stone paths lead you effortlessly through the collection, providing ready access to all the plantings.

Conifer highlights include a large coning umbrella pine, a 20-ft. long bald cypress tunnel and several large, uniquely trained weeping blue atlas cedars. Amidst the conifers, the majority of which are blue, golden, or variegated, are 50+ Japanese maples representing a wide array of leaf colors and habitats. The garden edging is highlighted by approximately 60 tons of colorful river rock hand harvested and transported via Subaru and wheelbarrow to their ultimate locations.



The Garden of Fred Consaley

Carved out of a densely wooded lot, “Sanctuary Much” is a private garden that has continually expanded over the years. Although the beginnings of the garden started 40 years ago, much of the expansion has really taken place during the last 20 years. Featuring a few dozen different conifer cultivars, as well as many deciduous selections, the garden offers a number of different areas or rooms. From the flower beds around the pool and house, to the koi pond garden, to



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EVENTS *and* SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

JUNE, *continued*

- 11** Wed, 10:00 AM–1:00 PM
[Lavender Fields of Warwick Furnace Farm, Glenmoore, PA](#)
- 12** Thu, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM
[Propagation Workshop with Steven Kristoph, Millstone, NJ #1](#)
- 14** Sat, 10:00 AM–2:00 PM
[Tour of Designer Lucille's Home Garden, Bala Cynwyd, PA](#)
- 16** Mon, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM
[Propagation Workshop with Steven Kristoph, Millstone, NJ #2](#)
- 17** Tue, 6:30–8:30 PM
[Tour of Kristi's Garden, North Wales, PA](#)
- 18** Wed, 2:00–4:00 PM
[Pollinator Week at Kind Earth Growers, Ottsville, PA](#)
- 19** Thu, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM
[Bog Garden Workshop at Aquascapes Unlimited, Pipersville, PA](#)
- 21** Sat, 10:00 AM–2:00 PM
[A Garden Day in the Harrisburg, PA Area with Kevin Kelly & Friends](#)
- 28** Sat, 11:00 AM–1:00 PM
[Norm's Chestnut Hill Oasis, Philadelphia, PA](#)

JULY

- 1** Tue, 6:30–9:00 PM
[A Sweet Summer Soiree at Hedgleigh Spring, Swarthmore, PA](#)
- 9** Wed, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM
[Meadow Plant Challenge at Goodly Gardens, Lansdale, PA](#)
- 18** Fri, 7:30 AM–12:00 PM
[Members' Wholesale Shopping Day 2025 – Clearview Nursery](#)
- 22–27** [HPS Trip- Western PA and Buffalo, NY](#)
- 29** Tue, 7:00–9:00 PM
[Virtual / Fall Blooming Bulbs with Charles Cresson](#)

HPS/MAG MEMBERS' GARDEN TOUR, *continued from page 2*

the woodland walkway and an Asian themed stroll garden, the different areas promote an aura of peace. Incorporating some native plants and other points of interest in the natural stream bed also adds to the relaxed atmosphere. All of this was accomplished while maintaining the rustic feel of the 10 acres.

The Wetlands of Aquascapes Unlimited

Founded in 1985 as an ornamental aquatic nursery located on 20 acres in Bucks County, Aquascapes Unlimited evolved quickly to place its primary emphasis on the production of local ecotype native wetland plants for wetland restoration projects.

A passion for rare native and unusual plants has led Aquascapes Unlimited to become a leader in the production of carnivorous and custom hybrid pitcher plants (*Sarracenia*).

This 20-acre site is a certified National Wildlife Fund habitat that contains vernal pools, a restored woodlot, 10 acres of wet woodlands, and open meadows.



The Garden of Helen Chaitman

This beautiful farm featured in the book *Private Gardens of Philadelphia* by Nicole Juday and Rob Cardillo encompasses 106 acres of gardens, pastures, fields, ponds, and woodland in Frenchtown, New Jersey. The gardens were inspired by Capability Brown and landscaped by Renny Reynolds. This will be the first time these gardens have been opened for a tour.

The focal point of the gardens is a folly that Helen built as a music conservatory for her grandson. The farm also houses animals that have been rescued over the years. At some points the farm has had over 200 animals—horses, cows, goats, pigs, chickens, geese, ducks, swans, and peacocks. Now in retirement, Helen has stopped adopting new animals but, of course, she is committed to providing a wonderful home for all her remaining farm guests.



The Gardens at Fordhook Farm

Headquartered in Warminster, PA, Burpee is one of the world's foremost garden, seed, and plant companies, and their home lies in Bucks County, PA. At its nearby landmark



facility, Fordhook Farm, in Doylestown PA (purchased by founder W. Atlee Burpee in 1888), they breed and trial plants, allowing them to deliver the highest quality products and services to gardeners, and to discover break-

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March into Spring

A Changing World

For the second consecutive year, March into Spring was held at Winterthur Museum, Garden, and Library, in beautiful New Castle County, Delaware. Engaging, authoritative speakers, choice vendors, and a fabulous setting together made the day enjoyable and fruitful. The presentations were packed with useful (and occasionally alarming) information for gardeners to use in their daily lives. Attendees learned about the impacts of our changing climate on the plants we want to grow, the plants we would rather not have growing in our gardens, and the impacts to and stresses on our native wildlife. While the topics were mostly serious, all of our speakers brought their personality and kept things light—Jared Barnes even started his presentation with a song.

We learned of the precarious state of current and future research into climate change, weather, sustainability, and all things horticulture, due to policies being implemented in Washington, D.C. As a federal government employee, one of our slated speakers had to decline our invitation due to travel restrictions implemented just prior to the event taking place. We want to extend a special thank you to Tony Aiello, Associate Director of Collections at Longwood, for stepping in with short notice and delivering a truly relevant discussion on forecasted migration of southern plant species northward and to higher elevations as temperatures rise and precipitation rates change.

One of the take home messages from the presentations was the interconnectedness that exists between citizens, their back yard gardens, the larger environments in which we live (natural and otherwise), the work conducted by research institutions, and the policies of our government. All of these need to be working to their best potential.

If you attended this year's March into Spring, I am sure you felt it was well worth your time and are marking your calendars for next year. If you did not attend this year, please make plans to attend in 2026. It will be held once again at beautiful Winterthur!

HPS/MAG MEMBERS' GARDEN TOUR,

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through varieties of fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers.

One of Fordhook's most prized gardens is the Stumpery. Designed by Jerry Fritz, the Fordhook Stumpery is the largest stumpery in the world. This forest-style garden includes strolling trails surrounded by stumps and mosses from all over the region. It's absolutely breathtaking and is definitely something to see in person.

This will also be the location of our Members' Garden Tour Reception.

Climate Adaptation

A Nurseryman's Observations and Recommendations

by Charlotte Kidd

Fall's randomly dropped sunflower seeds sprouting early in summer. Exorbitant water bills as we choose between soaking soil surrounding new plantings, favorite shrubs, or mature trees. Surprising May growth from Dahlia tubers accidentally left behind in the prior autumn's lifting routine.

In tune with nature, we gardeners especially notice flora and fauna patterns shifting as the climate changes. As with life, these variations bring good and bad, benefits and challenges, opportunities and obstacles, acceptance and resistance.

Nature's once dependable rules are changing. How can/do we adapt? How many puzzle pieces can we know, imagine, foresee (or not) to even somewhat complete the picture? To create a dynamic, environmentally harmonious landscape?

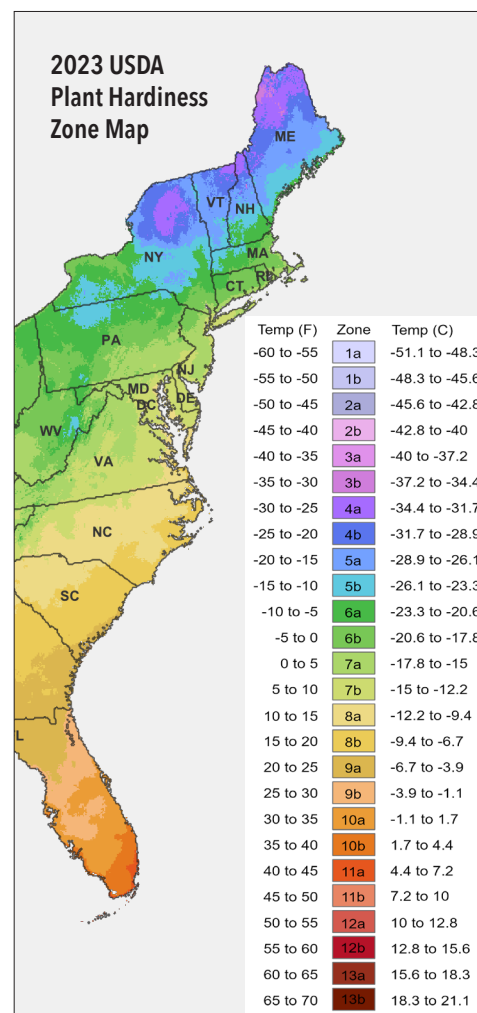
Data-wise, the latest 2023 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map (PHZM) reflects temperature changes generally about ¼ zone warmer throughout the United States then reported in the PHZM 2012 version.

Reports cite three factors for hardiness zones' changes. A "significant shift" is due to "warmer

temperatures across the country as evidenced in USDA PHZM average temperatures from 1976 through 2005 versus 1991 to 2020." Additional data sources and improved collection methods are also factors. For more information, see <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov>.

In May 2024, a Pennsylvania Horticultural Society article reported that Philadelphia had warmed to zone 7B from being previously zones 7A and 7B in 2012. Parts of Montgomery County also warmed to 7B. Sections of Delaware County jumped to 8A.

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Climate Adaptation, continued from page 4

More formerly southern-acclimated plants are migrating north, replacing less adaptable varieties. Controlling invasive species becomes harder as climate and cultural conditions favor the invaders over native species. This means transition for us too as weather, plant choices and traditional expectations vacillate. We are, evermore, in a time of thoughtful experimentation and opaque risk-taking.

I asked Andy Schenck, passionate nature lover and owner of Sam Brown's Wholesale Nursery in Malvern, PA, what he's seeing. Big picture? Business side? Nature's ebb and flow?

"Certainly the palette of plants that we are offering is including more and more plants that probably wouldn't have lived here 20 years ago," Andy said. He keeps a close eye on nursery stock. "For the most part we are having success... We're selling more *Loropetalum*, more *Distylium*, hardy gardenias, Camillias."

"When we sell, we put a little note on the tag saying a solid Zone 7 plant," he added. A reminder that severe winter could bring potential plant loss.

He cautioned that this winter's extended weeks of freezing temperatures without much rain or snow protection may have damaged marginal plants like Southern Magnolia. We'll likely see winter burn—dried out, brown foliage, stems, and branches—on broadleaf evergreens like Skip Laurel, Camellia, and Southern Magnolia.

"They have all that surface area (large leaves) so when the ground is frozen and we have the winds, desiccation starts to roll. That's why we're seeing a lot of winter burn especially on fall-planted evergreens like the Skip Laurel."

What to do? Be patient and watchful, he advised. "At this point I would wait and see where the buds begin to swell. You could have desiccation on the stem, die back about 5–6 inches before you have viable tissue that's going to put out new foliage." After spotting live buds, prune to above a live node. "It's going to be an interesting spring after the drought and winter we've had."

Insects, Diseases And Invasive Species Related To Climate Change?

Andy observed a heretofore unseen aphid infesting *Picea abies* and Norway spruce. "We've never seen a problem with that before. Whether or not it's climate change or we just haven't been keeping records enough that we're seeing the cycle. We're experiencing changes for sure."

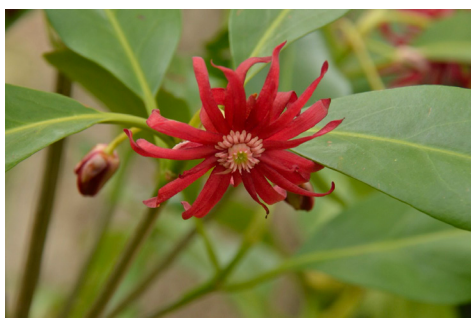
Blue Spruce, which thrives in Colorado and higher elevations, is off the sale list here unless specially ordered. "With blue spruce, it's mostly a foliar fungal issue I would associate with really high temperatures and the level of humidity" increasingly different than its native range.

That loss though brings opportunity for horticulture research and adaptation, noted Andy, an avid seed grower and plantsman. "We do find blue spruce that are surviving around here. Those are the clones we wish to propagate and keep here in the plant industry."

The spread of invasive plants is an accelerating consequence of climate change. In the wild, Andy observed more tenacious, aggressive invasive species. He misses "the wildflowers and things we grew up seeing in the woods."



Osmanthus heterophyllus 'Goshiki'



Illicium x 'Woodland Ruby'

"There's absolutely a definite increase in invasive species. I'm a fairly avid hiker. Just about any place I have hiked, the understory tends to be Japanese barberry, privet, *Viburnum dilatatum*, Japanese knotweed, Japanese stilt grass."

He thinks there's "a definite correlation" between invasives' overgrowth and higher temperatures. After deer browse and destroy the native understory, warmer temperatures push invasives' seed setting.

This translates into conscientious wholesale selections. "We're proactive in terms of what the state considers to be invasive species. We take those off as quickly as we can." He only sells sterile varieties of Buddleia. No burning bush, no Japanese barberry.

New and Underused Plant Recommendations

As some frequently used woody plants and perennials are succumbing to climate-change related issues, Andy recommends these alternatives.

BROADLEAF EVERGREENS

Osmanthus americanus, aka Devilwood or American olive, is a tree-size native to the southeastern United States ranging from eastern North America, Florida to Louisiana and north to Virginia. 15'–25'–30' feet tall, 10'–15' wide. Evergreen in USDA Zones 5B–9B.

Four preferred cultivars of *Osmanthus heterophyllus* include 'Goshiki', 'Gulf tide', 'Hariyama', 'Ogon'. Various sizes, leaf colors and characteristics, distinctive new growth, Evergreen in USDA Zones 6–9.

Three favorite native anise trees include *Illicium floridanum* 'Forest Mirage' and red-flowering hybrids 'Woodland Ruby' (Woodland Ruby Anise), and 'Scorpio' (Star Flower). USDA Zones 7a–10b.

Buxus sempervirens (boxwood) 'Fastigata' and *Buxus sempervirens* 'Dee Runk'. USDA Zones 6–8. *Buxus sinica* var. *insularis* 'Tide Hill' (dwarf, spreading Korean boxwood) cultivar noted for retaining green foliage through winter.

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Climate Adaptation, continued from page 5

Buxus NewGen 'Independence' and NewGen 'Freedom' are advertised to have good resistance to boxwood blight and other diseases. USDA Zones 5–8.

Daphniphyllum macropodum. Rhododendron-like foliage with showy purplish red petioles. New growth emerges flushed with pink. USDA Zones 7–9.

Compact, upright *Distylium* Linebacker™ and dwarf, spreading Spring Frost™. USDA Zones 7–9.

Ilex opaca 'Maryland Dwarf' is a dwarf-spreading American holly, all-female cultivar. USDA Zones 5–9.

Leucothoe ReJoyce™ New leaves emerge red, turn deep bronze-purple in fall. USDA Zone 6.

Mabonia bealei (leatherleaf mahonia) USDA Zones 7–9.

Sarcococca bookeriana var. *humilis* ('Sarsid 1') Fragrant Valley™ (sweetbox) evergreen groundcover, part of the Himalayan Wonder series. USDA Zones 6–8.

CONIFERS

Commonly known as plum yew, *Cephalotaxus* varieties range from 5' to 10' tall, 5' to 14' wide. USDA Zones 6–9. Preferred short-needled (Japanese) varieties include *C. barringtonia* 'Prostrata', 'Duke Gardens', 'Korean Gold', and 'Pendunculata'.

Cephalotaxus sinensis (Chinese plum yew) is also a favorite, and *Cephalotaxus fortunei* (Fortune's plum yew) is very long-needled.

Thuja x 'Junior Giant' 15'–20' tall x 8'–10' wide arborvitae. USDA Zones 5–8.

DECIDUOUS SHRUBS AND TREES

Abelia x *grandiflora* 'Rose Creek' and 'Little Richard'. New, compact form. USDA Zones 6–9. Evergreen in Zone 7 and warmer. ***

Aronia melanocarpa (chokeberry) 'Low Scape Mound' and 'Ground Hug' cultivars of North American native. Heat, salt, and drought tolerant. Wildlife eat berries. USDA Zones 3–9.



Cephalotaxus barringtonia 'Prostrata'



Cornus kousa 'Pam's Mountain Bouquet'



Hydrangea arborescens 'Haas' Halo'



Stewartia rostrata

Cercis canadensis (Eastern redbud) 'Carolina Sweetheart', USDA Zones 4a–9b; 'Golden Falls', USDA zones 6–8; 'Flame Thrower' USDA Zones 5–9. Cultivars of North American native. Dramatic flowers, foliage, and forms. Wildlife- and pollinator-friendly. ***

Cornus kousa 'Pam's Mountain Bouquet' (Korean Dogwood) University of Tennessee dogwood improvement release. Has unique fused bract structure. USDA Zones 5–8.

Cornus angustata 'Empress of China' [aka *Cornus elliptica* 'Elsbry']. Evergreen to semi-evergreen. Native to China. Tree blooms in early summer. Leaves drop as new growth appears. USDA Zones 6–9.

Euscaphis japonica (Korean sweetheart tree) Somewhat drought-tolerant, low-maintenance J.C. Raulston discovery. USDA Zones 6–8.

Four hydrangeas make the adaptability cut: *Hydrangea involucrata* 'Blue Bunny', USDA Zones 6–9; *Hydrangea serrata* 'Blue Billow' and 'Tiny Tuff Stuff', USDA Zones 5–9, *Hydrangea arborescens* 'Haas Halo', USDA Zones 3–9.

Lespedeza thunbergii (bush clover) 'Gibraltar' and noninvasive, dwarf 'Yakushima'. No insect or disease problems. Drought-tolerant. USDA Zones 4–8.

Lindera glauca var. *salicifolia* (Asian spice-bush). USDA Zones 5a–9b.

Magnolia x 'Sunspire' lemon yellow-colored flower and *Magnolia* x 'Genie' rosy, merlot-colored flower. USDA Zones 5–8.

Nyssa sylvatica 'Zydeco Twist' (native cultivar of black tupelo, sourgum). Upright, pyramidal growth with contorted branches, stems, twigs. USDA Zones 4–9.

Stewartia monodelpha (tall or orangebark Stewartia), USDA Zones 6b–8b; *Stewartia psuedocamellia* (Korean or Japanese Stewartia), USDA Zones 5a–9b; and *Stewartia rostrata* (beaked Stewartia), USDA Zones 6a–7b.

Vitex x 'Flip Side' (Chaste Tree) leaf has purple underside. USDA Zones 7a–9b. ***

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Climate Adaptation,

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PERENNIALS

Amsonia tabernaemontana 'Storm Cloud' (eastern bluestar). Heat and drought tolerant once established. USDA Zones 4–9.

Kalimeris incisa 'Blue Star' (Japanese aster). Heat and humidity tolerant, USDA Zones 5–9; and *Kalimeris pinnatifida* 'Hortensis' (semi-double Japanese aster), long-blooming, USDA Zones 4–9.

Podophyllum 'Spotty Dotty' (may-apple) spotted leaves, showy maroon-red flowers. USDA Zones 6–9. ***

Vernonia lettermannii 'Iron Butterfly' (ironweed). Compact, 24"–36" x 18"–24". USDA Zones 4a–9b.

SEMI-EVERGREEN PERENNIAL VINES

Bignonia capreolata 'Dragon Lady' and 'Gold Finch' (cross-vine) North American native cultivars. USDA Zones 6a–9b.



Bignonia capreolata 'Dragon Lady'

*** indicates note-worthy characteristic(s)

Photos provided by Carol Verhake and Andy Schenck.

2025 HPS/MAG Grant Recipients

The HPS/MAG Grant Committee is pleased to announce the 2025 grant recipients. This year HPS/MAG awarded grants to 23 organizations that will be doing good in the community.

Congratulations to all awardees and thank you for engaging in sustainable horticultural projects which enhance our environment. The list of grant recipients include:

The Barnes Arboretum at Saint Joseph's University received \$430 to continue the redesign of their medicinal garden by removing invasives and diversifying the plantings. This project will provide a living example of the region's medicinal plants.

Branch Brook Park Alliance received \$719 to renovate the Children's Pollinator Garden. This project will foster biodiversity by reintroducing native plants, while providing hands-on learning, workshops and social media posts, all of which will broaden this community's appreciation of horticulture.

Broreavement Foundation, Inc. received \$959 to provide a therapeutic gardening experience for men and boys of color who are navigating the challenges posed by grief. This project will support an underserved community, while also broadening their appreciation of horticulture.

The Chester County Food Bank (CCFB) received \$972 to provide hardy fruit plants to members of the Chester County Food Bank (CCFB) Garden Partner program. This project will expand access to fresh nutritional food, while broadening this community's horticultural knowledge and appreciation.

Conestoga High School received \$1,000 to create a pollinator garden. This project will increase biodiversity while managing stormwater runoff. It will also provide the foundation to educate the community across multiple disciplines about sound horticulture practices.

Dynamic Roots, Inc. received \$900 to protect fruit and vegetable crops as their pollinator garden develops. Not only will their garden provide resources to an underserved community in a food desert, but it will introduce their community to the benefits of supporting the environment.

The Franklin County Master Gardener Association received \$1,000 to rejuvenate a demonstration buffer garden with native plants. This project will demonstrate the importance of developing a buffer garden to contain erosion and improve water quality, while increasing biodiversity.

The Friends of Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park received \$1,000 to expand the food forest and medicinal herb garden at FDR Park. This project will expand food accessibility for a diverse community, while also broadening their appreciation of horticulture.

The Friends of Laurel Hill received \$1,000 to plant native canopy trees to ultimately replace those trees threatened by Beech Leaf Disease. This project will increase biodiversity, while also addressing stormwater runoff, ultimately improving our environment.

Greensboro Elementary School received \$575 to plant native species in their swales and pollinator gardens. This project will increase biodiversity, while also improving water filtration and erosion control. An underserved community will learn about the benefits and responsibilities of environmental stewardship.

Horn Farm Center received \$1,000 to remove invasives and install a native plant and pollinator garden that will serve as a teaching and demonstration space. This project will increase biodiversity, while also adding educational opportunities for aspiring land stewards.

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Grant Recipients, *continued from page 7*

Hortus Arboretum and Botanical Garden received \$841 to expand their plant collection to include genera not currently represented. This project will educate the community about unique and widely unknown plants. By preserving unique plant species, this project will also broaden the biodiversity of the region.

Jenkins Arboretum received \$975 to replace turf grass with low maintenance pollinator friendly plants. This project will increase biodiversity, while also providing critical habitat for local wildlife.

John J. Tyler Arboretum received \$895 to replant their stormwater basin. This project will increase biodiversity, while also adding educational opportunities for the community.

Mount Olive United Methodist Church received \$554 to grow vegetables for their food pantry. This project will provide food assistance to an underserved community and encourage visitors to develop home gardens with flowers and herbs.

The Nicholas Newlin Foundation received \$499 to expand and connect existing pollinator plantings around the perimeter of their meadow classroom. This project will increase biodiversity and enhance the environment, is sustainable, and will educate many in the community.

The North American Land Trust received \$986 for the Heritage Garden at Brinton Run Preserve, to showcase plants used for food and medicine by the Lenape, colonial settlers, and African Americans. These non-invasive native plants will increase birds and pollinators and provide valuable horticulture history to visitors.

Perry Hilltop Citizens Council (Ballfield Farm) received \$1,000 to remove invasive plants and plant a sustainable food forest. This project will expand access to a sustainable food source for those in a food insecure community.

Preservation Delaware Inc. received \$900 to replace invasive English ivy with native plants in partnership with the Delaware Center for Horticulture's Branches to Chances program. This project will increase biodiversity while building the horticultural skills of the BTC trainees in an underserved community.

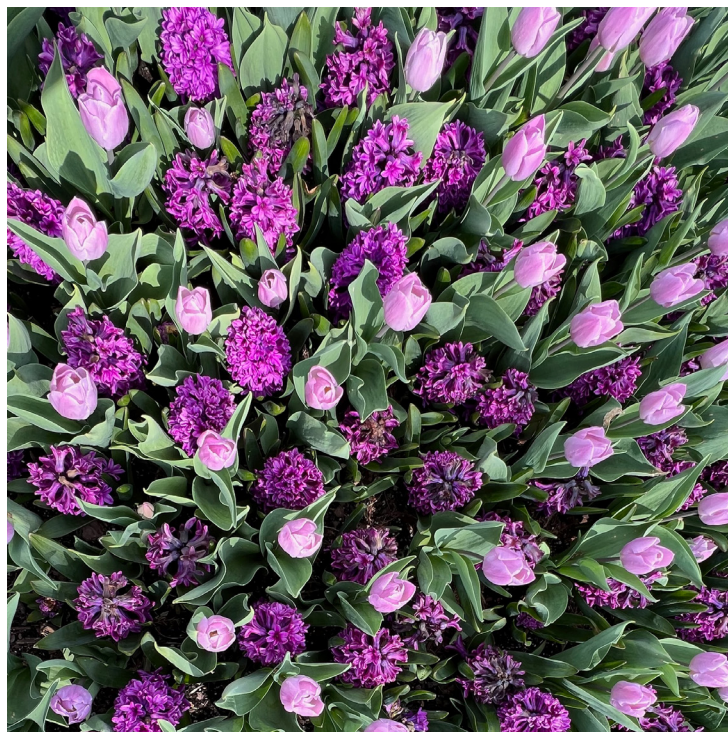
Riverbend Environmental Education Center received \$705 to remove invasive species, stabilize slopes, and replace invasives with local flora. This project will increase local flora and fauna, while also addressing the challenges of slope erosion.

Rock Hollow Woods Environmental Learning Center received \$1,000 to establish a mix of groundcovers. This project will reduce soil erosion and increase biodiversity. Workshops and seminars will encourage the community to adopt similar strategies to increase biodiversity.

South Side Community Council received \$1,000 to plant native pollinator plants that will enhance fruit productivity and increase wildlife diversity in their area. This project will have a substantial impact on the local habitat, improve food accessibility in a food desert, and serve as the basis for workshops to educate the community.

The Wyck Association received \$1,019 to repopulate a section of the Woodlot with a palette of native, historic, and kid-friendly plants. This project will increase pollinators, insects, and wildlife.

Please spread the word to community-oriented organizations that may be worthy recipients as next year's round of grant winners!



President's Message, *continued from page 1*

A must for every lazy gardener's wish list is an automatic watering system. One of the most dreaded summer chores is keeping plants watered during hot summer months. An automatic irrigation system can save you hours every week. Drip irrigation systems are a low-maintenance choice to deliver water directly to the roots of your plants, minimizing water waste, and reducing the frequency of manual watering. Maybe someday.

Perhaps these ideas will help you find the right balance between work and relaxation while letting your garden thrive in the simplest way possible. As always if you have suggestions or questions, contact me at hpspresident@hardyplant.org.

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