



VOL. 25 NO. 1 2023

# notes

## 2023 Central Pennsylvania Native Plant Festival

**Saturday, May 6th • 10:00am–3:00pm:**  
**Millbrook Marsh Nature Center**  
**Puddintown Road • State College PA**

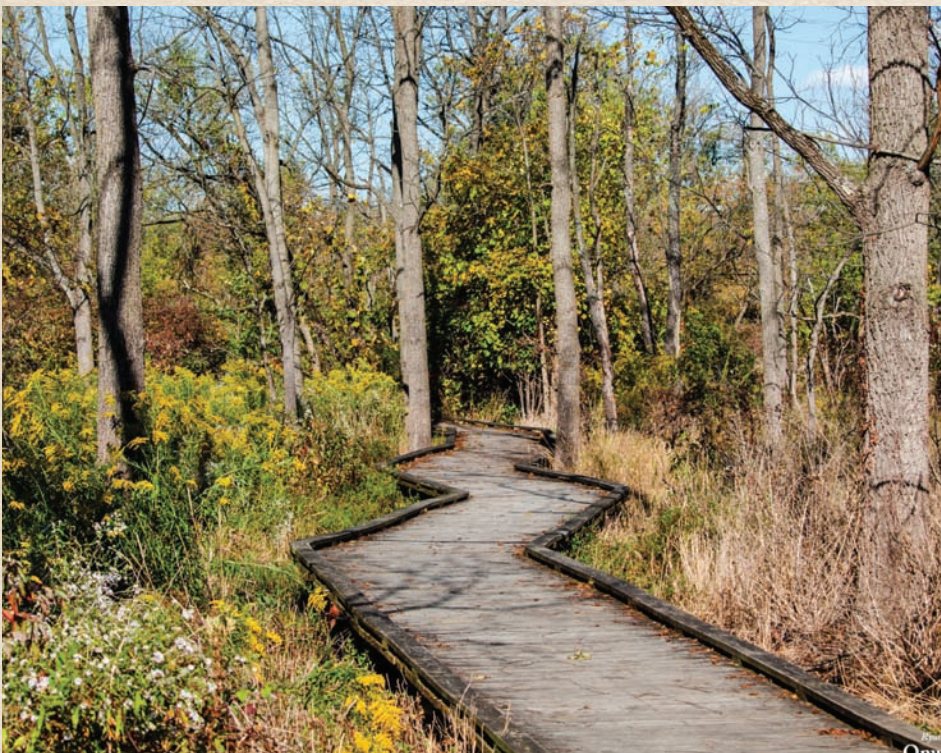
New  
Location

The Pennsylvania Native Plant Society's Annual Native Plant Festival and Sale has found a new home at the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center! Celebrate the arrival of spring, the return of wildflowers, and the beginning of another gardening season at the Central PA Native Plant Festival and Sale and acquire some new additions to your garden.

There'll be over 275 species of native plants for sale; educational presentations and resource tables where you can get answers to

your native plant and gardening questions; Food by FloBrothers Pizza and Miller's Tropical Ice and Caramel Corn; live music by folk rock duo Asbury Lane. Admission is free. (No sales before 10:00 am, but you can pre-order by contacting our vendors directly. A list of vendors and plants is available on the event page on our website:

[www.panativeplantsociety.org/pnps-central-pennsylvania-native-plant-festival.html](http://www.panativeplantsociety.org/pnps-central-pennsylvania-native-plant-festival.html)



### Schedule of Events

**10:00am–3:00pm**

**Plant Sale**

No Early Sales! Check out our list of vendors on page 3.

**10:00am–3:00pm**

**Information Tables**

Get answers to your gardening questions and meet other organizations committed to native plants

**11:00am–2:00pm**

**Live music with folk rock duo Asbury Lane**

**11:00am**

**Presentation: *Birds in My Garden***

*Presented by Laura Jackson, Vice-President of Juniata Valley Audubon Society*

Would you like to attract more birds to your backyard, and at the same time enjoy a beautiful flower garden? Native plant gardener, birder and nature photographer Laura Jackson will share some tips on how to sustain a variety of birds by providing native plants, water, and safe places to raise young. You'll enjoy the birds that visit her gardens and learn some photography tips.

**1:00pm**

**Presentation: *Placing Invasive Plant Species in Ecological Context***

*Presented by Norris Muth, Professor of Biology at Juniata University and President of the Mid Atlantic Invasive Plant Council.*

Learn why we should be concerned about invasive plants and how to help mitigate their impact. There will be a presentation followed by a walk through the Marsh to identify invasive plants.



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello,

My name is Andrea Ferich, I'm a forester in Centre County and the new President of the PA Native Plant Society (PNPS). I am passionate about the mission of PNPS personally and professionally. I live along a trout stream in Coburn, PA where I manage habitat for early successional young forests at my own farm and across the landscape

of the Commonwealth. Almost every day I work with private landowners planning and implementing large-scale ecological restoration projects for wildlife, water quality, and agroforestry from groundcovers to the canopy. I have directed community-based non-profit organizations in both mountain headwater and environmental justice communities. I have seen firsthand the ways our thriving ecosystems and sustained economies depend on the conservation of native plants and their habitats, and the increased use of native plants in the landscape—the mission of PNPS.

In January this year the Board of Directors conducted strategic planning toward the meeting of our mission through the work of our committees, analyzing our strategic goals, and developing more formalized ways for you, our members, to participate toward these goals.

In addition to our grants program, native plant sale, and annual meeting, we are also looking to continue to work with the PA Department of Agriculture (PDA) Controlled Plant & Noxious Weed Committee (CPNWC) to cease the sales of invasive plants in the nursery industry. Over the last several years people like you have made a difference through letter writing campaigns, conversations with decision makers about grass-roots initiatives, and the support of legislation and funding that supports native plants. One of the victories for native plants that been the listing of invasive species such as Japanese barberry, Bradford pear, and burning bush as noxious by the CPNWC.

This work has been greatly influenced by you, your stories, and passionate pleas to decision-makers. Here's some more ways you can continue to plug in. Members in Lehigh, Great Valley, and Lancaster continue to grow their Chapters with local activities. You can learn more about Chapter activities and how to start a local chapter by visiting our website. Click on the **Get Involved** tab of our website menu.

Thanks again for doing your part.

— Andrea Ferich

## New PNPS Vice President

The PA Native Plant Society welcomes Cathryn Pugh as our new Vice President. Cat, like her favorite plants, is a Pennsylvania native. She grew up in the small town of Wyalusing, PA, and moved to State College, PA, to pursue a graduate degree in Forest Resources. While a student, Cat conducted ethnobotanical research to study the relationship between Pennsylvanians and a native spring onion called ramps or wild leeks (*Allium tricoccum*). This work inspired her interest in forest farming of edible and medicinal wild plants and fungi.



Cat recently started working for Penn State Extension as the Forestry Educator in Centre County. She is ecstatic to be putting down roots in Central PA and educating her community about the importance of native plants and agroforestry practices.

In her spare time, you might find Cat making hand-stamped prints, drawing inspiration from the natural world. She continues to weave together her love of plants, art, and teaching by instructing an introductory botanical printing class at the Lemont Art Alliance.

Cat is excited to take on this new role within the PNPS community and help get more native plants into our landscape!

## Don't Forget to Renew!

Please be sure to check your membership expiration date above the mailing label. PNPS membership is a bargain, just \$15 for regular annual membership.

Join or Renew online:

[www.panativeplantsociety.org/join-us](http://www.panativeplantsociety.org/join-us)

Or send your check to:

PNPS  
PO Box 807  
Boalsburg, PA 16827

Be sure to write membership on the memo line of your check. And thanks for your support!

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Andrea Ferich .....President  
Cathryn Pugh .....Vice-President  
Sarah Chamberlain .....Past President, Membership chair  
Jaci Braund.....Treasurer  
Merrill David .....Recording Secretary  
Doug Mason .....Corresponding Secretary

Directors at Large.....Danielle Lanagan, Chad Clem, Jean Najjar,  
Victoria Holderer, Kristen Devli, Mara Hartzell,  
Linda Ferich

Chapter Representatives .....Jeff Branham & Christa Reeves: Lehigh Valley Rep  
Linda Ferich and Eyse Jurgen: Lancaster Rep  
Ben and Kelsey Mummert: Great Valley Rep



## 2023 Central Pennsylvania Native Plant Festival Featured Vendors

### Backyard Forest

Bellefonte, PA  
backyard4est@gmail.com  
814-769-1917

### Common Ground Farm

176 Zuck Road  
Spring Mills, PA, 16875  
814-364-9171

### Fox Hill Gardens

1035 Fox Hill Road  
State College, PA 16803  
814- 237-9087

### Go Native Tree Farm

678 S Chiques Road  
Manheim, PA  
717-538-0393

### Growin' Native Nursery

Mansfield, PA 16933  
570-662-3735

### Meadowsweet Native

Plant Farm  
York, Pennsylvania 17408  
717-487-3612

### Tait Farm Native Plant

Nursery  
179 Tait Road  
Centre Hall, PA 16828  
814-380-4060



Full vendor information available on our website:

[www.panativeplantsociety.org/vendor-information.html](http://www.panativeplantsociety.org/vendor-information.html)

## Plant Sale Donations

### How to donate & plant preparation:

- Dig and pot as early as the weather will allow. The longer your plant is in its pot, the better it will look and feel.
- Dig plants where you have permission to dig, for example, your yard or a friend's yard. DO NOT dig plants from "the wild."
- Notify Betsy Whitman (bbwhitman@gmail.com) with the Latin name (*Genus species*) of any donations. She can make a tag with name, description, and growing needs.
- If possible, bring donations to the plant sale site on Friday, April 30, between 3:00–5:00 pm. Otherwise, please bring your donations by 9:00 am the day of the plant sale.



**COMMON GROUND FARM**  
PA native trees and shrubs  
for your home landscape

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commongroundfarm.square.site  
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## MORE ABOUT NOXIOUS WEEDS AND THE PDA DESIGNATION

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) identifies *Noxious weeds as injurious to public health, crops, livestock, agricultural land, or other property*. You may think that a plant in your garden is harmless but invasive plants can escape your garden and do damage to natural areas, by out-competing native plants and reducing biodiversity. The designation of a plant as a noxious weed eventually leads to that species *not* being sold in the Commonwealth. So getting an invasive species is a good first step.

### What's next?

- Quite a few invasive species remain to be listed. We're working to get our list of the top twelve "Dirty Dozen" species on the noxious weed list. The Dirty Dozen is a list of twelve invasive species to avoid planting. These are frequently available at nurseries and landscape retailers. With your help, we can keep these twelve non-native invaders out of our environment! We encourage you to remove the Dirty Dozen from your property and pledge not to purchase or plant them in the future.
- Even when species are listed by the Controlled Plant & Noxious Weed Committee (CPNWC), nurseries are allowed to continue to sell them during a 2–4-year grace period. PNPS is working with other groups and agencies across the state, to speed this transition to promote early adopter nurseries which have made the transition to ban the sales of noxious and invasive plants already.

### The Dirty Dozen

1. Heavenly Bamboo (Nandina)
2. Norway Maple
3. Japanese Wisteria Chinese Wisteria
4. English Ivy
5. Common Periwinkle
6. Butterfly Bush
7. Orange Day-Lily
8. Japanese Pachysandra

*On the noxious weed list with a grace period until October 8, 2023*

9. Japanese Barberry
10. Callery Pear (Bradford Pear)

*On the noxious weed list with a grace period until January 10, 2025*

11. Chinese Privet
12. Burning Bush (Winged Euonymus)

PNPS continues to advocate for the conservation of native plants and their habitats and educate the public about the value of using native plants in the landscape.



## Cumberland Valley Rail Trail Pollinator Field 1 & 2 Project 2022 Growing Season

By Jean Spears Cumberland Valley Rail Trail,  
Vice President, Cumberland County Master Gardener

The Cumberland County Rail Trail Council and trail volunteers are very grateful for the \$500 grant we received from PNPS for the purpose of developing our two pollinator fields and adding some educational signage during the current growing season. The project is located at the Allen Road Trailhead of the Cumberland Valley Rail Trail on Allen Road near Route 641. The project leader was Jean Spears, Vice President of the Cumberland County Rail Trail and Cumberland County Master Gardener.

The grant funds enabled us to experiment with several types of plantings and to jump start Pollinator Field #2. We were also able to purchase signs for both fields.

Water was the primary challenge. Allen Road site does not have any running water. This requires that all water for new plants be carried into the site by volunteers. The month of August brought very high heat and drought like conditions. Many showers skirted our area but did not give this area any rain. Fortunately, determined volunteers helped to keep plugs and young plants alive and growing by persistent hand watering. In future years we will prioritize drought resis-

tance when purchasing seeds and plants.

The benefits of the project are already being seen. Volunteers have noted that in the summer of 2022, Monarch butterflies visited daily, favoring NY Ironweed, Gayfeather, Joe Pye Weed and native mints. Why do we think this happened? The Allen Road Trailhead sits high on a hill with good air flow and none of our neighboring properties are doing any type of spraying. Alexander Spring Creek is also on our property and nearby.

These beneficial natives are not just surviving but thriving. During the month of August, we noticed that Pollinator Field #1, in its third growing season had begun to reseed itself with many Little Bluestem, Monarda, and Mountain Mint.

What's Next? We plan to seek additional grants to expand the educational piece of the project to provide more signage and educational brochures for the public.

Next growing season we will also add seeds from pollinator friendly annuals that our volunteers are now collecting. We are also collecting seed from Pollinator 1 & 2 to use in re-seeding and clearing Pollinator #1 of several persistent weed species.

Our thanks to PNPS for the support in getting Pollinator Field #2 established and for supplementing Pollinator Field #1.





# Coburn Park Native Planting Project



By Sarah DePasquale, Meadowsweet Botanicals

The Coburn Park Native Planting Project was completed in July of 2022, with 100% plant survival as of October 2022. In May of 2022 the bed was weeded, and existing exotic ornamentals were removed, except for a single Colorado blue spruce. Two weeks later the planting was completed with primarily straight species Pennsylvania natives with two native cultivars to accommodate for size and stature necessary in this sign bed.

In June of 2022, a collaborating landscape architecture firm, BSA/LA, submitted a comprehensive planting design for the stormwater management in the larger area of Coburn Park using strictly Pennsylvania native species. A sign acknowledging the donation of the PNPS was installed in July, and ongoing weeding and watering was completed through our relatively dry summer.

The Penns Valley Conservation Association's annual Crickfest Celebration at Coburn Park included a native plant sale tent to benefit the organization, and information about the Coburn Park Project and the PNPS was highlighted at that location.

PVCA has undergone several administrative changes and has not yet acknowledged the project on social media or in their newsletter. Currently the plan is to highlight the project in the next newsletter to encourage membership to consider native plant design as spring gardening commences. I will continue to update here as those acknowledgements appear.

Attached are a before picture, a picture of planting, and a picture of summer maintenance. We will continue to maintain this bed and pursue replacement of the Colorado blue spruce with a native shrub.

Please feel free to reach out if you believe there are aspects of this grant that have not been satisfied. It's been a fun project for me, and I think highlights the versatility of native plants in landscaping.

*Plants & Design  
for resilient beauty*



# redbud

NATIVE PLANT NURSERY

# TEND



## LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

904 N. Providence Rd. Media, PA 19063  
[www.redbudnative.com](http://www.redbudnative.com) [www.tendlandscape.com](http://www.tendlandscape.com)

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**Fruit Trees**  
**& Art by Local Artists**

**• Serviceberry Celebration**  
**June 9, 10, & 11**

*Lands  
Trust Tour*  
**June 11**  
**3:00-5:00**

**8957 Hickory Rd., Felton, PA 17322**  
 (closer to Stewartstown)  
**Monday-Saturday 9am-4pm**  
**717-993-5230**  
[www.heartwoodnurseryinc.com](http://www.heartwoodnurseryinc.com)

*Check Our  
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# Purple Flowering Raspberry

## *Rubus odoratus*

By Victoria Holderer, PNPS Board Member

Joyous songs of migratory birds are returning North, the delicate blooms of *Erigenia bulbous*, Harbinger of Spring, have made their way above ground, and wood frogs and spring peepers are singing into the night once again. Springtime is beginning. Within Pennsylvania's thickets, mountain forests, and woodland edges, dormant colonies of *Rubus odoratus* wait to grow anew. *Rubus odoratus*, also known as Thimble Berry or Purple Flowering Raspberry, is an East Coast native plant whose colonies stretch throughout the Appalachian Mountain range, from the northern parts of Georgia and Alabama through and above Maine and over to Michigan to Tennessee. Identifiable by their namesake flowers, the Purple Flowering Raspberry blooms from June through August with numerous large, sweetly scented flowers. Five vibrant, light pink and purple petals glow against a delicate yellow center, ornate with numerous small stamens to spread their pollen. Their large palmate leaves are velvety green, ascending alternately on their tall, thornless stalks. Where one might expect thorns, there are instead thin, light red hairs all along their stalks and leaves. These form large colonies overtime, spreading upward of six to 12 feet. Though their berries are not as sweet as the common Red Raspberry, they are nevertheless an important and abundant summertime



fruit for other wildlife species. *Rubus odoratus* berries are eaten by birds and many other small mammals. Their leaves and stalks are nibbled occasionally by deer, though fortunately their colonies are so large and robust that this does not hinder the plant. Their summertime flowers attract numerous pollinators, including native bees and butterflies. *Rubus odoratus* is the host species for numerous Lepidoptera, including the io Moth, *Automeris io*, and the Hoary Pinion Moth, *Lithophane fagina*. During the winter months,

*Rubus odoratus* provides important nesting material for native bee species. Historically, Cherokee, Chippewa, and Iroquois utilized *Rubus odoratus* for its many medicinal uses such as for toothaches, laxatives, kidney aids, colds,



Top: Karen Smith, June 18, 2017.

Left: Darrell Frey, June 20, 2021, North Eastern Mercer County Above: Karen Smith, June 18, 2017.

and gynecological remedies. In modern times, *Rubus* is still a well-loved herbal remedy for various ailments. The berries of *Rubus odoratus*, while perhaps not as sweet as its common counterpart, are excellent when used in jams or jellies. In cultivation, *Rubus odoratus* is a great species to use as a hedgerow or privacy screen, for soil stabilization, attracting wildlife and pollinators. It can even help crowd out some invasive species. *Rubus odoratus* has a long history of uses in its cultivated and wild forms, always managing to attract beautiful species of Lepidoptera, game birds, and the small feet of numerous Pennsylvanian mammals. Throughout your travels this summer, whether in your own backyard or through the beautiful woodlands of Pennsylvania, keep a close eye out for *Rubus odoratus*.



## Early Summer Garden Tour to Showcase Habitat-Friendly Landscapes in State College



After a successful pilot event last summer, organizers of the Centre Region's Growing Greener Garden Tour are planning the next installment in what they expect will become an annual tradition. The one-day event is designed to showcase habitat-friendly landscaping practices in the State College area and to inspire and empower participants to adopt a similar approach in their own yards. This year's event will likely take place in June. To learn more, or to sign up for email updates, visit: <https://bit.ly/habitat-tour>. If you're interested in helping with the tour, contact Kristen Devlin at [beebopfarm@gmail.com](mailto:beebopfarm@gmail.com).

The tour is a service project of the Pennsylvania Master Naturalist program, a statewide partnership initiative that connects people with their local ecosystems through intensive natural science training and local conservation service work and is being planned in partnership with several local organizations including PNPS.

### WEBINAR

## Learn to Love Those Latin Names with Ann Willyard

Thursday, March 30th 7 pm (virtual)

Do scientific names intimidate you? Author Ann Willyard is here to help!

Ann will explain in simple terms how to understand and use scientific names. She'll discuss plant names from a lay person's perspective, so that users can become more comfortable with them. Her talk is based on her book, *Learn to Love those Latin Names*, that she self-published on Amazon as



print-on-demand (or Kindle format). It can be purchased using their ordering and printing system.

Author and presenter  
Ann Willyard

## Encourage Sustainability in Your Landscape

Opening April 1<sup>st</sup>

Check website for hours and educational opportunities



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## 2023 Facebook Photo Contest

Get your cameras and smart phones ready for the 7th Annual PNPS Facebook Photo Contest. To enter you must be a member of the Facebook group. Just post your photo in the comment section of the Facebook event by July 31. We will announce the winner on Facebook on August 25. The winning photo will be featured on the back cover of our print newsletter PNPS Notes, Fall 2023.

All entries will be posted on our website: [www.panativeplantsociety.org/facebook-forum.html](http://www.panativeplantsociety.org/facebook-forum.html)

### Rules:

- Pennsylvania Natives only: Plants must be listed as native to Pennsylvania — check [www.paflora.org](http://www.paflora.org) or [www.bonap.org](http://www.bonap.org).
- Submit photos of PA native plants, taken between August 2022 and July 2023 by July 31.
- Enter as many photos as you like but please enter each in a separate comment field.
- All entries must include:
  - your name
  - the date and location the photo was taken
  - the plant name (common and scientific)

By entering the contest, you are giving permission for PNPS to use your photo on our website and in our newsletter and other educational materials. Your photo will be credited with the information you provide.

Winner of the PNPS 2022 Facebook Photo Contest: Monongahela Barbara's buttons, *Marshallia pulchra*, photo by Mark Bowers, Fayette Co., PA, July 2022.



See entries from past contests here:  
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