



# Pennsylvania

## PENNSYLVANIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

# notes

Volume 19 No.1 2017

### FEATURED PLANT: **Joe Pye Weed**



By Jean Najjar

Every year the Central PA Festival highlights one native plant. This year's star is Joe Pye Weed, *Eutrochium fistulosum*. If the Latin doesn't sound familiar, it's because of a relatively recent name change. Nomenclature isn't the focus of this article but it is worth mentioning our botanist brothers and sisters have recently subdivided Joe Pye Weed out of the *Eupatorium* genus and into the smaller genera of *Eutrochium*. *E. fistulosum* is also known as Trumpetweed, purple thoroughwort, and hollow-stemmed Joe Pye Weed.

#### Joe Pye In Your Garden

Like many native plants, Joe Pye weed is still very underutilized in the home garden but it's a great choice for your landscape. Here's why: it provides a beautiful late summer pink bloom as well as fall and winter interest. It requires very little maintenance. Just cut down the stalks in early spring. It attracts: bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. It is deer resistant so a good choice if you have issues with Bambi's family.

#### Design Considerations

*Eutrochium fistulosum* will grow well in sun to partial shade. It will tolerate wet marshy areas, but will also do fine in well-drained garden soils. It is a great choice for drainage areas and rain gardens.

One of the most important design considerations for Joe Pye is its height. Joe Pye is a tall erect plant and depending on conditions will grow to 7 feet or more. It grows in a dense clump so you don't have to worry about it spreading but its height might still overpower a small urban garden. For those situations there is *Eutrochium dubium*. Plant it at the back or center of a perennial bed for dramatic effect and create a visual backdrop for smaller perennials. Or use it along the edge of your property to create a 3-season screen — summer, fall, and winter.

Stop by our booth and pick up some seeds to start your own.

## PNPS Native Plant Sale



PNPS has held a native plant sale in May for over a decade. In 2011 we partnered with Shaver's Creek and our native plant sale became the Central PA Native Plant Festival and Sale. This event flourished and finally out grew the Shaver's Creek venue. Last year we held the Festival at the Boalsburg Military Museum in Boalsburg, PA and attendance doubled. We are excited to be returning to the Boalsburg Military Museum this year on Saturday, May 6th. See list of Plant Vendors, page 2.





## MEET THE VENDORS: PA Central Native Plant Festival & Sale

We will be enforcing a "No Early Sales" policy this year, BUT you can place ADVANCE ORDERS with **most** of our vendors. So you can pre-order to ensure you get the plant you want. Visit our website to see a list of available plants and contact the vendor to place your order.

[www.panativeplantsociety.org/  
plant-sale-vendors.html](http://www.panativeplantsociety.org/plant-sale-vendors.html)

**Common Ground Farm**  
Spring Mills, PA

**Fox Hill Gardens**  
State College, PA • 814-237-9087

**Go Native Tree Farm**  
Manheim, PA • 717-538-0393

**Growin' Native Nursery**  
Mansfield, PA • 570 662-3735

**Hilltop Hollow Farm**  
Bellefonte, PA • 814-360-8736

**Keystone Wildflowers**  
Robesonia, PA • 610-750-4186

**Native Creations Landscape Services**  
Nescopeck, PA • 570-578-7837

**Spring Haven Nurseries**  
Newburg, PA • 717-423-6652

**The Rock Garden**  
Boalsburg, PA • 814-933-2756

**The Native Yard**  
Seven Valleys, PA • 717-487-5506

**Wing Haven Nursery**  
Coburn, PA • 814-303-2218

**Wood Thrush Native Nursery**  
Floyd, VA • 215-272-1843



## Plant Sales featuring Native Plants

Note: PNPS does not monitor sales other than its own, but recognizes the importance of publicizing opportunities to purchase Pennsylvania native plants and is pleased to add community events to our calendar. Please contact us if you know of other community plant sales featuring Pennsylvania natives. **For more information and links to these events and more visit our website: [www.panativeplantsociety.org](http://www.panativeplantsociety.org)**

### APRIL

**April 22**  
Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve  
The Native Plant Nursery  
New Hope, PA

**April 29**  
Lancaster Native Plant and Wildlife Festival  
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

**April 29**  
Manada Conservancy  
Hummelstown, PA

**April 29**  
Gifford Pinchot State Park Native  
Wildflower Sale  
Lewisberry, PA

**April 29 & 30 and May 6 & 7**  
Churchville Nature Center Wildflower Sale  
Churchville, PA

### MAY

**May 6 & 7**  
Delaware Nature Society Native Plant Sale  
Greenville, DE

**May 6**  
Central Pennsylvania Native Plant Festival  
and Sale  
Boalsburg, PA

**May 13**  
MAEscapes Native Plant Sale  
York, PA

**May 13**  
Mountain Maryland Native Plant Festival  
New Germany State Park  
near Grantsville, MD

**May 13 & 14**  
*Wildflower, Native Plant & Seed Sale @*  
Brandywine Conservancy  
Chadds Ford, PA

**May 20**  
Garden Companion's Garden Club  
Plant Sale  
State College, PA

**May 20 & 21**  
Hawk Mountain Native Plant Sale  
Kempston, PA

**May 20**  
Centre County Master Gardener Plant Sale  
Pennsylvania Furnace, PA

### JUNE

**June 7-10**  
Plant Sale at Millersville Native Plants  
Conference  
Millersville, PA

**June 17**  
Bucks Farm & Garden — Garden Tour  
Doylestown PA





# Transitioning to a Native Landscape: Design Considerations

By Pam Ford and Jean Najjar

## What is a Layered Landscape and why does it matter?

Fortunately, landscape design trends are shifting from large areas of lawn to living landscapes, where each plant serves a purpose in supporting local ecosystems. Naturally occurring plants grow in many layers. They include tall trees, understory trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants and the ground layer with leaf litter.

The goal is to create gardens that are richly layered, diverse habitats able to provide food, water, and places to nest and hide, for birds, insects, and other wildlife, in all seasons. Different species of wildlife live at different heights in the vegetation. Having many layers of vegetation in your landscape allows wildlife to select the layer to which they are best adapted for survival.

### What are the benefits of a layered landscape?

- Increases wildlife diversity and abundance
- Reduced maintenance costs
- Natural beauty and seasonal interest
- Discovery for all ages
- Provides enhanced real estate value
- Source of inspiration for photographers, artists, etc.

### Design Considerations for the Layered Landscape

There is no one size fits all for planning a layered landscape. Much will depend on the property you are working with, and the site conditions. Scale is important in considering design.

#### Where to begin?

- Create a baseplan: a bird's eye view of your present landscape that includes property lines, buildings, and existing landscape features. Even if you add only a few plants in any one season, it is important to have a master design plan. Use photocopies or tracing paper over the baseplan. Testing different designs on paper is much easier than rearranging plants in a yard.
- Outline your needs: Do you want privacy in a patio, walking paths, a view from a window, a play area for children?
- Determine if the area you have chosen to plant is sunny or shady, wet or dry.

- Layering can be accomplished by having the tallest trees at the edge of the property, followed by smaller trees, shrubs and a herbaceous layer. Connecting properties can create a valuable wildlife corridor.
- Doug Tallamy suggests we reverse the "normal" landscaping so that turf is a place where we walk or use the lawn for recreation. Turf or ground covers are also a visual accent, a place to rest the eye.
- It is important to make a natural landscape look intentional. Pathways and borders help add to the tended look of the landscape. A border can be a mowed edge, a hedge, a fence, or an edge of low plants. In addition, human elements are welcoming. Birdfeeders, birdbaths or benches add to the perception that the landscape is planned.
- The human eye responds positively to curved lines. Natural areas tend toward curved lines, such as the bend in a stream or a drift of flowers in a meadow.
- Start small: Changing your entire landscape at once can be quite intimidating. You may start by having a small wildflower garden, and putting in a native understory tree and shrub. Expand gradually.
- Certify your landscape with National Wildlife Federation, PA Pollinator Friendly Garden, Audubon, Monarch Watch or The Xerces Society.

## STEP by STEP

### 1. Start small and expand a little each year.

Replace a non-native forsythia with a native shrub like serviceberry or button bush. Or transition an existing annual bed to a native perennial bed.

### 2. Choose the right plants.

Even in a small yard there are micro-climates; North side versus South side, Low spots that puddle in the rain versus dryer areas. Different plants will thrive in each. Start with a palette of three plants. For example:

#### Sunny moist to dry:

- Golden Ragwort  
*Packera aurea*
- Baptisia  
*Baptisia australis*
- Butterfly Weed  
*Asclepias tuberosa*

#### Shady moist to dry:

- Virginia Bluebells  
*Mertensia virginica*
- Christmas Fern  
*Polystichum acrostichoides*
- False Solomon's Seal  
*Maianthemum racemosum*

### 3. Plan a new bed thinking in layers

Create a bed 10 to 20 sq.ft using a trio of plants including: a small native tree or shrub, a flowering perennial, and a ground cover. You can use annuals the first year or two to keep weeds from creeping into the space. Depending on the site you might also choose to add another perennial.

### 4. Repetition

Repetition in the garden mimics nature, simplifies the design work, and creates better habitat. And its pleasing to the eye.

### 5. Define the Edge

Maintaining an edge of lawn between planting beds and adjacent sidewalks helps define pedestrian space and demonstrates intentionality of your design. For beds along property lines avoid planting natives that spread by runner. Some natives can be aggressive.





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Joe-Pye Weed  
Photo © Eric Burkhardt

# 2017 Central Pennsylvania Native Plant Festival

Saturday, May 6, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. at the Pennsylvania Military Museum

## PNPS Membership Form

☐ New Membership *or* ☐ Renewal

### Please Print Clearly

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Category (please check one)

- ☐ Individual \$15  
☐ Family \$20  
☐ Organization \$25  
☐ Life \$200

*Become a Life Member this year!*

Please make checks payable to  
**PA Native Plant Society,**  
PO Box 807, Boalsburg PA 16827.

As a 501c-3 non-profit educational organization, PNPS welcomes your contributions in addition to, or instead of, regular membership. Ongoing memberships in PNPS coincide with the calendar year.

*Epigaea repens L.*

Please make sure that you inform us of your current email address. Newsletters and event notices are sent electronically. Send email address and change of addresses to [Correspondence@PaNativePlantSociety.org](mailto:Correspondence@PaNativePlantSociety.org). Thank you!