



VOL. 24 NO. 1 2022

notes

2022

Central Pennsylvania Native Plant Festival

Saturday, May 7

10:00am–3:00pm

**Boal Mansion
grounds**

**163 Boal Estate Drive
Boalsburg, PA**

The Pennsylvania Native Plant Society's Annual Native Plant Festival and Sale is back! 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 350 species of native plants for sale; informational presentations; local seasonal prepared foods; live music by folk rock duo Asbury Lane; and educational resource tables where you can have native plant and gardening questions answered.

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

Kristy Gallo's award-winning garden in Columbus, Ohio.



Schedule of Events

10:00am–3:00pm

Plant Sale

No Early Sales! Check out our list of vendors.

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

11:00 AM Presentation:

***From Dirty Dozen to Birdy Dozen:
Replacing Problematic Non-Natives in
Your Landscape***

PNPS Board Member, Chad Clem and Laura Jackson will review twelve of the most invasive plants in the PA nursery trade and a dozen native alternatives to make your landscape more bird and pollinator friendly.

1:00 PM Presentation:

***Environmental Yardistry:
Incorporating Keystone Plants to
Support Biodiversity in Your Yard***

Join biologist, artist, and Ohio transplant Kristy Gallo as she highlights her efforts to convert her suburban Columbus yard to native prairie. Gallo will touch on her experiences using soil as her canvas to create a space that is both pollinator friendly and pleasing to the eye and spirit. She'll discuss the importance of incorporating keystone plants to support a vast biodiversity within your yard and detail the techniques she used to create her award-winning native plant garden.

Kristy Gallo is an artist, Biology major and recent transplant to Pennsylvania. Art and nature have been a passion and a source of sanctuary for Gallo throughout life. Exchanging a paint brush for a spade, soil has become her new canvas. Artistically inspired and environmentally driven, Kristy is committed to protecting and restoring native ecosystems.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Around this time of year, I find myself checking my native plant gardens for any signs of life. It's a little too soon. Intuitively, I know this. Yet I can't help trying to nudge spring along.

Along with anticipating my native plants, this year I'm looking forward to another rite of spring — the PNPS Central Pennsylvania Native Plant Festival. After a 2-year hiatus, the sale is back and we are excited to host everyone for a day of music, informative presentations, and of course, native plants! We hope you can join us.

This spring we will also welcome a new PNPS Chapter: Great Valley Native Plant Society helmed by Kelsey and Ben Mummert. This chapter encompasses seven counties in southcentral Pennsylvania (Bedford, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, and Perry). We look forward to working with them on native plant projects as well as efforts to support native plant education and advocacy in the area.

And finally, a housekeeping note, for those of you whose memberships have expired, please take a moment to renew. We lost touch with many of you due to COVID and wouldn't want you to miss out on all we have to offer this year. You'll find your expiration date in the upper right corner of your newsletter mailing label. You can renew online or by mail. Find the details on our website:

In the meantime, think spring!

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PNPS Launches Pledge for Plants Program

As part of our advocacy efforts to promote the conservation of native plants and their habitats as well as encourage the increased use of native plants in the landscape, The Pennsylvania Native Plant Society is launching the *Pledge For Plants* program to complement our Dirty Dozen list of invasive, non-native plants in Pennsylvania. We are asking the plant nurseries featured on our Website to pledge not to sell any plants highlighted on our Dirty Dozen list. We are also asking nurseries to pledge not to sell plants treated with neonicotinoid pesticides.

Nurseries that sign the pledge will earn a seal of approval sticker and certificate and will be promoted on our Website as preferred vendors. Preferred nurseries will also be listed on the back of our Dirty Dozen flier and promoted at tabling events that we participate in throughout the state. Pennsylvania is starting to make strides on banning invasive non-native plants that are deleterious to our natural environments. Since we started the Dirty Dozen list, Pennsylvania has banned the sale of both Japanese barberry and Callery pear! With this program, we hope to encourage nurseries that sell native plants to support these ongoing efforts and thus ensure their success. We are asking the plant nurseries featured on our Website to pledge not to sell any plants highlighted on our Dirty Dozen list.

How can you get involved?

- Only buy native plants from nurseries who sign the pledge
- Encourage your friends and neighbors to buy and plant natives
- Never buy or plant Dirty Dozen species or plants treated with neonics



Inspiring a New Generation of Wildlife Gardeners, PNPS Member Authors First Children's Book

Grandma Lisa's Humming, Buzzing, Chirping Garden, authored by Lisa Doseff, is an inspiring story told in rhyme about grandparents enlisting the enthusiastic help of their grandchildren to transform their yard into an attractive garden for wildlife.



The family revels in working together, adding native plants and other elements to the garden necessary to support a variety of wildlife. As the yard begins to teem with animals, the children are simply enthralled and delighted by the sights, sounds, and mere presence of nature found in Grandma Lisa's garden!

Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, "...wants to live in Grandma Lisa's garden..." and Nancy Lawson, author of *The Humane Garden*, says of the author Lisa Doseff, "Above all, she's a grandmother who wants to see her grandchildren inherit a thriving, ecologically sound world."

2022 Central Pennsylvania Native Plant Festival Featured Vendors

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

Gino's Nursery

2237 2nd Street Pike
Newtown, PA 18940
215-598-3992

Go Native Tree Farm

678 S. Chiques Road
Manheim, PA 17545
717-538-0393

Growin' Native Nursery

Mansfield, PA 16933
570-662-3735

Keystone Wildflowers

675 Hill Road
Robeson, PA
610-750-4186

Milkweed Monarchy

8307 PA-44
Williamsport, PA 17702
570-660-5085

Tait Farm Native Plant Nursery

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

Tree Talk Natives

11900 Hawkes Road
Clarksburg, MD 20871
703-401-1949



Full vendor information available on our website:

www.panativeplantsociety.org/vendor-information.html

276-750-9042 | sales@ginosnursery.com
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Newtown, Pa 18940
www.ginosnursery.com

Gino's Nursery

Plant by Plant, Garden by Garden,
together we are Restoring & Creating
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Buttonbush
Cephalanthus occidentalis

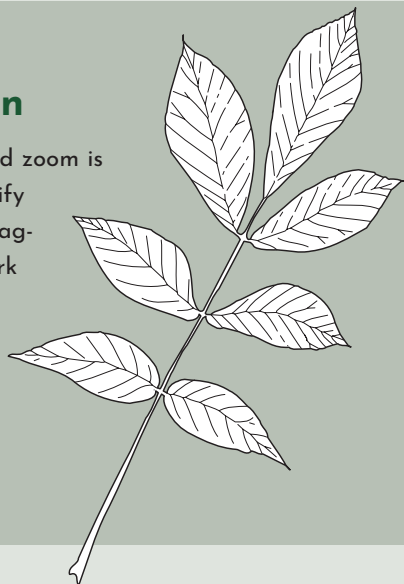
Shellbark Hickory Ecology in Pennsylvania

By Jaci Braund, PNPS Treasurer and Ecologist

Shellbark hickory (*Carya laciniosa*) is an uncommon deciduous tree species and one of five hickory species native to Pennsylvania. It looks most similar to shagbark hickory (*C. ovata*) due to the appearance of their bark. As these species mature, the bark breaks away from the trunk in large, linear plates, giving a “shaggy” appearance. Bats have been known to utilize these openings in the trunks as roost trees. The easiest ways to differentiate between shellbark and shagbark hickory are the number of leaflets and habitat. Hickory leaves are pinnately compound; meaning there are several leaflets that make up one leaf. Black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) is another example of a tree species with this leaf arrangement. Shellbark hickory has 7-9 leaflets, and shagbark hickory usually has 5. Counting leaflets on a mature tree can be difficult as they may be nearly 100 feet tall! Look for leaves that have fallen to the ground near the tree you are trying to identify or bring binoculars. The two species also differ in their habitat. Shagbark hickory is usually located more upland in moist woods, whereas the shellbark hickory is exclusive to floodplains and rich bottomlands. Another species, bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*), can also be found on floodplains and stream banks. This species does not display the shaggy bark like the other two and has a bright yellow winter bud that is easy to spot. The hickories that grow in floodplain habitats are naturally dispersed by floodwaters that wash the nuts laying on the ground downstream to new habitats to colonize.

Shellbark Identification

A camera with a good zoom is another way to identify this species versus shagbark hickory. Shellbark will have 7-9 leaflets while shagbark usually has 5.



Characteristic “shaggy” bark that is a diagnostic feature of both shellbark hickory and shagbark hickory. Top: Tree canopy. Photos: Jaci Braund

While not quite rare enough for a legal listing, shellbark hickory is tracked by the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program as a way to monitor the current populations and evaluate later on if the species is indeed declining in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania has about 300 plant species that hold a legal listing of rare, threatened or endangered. If you believe you have found a population of shellbark hickory, or any listed species, please reach out to the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us).

References

Rhoads, A. F., Block, T. A. (2007). The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. United States: University of Pennsylvania Press, Incorporated.

The Story of “Keystone” Shellbark Hickory

By Zach Elfers

One of my elders in the nut growing community was a man named Parker Coble of Gettysburg. He loved to share stories and knowledge with younger folks passing on his experience to the next generation. Parker had a good bit of experience with nut trees growing over 250 grafted nut cultivars. Each of these cultivars carried special traits and each had a story. My favorite of these was the story of a Shellbark Hickory.

Keystone was a shellbark hickory found by Fayette Etter of Lemasters, PA. A telephone lineman, he had plenty of opportunity to explore farms all over his region of Franklin County looking for the best of the best of the wild hickory trees. He also had his own 10 acres of good nut growing land and there he carried out his experiments.

Keystone grew along the banks of the Conococheague Creek in Markes, PA. In the late '50s or the early '60s — the Township decided to widen the road and replace the old beam bridge across the creek. The plans called for the Keystone tree to be cut down. Fayette couldn't bear to let it happen and efforts made to save the tree led to hiring a lawyer. In the courtroom Fayette gave the judge some of the nuts from the tree and let him crack them for himself. “These are the finest nuts I've ever seen!” The judge gave an order to modify the plans. The new bridge was re-routed downstream a little way, allowing Keystone a reprieve.

Ironically, the following year, after the new bridge was completed, heavy rains and massive flooding washed away both the Keystone tree and the new bridge, too. Life has a funny sense of justice. Luckily, having prepared for the worst, Fayette had cut a lot of scion wood from Keystone for grafting. Some of this scion wood was passed on to Parker's dad Garnet and grafted successfully. Had it not been for the threat of getting cut down, perhaps Keystone would have never been preserved.

The autumn before Parker died my friend Buzz Ferver and I took him for a field trip to visit the remains of Fayette's 10-acre farm. It was the first time Parker had been there since he was a boy learning how to graft. It was a very special trip filled with stories and nostalgia. I think of our elders like I think of old nut trees. No one lives forever. But if you're lucky, and the fates align, a good graft will take, and memories and characters live on a little longer.



Parker Coble
sorting tree nuts.

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

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!



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PNPS wants to thank...

Yellow Springs Farm for their role in promoting the use of native plants in the Landscape in Pennsylvania.

Yellow Springs Farm began in Chester County, PA with founder-owners Catherine and Al Renzi in 2001. The PA farm and native plant nursery included an historic 19th-century farmhouse, dairy barn, and a pond with a spring house. Originally a cow dairy farm over 150 years ago, the Renzis took care to steward the farm, plant nursery and goat dairy from 2001–21. They protected its land, water, and resources from future development with a donated conservation easement.

Now after two decades they are relocating their nursery to Talbot County, MD, where they plan to continue the mission of designing sustainable landscaping with native plants to bridge land and water through art and science. Yellow Springs Farm serves clients in Matyland, Pennsylvania, and Delaware.

We will miss them but wish them success in their new home.

For more information: www.yellowspringsfarm.com.



*Al and Catherine Renzi,
Founder-owners of Yellow Springs Farm*

Campsis radicans Friend or foe?

By Jean Najjar

Campsis radicans, aka trumpet creeper is a vigorous or aggressive native plant, depending on your point of view.

I call it vigorous in my garden where it took several years for it to fully cover my backyard pergola and provide much needed shade for outdoor dining. My family has sat under it for many years now, enjoying the comfort of its shade and the wildlife it attracts. Hummingbirds and pollinators make frequent visits, and a pair of turtle doves has returned to nest under its shelter for several years now.

It propagates by root sprouts, seeds, and stems. Trumpet creeper vines can grow as much as 10 feet a year and unchecked it will run amuck in the garden. I prune in the spring and weed root sprouts through the growing season. I've also started removing seed pods, at least the ones I can reach. It is work for sure, but it



is also time in my garden sculpting a centerpiece of my family's summer life. And for me, the payoff is worth it. Large colorful blooms that are excellent at attracting hummingbirds and much needed shade on summer days.

For now, I call trumpet creeper a friend, but as I get older, I fear it may become a foe, outpacing my ability to manage it in my garden. When that time comes, I may have to weed it out before it eats my house.

Yes, native plants can be invasive. Human development and habitat distur-

bance create opportunities for vigorous plants like trumpet creeper to become invasive species in the wild. Unlike the Shellbark Hickory, which is being diminished in Pennsylvania by loss of its habitat, trumpet creeper will tolerate a variety of conditions. It prefers full sun but will tolerate shade. It is adaptable to both dry and moist soils. It isn't picky about pH and is considered drought and salt tolerant and so it would seem it could thrive almost anywhere. It has that in common with human beings.

Native plants, they're for the birds...

...and the bees, and the butterflies, and YOU!



We offer a wide variety of native perennials, shrubs, trees and vines for our area, all supportive of local food webs, helping to make our ecosystem healthy, while bringing beauty to your garden. Stop by and ask our knowledgeable staff about your garden needs.

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2022 Facebook Photo Contest

2022 PNPS Facebook Photo Contest

Get your cameras and smart phones ready for the 6th 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. We will announce the winner on Facebook on August 6th. The winning photo will be featured on the back cover of our print newsletter PNPS Notes, Fall 2022. All entries will be posted on our website: www.panativeplantsociety.org/facebook-forum.html

Rules:

- Pennsylvania Natives only: Plants must be listed as native to Pennsylvania — check www.paflora.org or www.bonap.org.
- Submit photos of PA native plants, taken between August 2021 and July 2022.
- 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 2021 Facebook Photo Contest

Photo by Larry G Laird, American cancer-root, *Conopholis americana*, (L.) taken on May 2021 in Michaux Forest on State Hospital Property.



See entries from past contests here: www.panativeplantsociety.org/facebook-forum.html

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