

ADKINS ARBORETUM

# NATIVE SEED

THE MISSION OF ADKINS ARBORETUM  
IS TO PROMOTE THE APPRECIATION AND  
CONSERVATION OF THE NATIVE PLANTS  
OF THE DELMARVA PENINSULA.

*The Arboretum of the Delmarva Peninsula*

Volume 15, Number 1, Winter 2010

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## The Lure of Meadows

*By Sue Wyndham, Land Stewardship Coordinator*

The word 'meadow' can evoke images of windswept prairies, fields of wildflowers, woodland clearings, and alpine grasslands. Existing on all continents and across a wide variety of environmental regions, meadows can be rocky, sandy, wet, dry, cold, warm, windswept, and calm. Dominated mostly by grasses, meadows are typically diverse plant communities that provide unique habitat for a wide variety of insects, birds, and wildlife. These plants also add incredible beauty and aesthetic value to a landscape, creating a concerto of color, light, texture, and movement. John Greenlee, writer, garden designer, "grass guru," and owner of Greenlee Nursery in Chino, California, describes the beauty and function of meadows as a "lure," and his relationship with them as a love affair. In his newly authored book titled *The American Meadow Garden* (Timber Press, 2009), he writes, "Grasses are sensual. You can smell them, and hear them, and watch them move...they never stop changing, never ceasing to surprise."

Greenlee's affair with meadows became a lifelong passion and career, and in recent years the Arboretum has revitalized its own relationship with meadows through a renewed effort toward conserving and restoring the native meadows found on its 400-acre grounds. True to Greenlee's description, while walking the Arboretum's paths on a crisp fall afternoon, one can't help but be inspired by the beauty that meadows offer. The soft autumn light filtering through amber seed heads and rust-colored leaves of native grasses is a stunning complement to the fading hues of yellow goldenrods and violet asters—a landscape display sure to entice visitors to create their own meadow garden or restore their own backyard to a native meadow.

There are two basic types of meadows—perpetual meadows and transitional, or successional, meadows. A perpetual meadow is one in which environmental conditions limit the establishment of woody plants, and prevent the meadow from transitioning into a forest. Examples of this can be found in alpine or high altitude areas where winds and a severe climate limit the establishing trees and shrubs; coastal meadows in which saltwater limits the encroachment of additional herbaceous and woody

*(continued on page 5)*



Adkins Arboretum is operated by the not-for-profit Adkins Arboretum, Ltd. under a 50-year lease from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The Arboretum's mission is to promote the appreciation and conservation of plants native to the Delmarva Peninsula.

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www.adkinsarboretum.org

#### HOURS

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily  
(except Thanksgiving & Christmas)

#### ADMISSION

\$3 for adults  
\$1 for students ages 6–18  
free to children 5 and under.  
Admission is free for members.

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Sue Wyndham, *Land Stewardship Coordinator*

Jodie Littleton, *Newsletter Editor*

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Photos by Ann Rohlfing

Illustrations by Barbara Bryan

## Dear Members and Friends:

It's the 10th, 25th, and 50th anniversaries that garner most notice. But a case can be made that the expectation of a turn toward serious pursuits and maturity happens in the 30th year. Take notice—this year the Arboretum celebrates 30 years since its ribbon cutting ceremony on an unseasonably hot May day in 1980. Among the dignitaries on the stage in the newly paved parking lot was the Arboretum's first benefactor, Leon 'Andy' Andrus. In presenting Andrus that day with the Distinguished Citizen Award, the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, James B. Coulter, commented, "Mr. Andrus considers the tree the loveliest thing in the world, and he hopes the Arboretum will instill this love in others."


For the love of trees, and having reached the age of 90 with no survivors, Andrus chose Adkins Arboretum as his legacy. He then directed the state to name the Arboretum for his dear friends, the Adkins family of Easton. Judge William Adkins was a conservationist, a civil rights activist, and, by an appointment from Governor Harry Hughes, served on the Maryland Court of Appeals.

At its founding, the Arboretum's mission was to display the native forests of Maryland. This vision was illustrated by drawing three circles on a map of its 400 acres to designate the proposed locations of the three geographic regions of the state: white pines, hemlock, and spruce would represent Western Maryland's mountain forest; beech, oaks, and hickories, the piedmont; and bald cypress, sweetgums, and loblollies, the coastal plain.

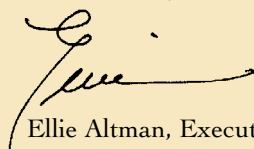
A decade passed (some plantings thrived and some died), and the Arboretum turned its focus to what it could do best—teaching about and displaying the plants that occur naturally on its diverse site of mature upland and bottomland hardwood forests, young woodlands, thickets, meadows, and a freshwater wetland.

Adkins Arboretum is the only botanical facility dedicated to the conservation of native flora of the Mid-Atlantic coastal plain. The concept of an arboretum dedicated to native plants turned on its head the conventional idea of an arboretum or public garden—historically a cultivated setting of plants collected from all over the world.

**Now embarking on its 30th year, the Arboretum finds itself again reinventing what an arboretum is and does. It is a place—more than trees. It teaches about land, soil, water, and wildlife—more than plants. It celebrates art, community, and the seasons with all ages—more than teaching. It is an experience of the pleasures of nature, light, air, and sharing earth's bounty with friends and family—more than a place. Finally, it demonstrates land stewardship practices—more than the conservation of native plants.**

Throughout 2010, the Arboretum will be expanding its programs and services to fully meet its commitment to inspire visitors to adopt a land stewardship ethic and to reach beyond its borders to serve as a catalyst for best practices for land management. If you would like to stay abreast of these activities, please visit [www.adkinsarboretum.org](http://www.adkinsarboretum.org) and sign up for the Arboretum's weekly e-mail. Instilling the love of trees and more... 

Best wishes,



Ellie Altman, Executive Director



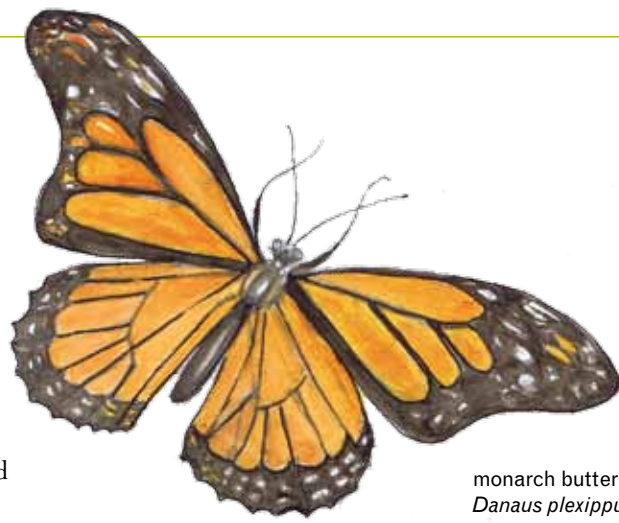
species; wet or flooded meadows that are maintained by inundation of fresh water; and desert meadows or grasslands that are limited by drought conditions and prairie fires. Transitional or successional meadow communities are the types of meadows found at the Arboretum. As John Greenlee explains, these types of meadows are an ever-evolving entity “never ceasing to surprise.”

Due to the dynamic process of natural succession, which over time will transform an abandoned field into young woodland and eventually into a mature hardwood forest, maintaining a transitional meadow involves constant vigilance. Preserving species diversity and enhancing the meadow’s aesthetic value require regular removal of encroaching woody, unwanted, or invasive plants. Meadows may need occasional enhancement plantings according to the landscape goals and personal tastes of the landowner. Depending upon the size and the type of existing vegetation, transitional meadows can be labor intensive to maintain but are not necessarily high maintenance landscapes.

**For example, a typical meadow can be maintained by mowing or burning one-third of the total meadow each year, on a three year rotation. With yearly mowing or burning combined with selective plant removal and occasional enhancement plantings, a diverse meadow can be maintained fairly easily.**

In comparison to weekly lawn maintenance and the constant deadheading, weeding, and watering required by traditional ornamental gardens, an established meadow can provide a lot of reward for minimal sweat equity, and is quickly becoming a landscape preference for all property sizes.

Meadows can be designed as small butterfly/pollinator gardens filled with colorful flowering plants, or can be created as large fields of grasses and native wildflowers. While beautiful, meadows also provide food sources and cover for a host of insects and a variety of wildlife, including songbirds, small mammals, and upland game birds such as the Bobwhite Quail—birds that are quickly losing the habitat they need for survival. Meadows help filter pollutants as well. The deep roots of native warm season grasses and forbs help sustain soil health, aid in stormwater infiltration, and slow or reduce stormwater runoff—improving the water quality of local streams and rivers, and ultimately improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay.



monarch butterfly  
*Danaus plexippus*

To facilitate the public’s understanding of and appreciation for the role that native meadows play in ecosystem health, the Arboretum’s land stewardship program began restoring the meadows on the Arboretum grounds in the mid-1990s. Prior to the establishment of Tuckahoe State Park, much of the acreage that ultimately became Adkins Arboretum was farmed. Farming activities involved clearing trees and removing native woody and herbaceous vegetation to create fields for livestock and crops. Once farming activities ceased and these fields were no longer grazed, mowed, or plowed, they provided ideal conditions for the establishment of invasive or unwanted plant species. Additionally, plant species that were introduced in the cultivation of crops and ornamental gardens spread into these abandoned fields. To encourage the reestablishment of native plants, and to preserve and repair the health and diversity of native habitats, land restoration practices include controlling and removing aggressive and invading plant species—such is the case at the Arboretum.

The Arboretum’s conservation mission guides the land stewardship practices employed on the grounds with a goal of creating and preserving plant communities native to the Eastern Shore. Unlike the Arboretum forest areas, which were permitted to succeed naturally into woods after farming practices ended, the 60-plus acres of meadow have been maintained through land management practices employed to keep the meadow areas clear of woody plants and non-native invasive plants, and to encourage the reestablishment of native herbaceous species. Accomplishing this requires the consistent application of a variety of land stewardship techniques—mowing, burning, selective cutting and removal, herbicide applications, and restoration plantings.

The Arboretum has worked closely with Easton, MD-based Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage (CWH) to restore its meadows.

This long-standing relationship was recently expanded to launch the \*plant {local} initiative. Through \*plant {local}, the Arboretum and CWH not only work on the restoration and enhancement of the Arboretum meadows, but also provide ecological consultation, design, and land stewardship services to property owners.

(continued on page 9)



common quail  
*Coturnix coturnix*





## Children in the Winter Garden

By Coreen Weilminster, Children's Program Coordinator

**As winter winds blow and snowflakes flurry past the windows,** gardens can still inspire wonder in children. Winter is a terrific time for exploration, learning, and creativity in the garden. As a gardener and the mother of two young girls, I look forward to those short, quiet days spent together in contemplation, awe, and speculation. If you have a garden and young children (or grandchildren), here are some ways to enjoy both, together:

**A Winter Walk in the Garden**—A walk in the garden in winter offers the opportunity to study seeds, berries, and other adaptations that plants use to help them overwinter. Often a walk in the winter garden provides evidence of wildlife: tracks that tell a story, holes dug into the snow and earth by paws and claws, or hulled-out acorn shells on a snowy stump. These glimpses that animals are still active in such harsh conditions evoke awe and wonder. Children can think about which animals visit the garden in winter, and for what reasons. You may have discussions about which critters we miss in the winter, like the ruby-throated hummingbird, leading to a talk about migration and speculations about where they might be during the cold months.



**Birds in the Garden**—Winter is the best time to feed the birds. Children enjoy making their own bird feeders. Some easy, fun bird feeders include pinecones smeared with peanut butter and rolled in birdseed; small mesh bags of beef suet; hollowed-out orange halves filled with bird seed; dried sunflower heads; small ears of corn; and bouquets of wheat and other grains.

**Compost**—If you don't already have one, a compost bin is a great project for kids in the winter garden. I send my girls to the compost bin every few days with coffee grounds, eggshells, apple cores, and other compostable leavings from my kitchen. As they empty the kitchen compost bucket, they can see how the contents of the compost bin change over time. Even in winter the worms are working.

**Planning**—Probably one of the best garden activities for children in winter is laying the plans for the upcoming growing season. Poring over seed catalogs, making lists, and researching intriguing plants can be fun for both you and your little one. Looking at the catalogs' colorful photos of flowers and vegetables can cure even the most cantankerous case of cabin fever and make tetchy tweens nostalgic for summer. My favorites are Seeds of Change ([www.seedsofchange.org](http://www.seedsofchange.org)), Burpee ([www.burpee.com](http://www.burpee.com)), White Flower Farm ([www.whiteflowerfarm.com](http://www.whiteflowerfarm.com)), and Smith & Hawkin ([www.smithandhawkin.com](http://www.smithandhawkin.com)).

But with so much to drool over, how do you decide what to plant? Here is where your parental guidance comes in handy. Is your child an animal lover? Consider a wildlife habitat garden. Do your kids like to help in the kitchen? Perhaps they'll be most interested in a vegetable or herb garden. Maybe you have a habitual flower picker (like my girls). Plan a perennial garden full of colorful, fragrant flowering plants, mixed with annuals. Is your little one enthralled by insects? Then you need a butterfly garden!

There are many types of themed gardens for children: sensory gardens, alphabet gardens, pizza gardens, cultural heritage gardens, dye gardens, rainbow gardens, and even moon gardens. Whatever garden you and your child decide to plant, make sure he or she is part of the planning process. Ask what other features the garden should have. Will it have paths, hiding spaces, trellises,



statues, or sculptures? Help your child make a map of your yard or existing garden, being careful to consider how much sun the yard gets. Steering them in the right direction makes the planning process both realistic and more exciting.

I highly recommend the following books by Sharon Lovejoy for planning your garden: *Roots, Shoots, Buckets & Boots; Trowel & Error*; and *Sunflower Houses: A Book for Children and Their Grown-Ups*. Other books I turn to for inspiration are *Dig, Plant, Grow* by Felder Rushing; the Kids Can Press *Junbo Book of Gardening* by Karyn Morris; and *Walking the World in Wonder: A Children's Herbal* by Ellen Evert Hopman.

Lastly, take the time to read to your children about gardening. There is wonderful children's literature on gardening. You can bet that curling up with your child on cold winter nights with a good book about gardens plants the seeds for sweet dreams. My girls especially enjoy *Rosie's Posies* by Marcy Dunn Ramsey; *How Groundhog's Garden Grew* by Lynne Cherry; and *The Gardener* by Sarah Stewart...to name a few.

**Barbara Winkler writes, "Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle...a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream."**

Engage your children in gardening this winter — teach them what miracle lies under winter's cloak. 🌱



## SUMMER INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Adkins Arboretum offers three- to six-month paid internships to college students or recent graduates with expertise in natural resource management, ecology, wildlife biology, environmental science, public horticulture, landscape architecture, or related fields.

Interns become valuable members of the Arboretum's professional staff, participating in all aspects of the organization's operation. Responsibilities include native plant nursery and greenhouse care, land stewardship and landscape maintenance, interpretive and curatorial tasks, assistance with volunteer and visitor services, and participation in events and educational programs for children and adults.

Interns also conduct an independent project selected in collaboration with staff, and plan their own field trips to other conservation organizations, natural areas, and public gardens.

This is an excellent opportunity to learn about the operation of a small nonprofit organization, while gaining practical 'hands-on' experience in areas of land conservation, native plant propagation and sales, and environmental education.

Applicants must demonstrate that they are self-motivated, independent, professional, and enthusiastic about working outside and participating in a wide variety of tasks.

Summer housing is needed for interns. If you have an extra room or apartment available and would be interested in hosting one of the Arboretum's summer interns, please contact Land Stewardship Coordinator Sue Wyndham at 410-634-2847, ext 24 or [swyndham@adkinsarboretum.org](mailto:swyndham@adkinsarboretum.org).

To apply, mail or e-mail a cover letter, résumé, and three references by Friday, March 5, 2010 to Sue Wyndham, Land Stewardship Coordinator, Adkins Arboretum, P.O. Box 100, 12610 Eveland Road, Ridgely, MD 21660.

E-mail: [swyndham@adkinsarboretum.org](mailto:swyndham@adkinsarboretum.org) 🌱

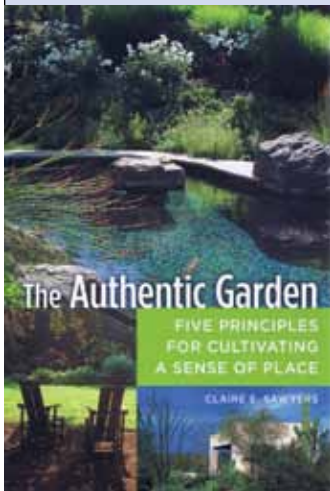


# From the Bookshelves

By Arboretum Librarian and Maryland Master Gardener Carol Jelich

## *The Authentic Garden: Five Principles for Cultivating a Sense of Place*

by Claire E. Sawyers. Timber Press, 2007.



Americans find inspiration in the gardens of the world—Japan, England, France, Italy. Claire Sawyers, director of Scott Arboretum at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, makes the case for finding inspiration for American gardens in America. Supported by many examples from private and public gardens across the country, Sawyers explains five principles that, if followed, will result in a unique, beautiful garden that clearly evokes the spirit of its place.

**1. Capture the sense of place.** What is special about your place? What are the physical features—soil, topography, climate? What would naturally occur there? Forest? Wetland? What are the historical or cultural aspects—how has the land been used by people in the past? These are among the factors that will allow you to determine the particular character of your place, or “genius loci.” Sawyers maintains that only with a thorough exploration of these characteristics can one determine how to design the garden. Site-specific design is desirable not only from an aesthetic standpoint, but also from an ecological one. Sawyers presents strategies for doing so, developed by great designers such as Ian McHarg and Jens Jensen.

**2. Derive beauty from function.** Sawyers encourages gardeners to create beautiful ways to include functional elements in the garden. Compost bins, garden hoses, vine supports, seating, sheds, and privacy fences need not be elements that distract from the garden or are hidden away; rather, they are opportunities to incorporate more beauty. Similarly, Sawyers discourages the use of artifacts that are functional in other lands, such as lanterns or mini-windmills, unless they can be associated with functionality in the current setting. Otherwise they are distractions and perhaps eyesores, causing what Gertrude Jekyll termed “geographical confusion.” There are many examples for using this principle. A useful one in our region is from the

Morris Arboretum, where boldly painted wooden sculptures, instead of cages, encircle saplings to protect from deer damage.

**3. Use humble or indigenous materials.** Sawyers advises against the use of expensive imports from other lands, instead promoting the Japanese concept of wabi-sabi, the principle that makes Japanese gardens so appealing to Americans. Wabi refers to “things that are simple and humble, and sabi, things that gain beauty from age.” Rather than displaying wealth in the garden, use humble, local materials that speak to the sense of place. Employing this principle will result in aesthetic and ecological benefit for the garden as well as economic benefit for the gardener. Native plants, of course, are recommended as plant material. Gardeners in our region (the eastern U.S.) also are encouraged to use native wood such as red cedar, black locust, and osage orange for steps and other structures. A garden wall built of tree stumps, weathering over time, is just one example that beautifully illustrates this principle.

**4. Marry the inside to the outside.** This chapter explores the value of integrating buildings and landscaping on a site. The therapeutic effect of outside views from within a building has been documented. The views from outside in, and from inside out, are most pleasing when they complement each other. Three residential properties open to the public are described as examples of this principle. Echoing Japanese gardens that are designed to be best viewed from inside, the American gardener can create a relationship with the landscape from everywhere within the home. Adding a porch; replacing window coverings with plantings for privacy; using some of the same material, such as native stone, both outside and inside the house; and including planting space in constructed areas such as steps and walkways are among the many suggestions in this chapter.

**5. Involve the visitor.** This chapter has advice on how to encourage visitors to experience your garden. Use stepping stones or strolling paths to move visitors into the garden, rather than simply having them view it. Ideas for physical involvement are presented, invoking all of the senses. There are examples for adding mystery, surprise, and even humor to the garden.

The concluding chapter applies the five principles to three private residential gardens and four public landscapes. Color photographs throughout the book illustrate practical applications and the spirit of place that is engaged when the principles are applied. There are plenty of examples from our region in every chapter, making this both an inspirational and a useful book for gardeners here.

## Kathy Carmean Named 2009 Volunteer of the Year

In 1997, Ridgely resident Kathy Carmean was asked to serve on the board of trustees for a local organization she knew little about, and to which she had never paid a visit. Fortunately, she agreed. From gardening to events planning, from volunteering for programs to serving an unprecedented term as an Arboretum trustee, she has worked tirelessly for more than a decade as one of the Arboretum's premier ambassadors. In November, the Arboretum named Kathy its Volunteer of the Year for 2009.




As an Arboretum trustee—she is now the Arboretum's first Trustee Emeritus—Kathy witnessed and helped bring about a marked transformation in an organization that bears little resemblance to the Arboretum as it is known today. "The growth is amazing to me," she says, recalling her introduction to a state-operated facility that offered minimal education or outreach programs. During her 12-year tenure, the Arboretum achieved nonprofit status; gained a 50-year lease from the state; developed an education curriculum and a thriving volunteer program; and launched a capital campaign to secure the Arboretum's future and bolster its role as a community asset.

Kathy was involved every step of the way, from joining a Master Gardener training program to serving on countless

Board committees, from attending meetings on the Arboretum's behalf to volunteering for "tons" of programs. "That's my love," she says. "It's my way of giving back. It's something that interests me. I get a good feeling when I work with kids and adults. I love nature and I love promoting the Arboretum. It is a wonderful venue."

"No one appreciates the contributions and potential of Adkins Arboretum for Caroline County as Kathy does," says Executive Director Ellie Altman. "She has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Arboretum for more than a decade. I personally will always be indebted to her, not only for her friendship and support, but also for her bold vision for the Arboretum's future."

Likewise, Kathy extols the Arboretum's leadership and broad array of programs and events. "I like to see things planned and accomplished," she says. "The Arboretum is a quality, well-organized organization. Every program, every event is carried out well and gets better every year. I especially applaud the efforts to get children outdoors. Without the Arboretum, a lot of people wouldn't have a place to bring their kids and expose them to nature. I think they do a wonderful job."

Kathy will be honored at a volunteer luncheon in January. 

## The Arboretum welcomes and gratefully acknowledges these new members.

Ms. Carol Adamson  
Ms. Robyn A. Affron  
Ms. and Mr. David Allen  
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Anderson  
Ms. Sandra Banisky  
Mr. Bill Barker  
Mrs. Amy Brandt  
Mr. Ken Brannan  
Mrs. Elizabeth Brown  
Ms. Nancy Bryan  
Ms. Sarah Buchanan and  
Ms. Patricia Barter  
Ms. Sharon Campbell  
Mr. Bob Chauncey  
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Clark  
Mr. Chris Colbeck  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Cookson  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael D'Amonio

Mr. Barry Davis  
Mr. and Mrs. E. Geiger Ellis Jr.  
Ms. Kathleen Fulton  
Mr. and Mrs. Barry Gilden  
Ms. Nancy A. Graham  
Mr. and Mrs. David Granger  
Mr. Jay Gray  
Mr. and Mrs. Monte Hailey  
Clyde Harding Family  
Ms. Linda Harper  
Ms. Judith Harrad  
Ms. Pat Hinkel  
Ms. Emily Hubis  
Mrs. Lynn Jarrell  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Johnson  
Mr. Ben Joiner  
Mr. Herb Jordan  
Ms. Shirley Kainey

Mr. and Mrs. David Keating  
Mr. David Lambertsen  
Mr. Tony Kish and Ms. Tracy Lantz  
Ms. Rebecca Lavash  
Mr. Mark Lewandowski  
Ms. Jennifer Lysinger  
Ms. Stella Maynard  
Mr. Bill McLaughlin  
Mr. Arthur McQueen  
Mr. Rob Middleton and Dr. Susan Forlifer  
Ms. Sharon Milgram  
Mr. Chad Miller  
Ms. Amy Moredock  
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Mroczek  
Ms. Julie Nalls  
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Orndoff  
Ms. Meg Parry  
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Pickall

Ms. Theresa Reville  
Mr. Chris Rogers  
Mr. Harold Roham  
Mr. Timothy Rule  
Mr. and Mrs. Ladd Rutherford  
Ms. Carol Schatz  
Ms. Joanne Schehl  
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Schweppe Jr.  
Ms. Natalie Seltz  
Mr. David Shultz  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sjoquist  
Mr. Stephen Staal  
Mr. Rick Thorkelson  
Ms. Alana D. Turner  
Ms. Anne Van Allen  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary West  
Mr. Michael Whitehall  
Mrs. Kathleen Zimmerman



# reach interpret plant, enjoy!

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Visitor's Center Receptionist

Help staff the Visitor's Center and greet and orient visitors.

### Data Entry Administrative Assistant

Assist staff with data entry and administrative tasks. Training is provided.

### Education Programs for Children

Help teach children about native plants and the environment.

### Education Programs for Adults

Develop and teach courses about native plants and gardening techniques.

### Special Events

Volunteer for the Arbor Day Run, Saturday, April 17, 2010.

### Community Outreach

Promote the Arboretum's mission at community events.

### Nursery Work Crew

Join the nursery work crew on Tuesdays and learn about plant propagation and care in preparation for the Arboretum's annual plant sales.

### Weed Warriors

Work with the Land Stewardship Coordinator to manage and remove noxious invasive plants that threaten the survival of the Delmarva Peninsula's native flora.

### Grounds Work Crew

Help maintain the woodland and meadow paths and assist with other maintenance projects.


### Membership Promotion Team

Join a team of volunteers to promote the benefits of Arboretum membership.

### Individual Volunteer Projects

Propose your own volunteer project. Ongoing projects include maintaining bluebird habitat and teaching the public about native plants and sustainable horticultural and gardening practices.

For more information, including volunteer schedules, contact Ginna Tiernan, Adult Program Coordinator, at 410-634-2847, ext. 27 or at [gtiernan@adkinsarboretum.org](mailto:gtiernan@adkinsarboretum.org).

Application forms can also be obtained at the front desk or downloaded at [www.adkinsarboretum.org](http://www.adkinsarboretum.org). 

## A Gift of a Lasting Tribute

Adkins' Gift and Tribute Program offers Arboretum members and friends an opportunity to make a meaningful gift to serve as an enduring tribute to family or friends. All tribute gifts are tax-deductible and support the Arboretum's mission through its education, research, and cultural programs.

Donors may honor or memorialize loved ones in the following ways:

**Tribute Benches (\$3,000)**—Individuals may donate a custom-designed bench crafted by noted Chestertown, MD, furniture maker Robert Ortiz to the Arboretum in tribute to a loved one. The name of the honored individual will be engraved on a plaque at the base of the bench.

**Tribute Books (\$250)**—Donations toward a book or books are placed in the library book fund. A commemorative bookplate will be placed inside the book's cover.

**Memorial and Honor Contributions**—Friends and family can make a donation to the Arboretum's education fund to honor or memorialize someone special.

For more information about tribute or memorial gifts, please call Kate Rattie at 410-634-2847, ext. 33, or send e-mail to [krattie@adkinsarboretum.org](mailto:krattie@adkinsarboretum.org).





## Kate Rattie Joins Arboretum Staff

The Arboretum is pleased to announce the appointment of Kate Rattie as director of advancement and planning. Kate brings a broad scope of expertise to the Arboretum's fundraising agenda, as well as enthusiasm for the Arboretum's conservation mission. She joined the staff in November.

**"The Arboretum is a fascinating place," says Kate, a longtime member. "I have yet to find another organization that so personally impacts people to make decisions to help the health of the Bay."**

It has an inspirational story and an inspirational message. These qualities will help me, as a fundraiser, to work to benefit the Arboretum and its members."

A seasoned development professional, Kate is charged with managing the Arboretum's capital campaign and its planned giving, major gifts, and annual appeal programs. She most



recently served as vice president of advancement at Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum.

"Kate brings decades of successful marketing and fundraising experience to the Arboretum," says Executive Director Ellie Altman. "Combined with her passion for and understanding of the Arboretum's mission, she will be a critical player in helping the Arboretum achieve its ambitious agenda to expand its facilities and programs."

"I look forward to meeting members, welcoming new members, and helping to bring the Campaign to a resoundingly successful close," says Kate. "The new Arboretum Center will make a world of difference for members. The vision for the Arboretum's next steps is really quite something."

Kate can be reached at 410-634-2847, ext. 33 or at [krattie@adkinsarboretum.org](mailto:krattie@adkinsarboretum.org). 🌿

*(MEADOWS continued from page 5)*

Anyone can choose to be a land steward and contribute to the health of the Bay watershed. Each homeowner has an opportunity to contribute beauty to a landscape while improving the function, health, and vitality of his or her own patch of earth. Your love for nature may derive from the sound of birds, the movement of butterflies, a glimpse of wildlife, or the stunning and ever-changing colors that dazzle the eyes when sunlight, rain, or snow mix with the landscape to lift the spirits and capture the imagination. Wild spaces are inspiring. Wild spaces like meadows lure us to learn about, fall in love with, and nurture a relationship with the natural world.

**For more information about \*plant {local}, or to schedule a consultation, contact the Arboretum at 410-634-2847, ext. 24 or Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage at 410-822-5100. Proceeds from \*plant {local} projects help support land restoration work and educational and outreach programs provided by Adkins Arboretum and Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage.**

**John Greenlee's *The American Meadow Garden*, plus other books on native plants and conservation gardening, are available for purchase in the Arboretum's bookstore and gift shop, open daily 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Members receive a 10% discount on all purchases.**



common milkweed  
*Asclepias syriaca*

# Native Plant Lore

## The Body Language of Trees

By Robert Stanley

Have you ever looked at a tree as it sways in the wind? From a distance, its gentle movement may seem to beckon you to move closer. You know, the one-arm-over-the-head gesture we all do: "Hey, you guys, come over here." If you look more closely at the tree's limbs, trunk, bark, and roots, though, there are tales the tree will tell. The language is a visual one. Like sign language, it can be read and interpreted, telling a story that spans the ages.

The syntax of the tree's language is rich, having nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, and my personal favorite, the expletives.

Just one small piece of this language's richness is the noun "crack," as in the crack in a tree. I interpret a tree crack as a flaw caused by decay, age, or outside force. How the surface of the tree physically manifests its reaction to these forces signifies whether it has successfully adapted, is weakened, has a deficiency, or is unsound.

What follows is the depiction of four manifestations mentioned above through photographs, and an interpretation of the condition and recommended action plan for each scenario.

### "That lighting strike hurt!"

#### Successful adaptation



This crack is healing around a wound. The tree cambium has not yet closed completely. The vigor of the tree is very good, with no dieback of growth and with new deep green stem development. Little must be done for this tree to live well.

### "Hey! That's my root and trunk you ran over when I was little. Clumsy @\$\*&%!"

#### Weakness

Here we see a crack emanating from a tree cavity. The structure and vigor have not been affected by either. There is little need for corrective action beyond monitoring for an expansion of either the crack or the cavity.



### "I said just a little off the top—not a buzz cut!"

#### Deficiency

Here we see the structural integrity being compromised, opening cracks as the tree grows. Little corrective action can be taken. This condition needs to be addressed as the tree develops by following best pruning practices.



### "Help! I'm falling apart!"

#### Unsound

Here we see a tree trunk split from the crotch to the root crown. The life expectancy and structural integrity of this tree have been greatly compromised. When this situation occurs, several techniques can be used if saving the tree is desired. Bracing and guying are two.


(continued)





If the tree is in an area where it presents a threat to people or property, removal would be advised.

My hope is that this article will act as a brief introduction to just one word and four possible meanings in the rich body language of trees. Go out, take a look at, listen to, and talk with your trees, and tell me what you hear.

*Robert Stanley is an Arboretum docent and a consulting arborist based in Easton, MD.* 



ADKINS ARBORETUM

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

By becoming a member of the Arboretum, you are making a significant contribution to the conservation of the Delmarva Peninsula's natural heritage. For your convenience, you may join online at [www.adkinsarboretum.org/members\\_online.html](http://www.adkinsarboretum.org/members_online.html).

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## Adkins Arboretum's 2010 Events

Arbor Day Run	Saturday, April 17
Spring Plant Sale	Saturday, May 8
Fall Plant Sale	Saturday, September 11
Magic in the Meadow	Saturday, September 18
Tails & Trails Dog Walk	Saturday, October 2
Haunted Hayride	Friday/Saturday, October 22/23
Fall Family Festival	Saturday, November 6
Greens Sale	Saturday, December 4

*Printed on recycled paper.*