



Howard County Native Landscaping Tours and Plant Giveaways!

Come see your neighbors' pollinator yards and pick up a free native plant at every home!

This page will be updated throughout the season with details on the upcoming event.

Landscaping tour dates:

June 15, 9-11 am, Wilde Lake

June 28, 10-12 noon, Harper's Choice & Cedar Woods (now in the morning!)

July 12, 9-11 am, Kings Contrivance

July 26, 10-12 pm, Sykesville (registration required for 1 of the 3 homes)

August 9, 9-11 am, Ellicott City East

August 23, 9-11 am, Allview

Sept 6, 10-12 pm, Ellicott City West & Ellicott City Centennial

Sept 27, 10-12 pm, Laurel



Each tour includes three yards. Tours are self-guided: come anytime between the hours posted and in any order. Homeowners and gardeners will be there to answer questions and help you get the most out of the visit.

Bring your phone to sign in for free plants and the lottery giveaways!



Fifth NATIVE LANDSCAPING TOUR!

Wilde Lake

Sunday June 15, 9-11 (Rain or shine!)

Free Threadleaf Bluestar (*Amsonia hubrichtii*) will be available to the first 55 Howard County residents to visit each home. We will also have a lottery event at each home for either a \$25 gift certificate to Lauren's Garden Service & Nursery, a native Silky Dogwood shrub (*Cornus amomum*) from Howard EcoWorks, or a Blackgum tree (*Nyssa sylvatica*) from Howard County Bee City. (One free plant & one lottery entry per household at each yard.)

- Please visit only during the hours and date of the event.
- Walk only on pathways and lawn.
- Don't pick flowers, take cuttings, or remove anything from the property.
- Children are welcome if supervised, please keep pets at home.
- Please consider carpooling or biking – parking can be tight.

Come to the yards in any order - every home has free plants!

5022 Cloudburst Hill

Park anywhere on Cloudburst Hill.

What's unique: Twenty-five years in the making, this Bay-Wise certified and Bee City registered yard includes mostly native plants in layered gardens completely surrounding the house with dense perimeter and foundation plantings. Very large pollinator plants, green mulch instead of wood mulch, sunny and shady garden beds.

Challenges: Invasive creeping charlie and lots of bunnies. Keeping walking paths clear.

Homeowner successes: Replaced most large original non-native shrubs. Significantly reduced lawn. Birds enjoy a berry garden in the backyard.

June favorites: Wild bergamot, spiderwort, sundrops.



5178 Downwest Ride



Park on Downwest Ride.

What's unique: Front "hell strip" supports pollinators & caterpillars. Bay-Wise certified and Bee City registered property with two CleanScapes projects to mitigate stormwater runoff with conservation landscaping and tree canopy expansion. Foundation beds now contain mostly native plants. All leaves remain on the property.

Challenges: Deer, rabbits, areas of heavy shade, stormwater runoff & invasive plants from adjacent properties.

Homeowner successes: Significant ongoing lawn reduction, 90% removal of invasive vinca minor from the backyard.

Seasonal favorites: Butterfly weed (although this is like trying to choose your favorite child...)

5038 W Running Brook Rd

Park along West Running Brook Road.

What's unique: A CA cost-share rain garden, a beautiful pathway to the backyard lined with mature native shrubs and perennials. Fruit trees, ferns, a moss bed, a mini meadow, a small pond with native aquatic plants, bird habitat and more. Bay-Wise certified and Bee City registered.

Challenges: Deer, rabbits and invasive plant species, including creeping jenny and star of bethlehem.

Homeowner successes: Recently replaced front foundation non-native azaleas with a pollinator bed.

Homeowner favorites: Anything currently in bloom and that survives deer & bunny browsing.



All participants will be asked to complete one short survey regarding their experience at the yard tours at the end of the series. This is a requirement from Chesapeake Bay Trust.

This project is possible due to the **Community Engagement and Restoration Mini Grant** from the **Chesapeake Bay Trust**, matching funds from **Howard County Bee City**, and additional support from the **Community Ecology Institute**, **Howard EcoWorks**, and **Lauren's Garden Service**.

The grant is sponsored by the **Kings Contrivance Community Association**, and is led and organized by Howard County volunteer Master Gardeners & Watershed Stewards

Kate Reilly, Nancy Klein, and Susan Tucker.

Continue to the next page for information on our native perennial and lottery giveaway at this event.

**Each perennial is quart sized, with identical plants available at all three sites.
A different native perennial will be offered the following date!**

Limited to one plant & lottery entry per site per household.

Questions? Contact KCVillageCARES@gmail.com

Your New Native Perennial: Installation and Maintenance Needs

This Week's Plant:

Thread-leaf bluestar (*Amsonia hubrichtii*)



Characteristics:

Height: 2-3 feet

Width: 2-4 feet - so leave space to grow

Flowers: May-June

Light: Full sun to partial shade

Moisture Needs: Likes average well-drained soil - deep tap root makes it drought tolerant, but difficult to transplant

Other Information: Native to the central United States, beautiful large specimen perennial with bright indigo blue flowers and beautiful foliage. Seed pods are interesting in the winter if you are willing to accept new seedlings.

Wildlife Value: Flowers attractive to butterflies, bees, and other pollinators.

Foliage is a larval host plant for a number of butterflies in Maryland (including orange and clouded sulfurs, eastern tailed blue and wild indigo duskywing).

Deer Resistant: Rarely browsed by deer or rabbits.

Installation:

While some plants grow in less than ideal conditions, the growth and health of plants will be optimal if their needs are being met.

- Plant to the mature height and width of the plant.
- Remove the plant from its pot and loosen the roots if they are tightly bound together. You can do this with your fingers or a garden knife.
- Dig a hole a bit larger than the plant but to the depth of the container.
- Add organic matter if you like, such as compost or leaf mold.
- Place the plant in the hole and fill in the dirt to the ground level, gently tamping down.
- After planting, apply a light layer of mulch to maintain soil moisture, protect roots from winter damage, and reduce weed growth until plants get established.

Maintenance:

- Regularly monitor newly planted areas for moisture, especially during the first year after planting.
- Remove any weeds around the plants periodically.

For more information, visit: <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/amsonia-hubrichtii/>

Links to information on the lottery plants:

[Silky Dogwood \(*Cornus amomum*\)](#)

[Blackgum tree \(*Nyssa sylvatica*\)](#)