Audubon, TreeVitalize, to Partner in Southeast PA

Audubon and DCNR have teamed up to offer a discount coupon redeemable at participating nurseries and garden centers.

Businesses are sought for DCNR's TreeVitalize “Tree's Count, PA!” coupon program which has been active in central PA but now expands into the southeast. The coupon allows for $15 off a tree purchase of $50 or more.

Nurseries and garden centers located within the following counties are invited to register with the “Trees Count, PA!’ program: Bucks, Berks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia, Lehigh, Cumberland, Dauphin, York, Lancaster & Perry.

Register before May 1st at http://www.treevitalize.net/coupon/participating.aspx. Once approved, coupons and reimbursement forms will be provided to the participating locations. For more information, please contact Christine Ticehurst at 717-346-9583 or c-ticehur@pa.gov.

Upcoming programs of THE FIVE B’S:

WEEK TWO: BATS
Wednesday, April 15th    Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens 7:00PM FREE For Adults. LECTURE: “BATS, WHITE NOSE SYNDROME AND OUR ENVIRONMENT”
Dan Mummert of the PA Game Commission. www.jenkinsarboretum.org

Thursday, April 16th (2nd Class of 4)    Wayne Art Center 4:15 – 5:45PM Ages: 8+ CLASS: ART INSPIRING CONSERVATION - DRAWING BIRDS
Call 610-688-3553 to register or visit website. Cost: $90 Series or $25 one class

WEEK THREE—BUTTERFLIES!
April 21—Storytelling, Radnor Library 4pm
April 22—Backyard butterflies, beetles, and other pollinators, Dr. Dan Duran, Radnor Library, 7pm
April 23—Class #3 (see April 16 above) - Wayne Art Center
April 25—Build a Rain Garden! Radnor Township Building—10am
April 25—Native Plant Gardening and Design and Tour with John Rogers, Wayne Art Center, 4pm

More info at www.thefivebs.org

Mill Grove—A Curious Clover Connection

Red clover (Trifolium pratense), an introduced perennial or biennial groundcover was first cultivated in the U.S. by James Vaux (probably for crop cover or livestock forage) across the street from Mill Grove, where Vaux Mansion now stands (Fatland Ford). Red clover, as various cultivars, exists today in all 50 states.

(photo courtesy of Chuck Younger)
Want More Natives? Learn to Transplant by Edie Parnum

In this month’s installment from the Backyards for Nature blog, Edie discusses how to take advantage of vegetative volunteers in your yard by moving them to areas of the yard where you want them and they will thrive. While this is probably best done with woodies in late fall, now is a good time of the year to identify those plants that have seemingly magically appeared! http://backyardsfornature.org/?p=1296

Native Plants for Stream/Creek Buffers

Take advantage of the native plant sale season (see calendar below!) and plant a buffer at your creek or stream. Here are some good plants (most of which feed birds too):

Native Ferns
Ironweed
Joe-Pye Weed
Blue Vervain
Virginia Wild Rye
Switch Grass
Arrowwood viburnum
Red Chokeberry
Winterberry Holly
Silky Dogwood
Buttonbush
Spicebush
River Birch
Black Gum
Red Maple
American Sycamore

(Joe-Pye photo by Chuck Younger)

Featured Plant: Fragrant Sumac (Rhus aromatica)

Looking for a low-growing plant that tolerates sun and relatively dry soil? But wait...there’s more! Seems that deer find the pleasant-smelling foliage pungent and “tend” to leave it alone! Great for foundation plantings or as a low shrub in a bird garden. Host plant to hairstreak butterflies and according The Birdfeeder book by Steve Kress, eaten by twenty-five species of birds including American Robin. (photo from USDA plant database)

Lehigh Valley Birds and Blooms Festival

Bring the whole family for some fun at a spring nature fest at the Allentown Public Library! Crafts and activities for kids! Play games and make your own bird feeder! Live birds from the Wildlands Conservancy will make an appearance, and so will the Salisbury Falcon mascot! Information on birds, healthy yards, and using native plants to attract birds and butterflies to your garden. A free native plant to take home, while supplies last.

Sponsored by the Lehigh Valley Bird Town Coalition with support from Edge of the Woods Native Plant Nursery and Lehigh Valley Audubon Society.

Saturday, May 9, 2015
11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Allentown Public Library
1210 W. Hamilton St.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS—2015 (clickable links can be found below newsletter)

Bird Towns...

April—May - The Five B’s (Birds, Bees, Butterflies, Bats, Bugs—series of programs and lectures, Radnor Bird Town.) See pg1

April 25, Saturday—9am—3pm Lancaster Native Plant and Wildlife Festival, Bird Town Manheim Twp

May 9 11am—1pm: Birds and Blooms, a nature fest for families at the Allentown Library, includes live birds from Wildlands Conservancy, conducted by the Lehigh Valley Bird Town Coalition (join the LVBTC Meet-up Group for additional info)

Native Plant Sales ...Buy Buy Buy!!

April 25. - Lancaster Native Plant and Wildlife Festival http://habitatmt.com

May 2, 9am-3pm—Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust, Huntingdon Valley

May 2, 9am—1pm—Wissahickon Valley Watershed Assoc., Ambler

May 2, 8:30-4:30, May 3, 9-1pm—Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, Phila.

May 2, 10-3—Central PA Native Plant Festival and Sale, Shaver’s Creek Environmental Center

May 2, 3 and 9.10—Native Plant sale at UU Church, 424 Center St., Bethlehem

May 8, 1-6, May 9, 10-4—Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve, New Hope www.bhwp.org

May 9 + 16, 11-3—Open house at Collins Nursery, Glenside collinsnursery.com

May 10, 16, 17, 30—Open house at Yellow Springs Farm, Chester Springs

May 16, 10am—Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Native plant sale www.hawkmountain.org

June 3-6, Native Plant Conference and Sale, Millersville University www.millersvillenativeplants.org

John Rogers: Designing with Natives workshops/presentations

Backyard Conservation Design workshop $55:

Schuylkill Twp (4/18)

Wildlands Conserv. (4/25)

Note: For every 10 residents of the same Bird Town who attend a BCD workshop, the Bird Town receives a $100 community garden award. The Bird Town that is represented by the most people is eligible for $1,000 award in December. jrogers@keystoneconservation.org for more info.

Other

March through October—Gardening with Nature series, Camp Hill, Cumberland County PSU Master Gardeners, including talks by Paul Zeph of Audubon and George Weigel, central PA garden writer. See http://extension.psu.edu/cumbeland

June 6—Gardening for Birds & Butterflies, Edge of the Woods Nursery, Orefield, Register at edgeofthewoodsnursery.com

Please share this newsletter with your friends!! Do not want to receive the Bird Town Flyer?? No prob. Please reply to this email with request to cancel.