



*The Garden Keepers at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge
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PRESS RELEASE

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Free Program on Native Wildflowers Featured at Refuge

The traditional annual partnership between the Duck Creek Horticultural Society and the Bombay Hook Garden Keepers in celebration of National Garden Weeks will be held in the Visitor Center Auditorium at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge on Wednesday, June 9, 2010 at 7 p.m. This year's presentation features Julia Lynch and is titled "Using Native Plants in the Garden." Lynch, who recently retired from the Boeing Company in Ridley Park, Pennsylvania, was trained as a Master Gardener in New Castle County and a longtime member of the Delaware Native Plant Society. Today she gardens on almost three acres north of Smyrna. Lynch was a charter member of The Garden Keepers and has completed her eighth year working at the Refuge and introducing the public to the importance of using native plants.

Her presentation this year includes how native plants and animals evolved together and highlights their interdependence on each other. She will discuss selecting plants for a wide range of growing conditions ranging from full sun to shade and dry to wet soils. The presentation also includes a segment on salt-tolerant plants for those who garden at the beach.

(More)

A plant dividend of 'Hello Yellow' Butterfly flower, a type of milkweed that's easy to grow and maintain, will be available for each attendee to enjoy in their own garden. Butterfly flowers play an important role in the life cycle of monarch butterflies. Monarchs lay their eggs on the underside of butterfly flower leaves and once they hatch, the tiny caterpillars feed on the butterfly flower until they become chrysalises. An extremely hardy, long-lived perennial native to North America, this variety of butterfly flower has magnificent bright golden flowers are concentrated in compact clusters at the top of branching stems. The flowers produce a large quantity of nectar which attracts butterflies throughout the growing season.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. has designated the first full week in June of each year as National Garden Week. Both the Garden Keepers and members of the Duck Creek Horticulture Society invite the public to discover Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge which preserves 15,978 acres of open space including one of the largest expanses of nearly unaltered tidal salt marsh in the mid-Atlantic region. The Refuge was established in 1937 as a link in the chain of refuges that extends from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. It is primarily a refuge and breeding ground for migrating birds and other wildlife.

Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge hosts 120,000 visitors a year to view wildlife in natural settings. Hearing impaired visitors may call the Delaware Relay Center at 1 800/232-5460 TDD or 1 800/232-5470 voice. Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge is located at 2591 Whitehall Neck Road near Smyrna, Delaware. The Refuge is open daily from Sunrise to Sunset.

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Photo with caption follows



Complimentary plants of Hello Yellow Butterfly Flower, an adaptable, low maintenance plant that can be used in a wide range of sites will be distributed to attendees to grow and enjoy in their own gardens at Wednesday evening's free Wildflower program at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge.