

# The Turk's Cap

A DELAWARE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY PUBLICATION

SPRING 98

## The TURK'S CAP??

That's right, *The Turk's Cap*. This is the newsletter sponsored by the DNPS. The name was adopted from one of Delaware's more aesthetic native plants, the Turk's-cap Lilly (*Lilium superbum*). This newsletter will be distributed quarterly to provide seasonal information on native plant care, special events, DNPS articles, and answers to questions submitted to the editor. Send to the DNPS, c/o Douglas Janiec, 908 Pickett Lane, Newark, DE 19711.

## MILFORD NECK REFORESTATION

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Delaware Wild Lands are reestablishing native forest habitats in Kent County, Delaware.

Approximately 10,000 native tree and shrub seedlings will be planted, mostly in the Milford Neck area on Delaware Wild Lands property, with a small percentage of the seedlings going to a few smaller sites in other parts of Kent County. The Milford Neck planting sites will help to increase contiguous forest areas that have been fragmented, which will benefit migratory songbirds that require forest interior habitat. Native species being planted include, white oak, red oak, blackgum, persimmon, holly, and others.

This initial effort began during March 21 and 22. Volunteers are needed for April 4 and 5. For more information contact Rick McCorkle at (302) 653-9152, ext. 17.

## PICK THE TURK'S CAP

**Q.** Can lawn chemical treatments such as fertilizer, lime, and pesticides hurt my gardens?

**A.** Absolutely, aside from direct contact damage these chemicals cause to garden vegetation, they may cause other serious problems. The bulk of these problem focus on the change in soil properties. For example, liming a lawn helps maintain a healthy near neutral soil pH (6.5 to 7.5). A large number of garden plants, especially most evergreen shrubs and trees, prefer a soil pH between 5.5 and 6.5. Improper pH may cause shrub to discolor, retard growth, and possibly die. If you elect to use chemical lawn treatments, take special precautions while apply the chemicals, and do not over apply. It is also recommended that you test your garden pH to ensure it meets the need of the vegetation.

## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

DNPS is open to everyone ranging from the novice to expert. One of the primary goals of the society is to involve as many individuals as possible. Our meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00, at the Aquatic Resource Education Center, Woodland Beach Wildlife Area, Rt. 9 (Hay Point Landing Road). The meeting location is subject to change. For directions or questions, call Keith Clancy at (302) 674-5187.

## DNPS WEB PAGE

Starting in May, the DNPS will have a web page. The page will be able to be visited at [www.delanet.com/~wildlife](http://www.delanet.com/~wildlife). Just click on the DNPS in the main page.

## The DNPS Vision

The purpose of the Delaware Native Plant Society (DNPS) is the preservation, conservation, restoration, and propagation of Delaware's native plants and plant communities. The Society provides information to government officials, business people, educators, and the public at large on the protection, management, and restoration of native plant ecosystems. The DNPS encourages and advocates the use of native plants in the landscape by homeowners, businesses, and local and state governments through an ongoing distribution of information and knowledge by various means that includes periodic publications, symposia, conferences, workshops, fieldtrips, and a statewide membership organized by the DNPS.

## Board of Directors & Chairs

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## LOOK FOR THESE SPRING EVENTS

ASHLAND NATURE CENTER NATIVE PLANT SALE

MAY 2 & 3

DNPS's "A WALK THROUGH THE NEW WILMINGTON STATE PARK"  
MEET AT THE ALOPCAS DRIVE PARKING AREA. CALL CRAIG SMITH FOR DIRECTIONS AT 737-9335

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