

# Boxerwood Garden Notes

September 2015

## Upcoming Events

September 26,  
Saturday

Boxerwood Fall  
Family Festival  
1-5pm

October 3,  
Saturday  
Birding at  
Boxerwood  
7:30am

October 10  
Saturday, 1-4pm,  
Plant Sale at the  
Paxton House, Glen  
Maury Park, Beuna  
Vista

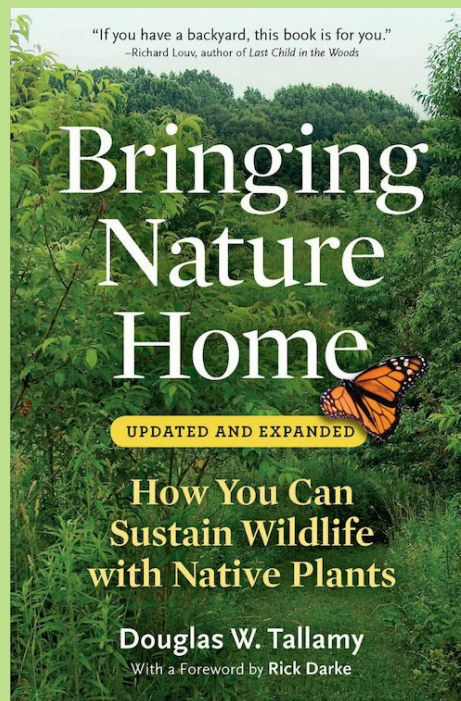
October 11,  
Sunday,  
Bulb sale pick-up  
and Plant Sale at  
Boxerwood

October 17,  
Saturday,  
Native Wildflower  
Walk at Brushy Hills  
9:30 to start walking  
at 10am. Minimum  
of two hours. Dress

Don't forget Boxerwood's Bulb Sale! Deadline for ordering is October 2. Order forms can be found on Boxerwood's website, [www.boxerwood.org](http://www.boxerwood.org).

## Faith

There has been a surge of interest in native plants lately, due in part, to a seminal book by Doug Tallamy, an entomologist at the University of Delaware. The book is *Bringing Nature Home* and deserves a place in every gardener's library.



According to Dr. Tallamy, as development increases in this country, habitat disappears and as habitat disappears, so does the wildlife population. Case in point: songbirds have lost 40% of their numbers since 1960. What can we do as gardeners to help reverse this trend? Planting natives is one way. These plants meet the needs, including food and cover, of native wildlife without causing

for the weather and bring water and a snack.

October 22,  
Thursday, 7pm  
Japanese Maple talk  
by Faith Vosburgh,  
Boxerwood  
Horticulturist,  
Piovano Room,  
Rockbridge  
Regional Library,  
Lexington

October 26,  
Monday, 2pm  
Japanese Maple  
Walk at Boxerwood,  
weather permitting



To stay current with the happenings at Boxerwood, check out our website, [www.boxerwood.org](http://www.boxerwood.org), our facebook page, Boxerwood

long-term damage to local plant communities. They are adapted to local soil and climate conditions. There are 534 species of butterflies and moths supported by an oak tree (native) as opposed to 2 species on a Kousa dogwood (exotic).

How to learn more about these native plants? Rockbridge does have a chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society. Starting in October and on through the winter months, members of the Upper James River Chapter will meet on the second Tuesday of the month at Boxerwood at 11:30 for their monthly roundtable, "Talking Native Plants". The chapter has also adopted an area of the garden here at Boxerwood and is working diligently to clear it of the many invasive plants (Devil's walking stick, multiflora rose, Japanese stilt grass, among others). Once the spot has been cleared, the chapter will replant with such native plants as spicebush, Virginia bluebells, and spring ephemerals. If you are interested in joining this worthwhile organization, contact Jan Smith at [janandbob@verizon.net](mailto:janandbob@verizon.net).

Another way you can learn about native plants is the upcoming symposium, GROW 2016: Celebration of Native Plants to be held at VMI's Ethics Center on Saturday, March 5, 2016. Rick Darke will be one of the speakers. A former Curator of Plants at the esteemed Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania and author of *The American Woodland Garden*, Darke has long been an advocate of native plants, and has recently teamed with Doug Tallamy on a new book, *The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden*. Darke will be speaking on how to create a "living landscape" by creating layers of vegetation that add and enrich the functioning ecosystem. Other speakers will be Cole Burrell and James Gagliardi. Burrell, a landscape designer and author, will talk about the wealth of native trees, shrubs and perennials available in nurseries that can serve as alternatives to invasive species, additionally providing food for butterflies, birds and other wildlife. James Gagliardi, a horticulturist with the Smithsonian, will

share his experiences of designing the habitat gardens at the Museum of Natural History.

Registration is now open for the symposium at [www.grow2016.com](http://www.grow2016.com)

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### **Boxerwood Eco Book Club**

I've long been fascinated by mushrooms, so our next book will be *Mycophilia: Revelations from the Weird World of Mushrooms* by Eugenia Bone.

We are meeting at 3:30 on Wednesday, October 21st in the Boxerwood pavilion. I hope you can join us.

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### **What's Blooming at Boxerwood?**

In the fall, the Heptacodiums (*Heptacodium miconioides* or Seven Son Flower) are in their glory. There is large one alongside of the old herb garden here at Boxerwood. This little-known tree gets to be about 20' tall and 12' wide and has a beautiful exfoliating bark similar to a crape myrtle's bark. It has white, slightly fragrant panicles of bloom in late summer, but comes into its own later in the month when the petals fall, leaving five showy sepal-like rose calyces which elongate after bloom and last until late fall (see photo). I love to use the branches in flower arrangements this time of year. Once difficult to find in the nursery trade, I am seeing it more and more often.



### **New Master Gardener Class Forming**

The Rockbridge Area Master Gardeners (RAMGA) are a very active bunch and have over twenty local projects that they devote time and energy to, including schoolyard gardens at Waddell, Central, Fairfield, Natural Bridge Elementary, the therapy garden at the Senior Center, historic gardens at the Jackson and Campbell House among others.

This coming year, RAMGA will be offering a new class. 2016 will be the first year an online course is offered. Students will have six months to finish the class and will have to participate in five hands-on labs. At the end of successfully finishing the class, participants will be Master Gardener interns and will need to complete fifty hours of service to become certified Master Gardeners.

To maintain certification, Master Gardeners need to complete twenty volunteer hours and eight hours of continuing education. This is a great organization that I have been involved in for years. For more information, contact me at [faith@boxerwood.org](mailto:faith@boxerwood.org).

