

January 2022~ Winter Edition

Volume 1, Issue 1

FOBHNP News

Friends of Black Hill Nature Programs



Record attendance at this year's Annual Meeting!

FOBHNP had peak attendance of approximately 80 people at our November 15, 2021 annual meeting. This year's meeting included proclamations from Montgomery County Elected and Park officials celebrating the Friends group 20th Anniversary and a presentation by renowned entomologist and ecologist Doug Tallamy.

After a brief welcome and summary of FOBHNP activities this year, Michael F. Riley, Director of Parks, M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks, congratulated FOBHNP on 20 years as a friends group.

Montgomery County Council-members Craig Rice and Andrew Friedson jointly read a proclamation congratulating FOBHNP on 20 years. The Proclamation is framed and available to see in the Black Hill Visitor Center.

The meeting concluded with a presentation by the keynote speaker Doug Tallamy. A renowned American entomologist, ecologist and conservationist. Tallamy stressed that the ability to restore biodiversity is in our hands. He urges everyone to shrink their lawns, which are an "ecological desert" to most beneficial insects. He's created a grassroots call-to-action to regenerate biodiversity and ecosystem function by planting native plants and creating new ecological networks.

To find out more about Doug Tallamy's Homegrown National Park effort and to watch his presentation visit our [website](#).

"In the past, we have asked one thing of our gardens: that they be pretty. Now they have to support life, sequester carbon, feed pollinators and manage water."

- DOUG TALLAMY

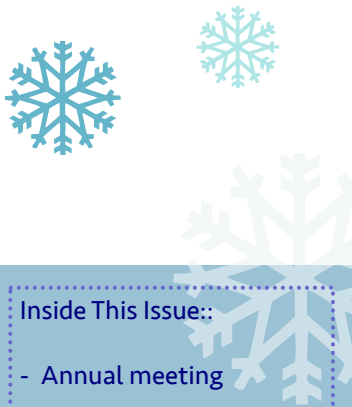


Looking for YOU!

There are always lots of opportunities to get more involved with FOBHNP. Here are some ways you can help!

- **Help out with the Native Plant Sale:** The plant sale takes a lot of work and we need your help! We particularly need help fulfilling orders on pickup days (Friday April 22, Saturday April 23, Sunday, April 24, Friday April 29 and Saturday April 30).
- **Be part of the Annual Meeting/Auction Committee:** We are looking for volunteers to help with the planning and execution of the Annual Meeting and Auction.
- **Become an officer:** FOBHNP holds elections every other year and 2022 is an election year. Step right up and toss your name in the hat!

For more information or to volunteer E-mail: FriendsBlackHill@gmail.com



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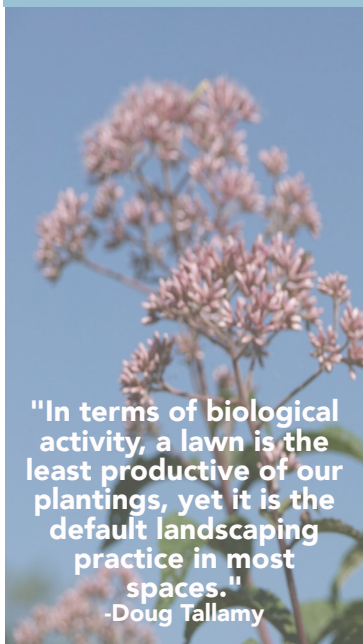
Save The Date

Online Native Plant Sale

April 14-16, 2022

April 14 - members only
April 15-16 - general public

Pick-up appointments will be on Fridays-Sundays
April 22-30, 2022



"In terms of biological activity, a lawn is the least productive of our plantings, yet it is the default landscaping practice in most spaces."
-Doug Tallamy



Be Salt-Wise and sweep it up afterwards!



Winter is here and with it ice and the snow. We all want to be safe and avoid slips and falls on ice, but more and more we are learning of the dark side of road salt. In the large quantities used on road, salt has corrosive effects that impacts cars, trucks, bridges, and roads resulting in approximately \$5 billion dollars in annual repairs in the U.S. alone. Road salt can also infiltrate nearby surface and ground waters and can contaminate drinking water reservoirs and wells. High sodium levels in drinking water affect people with high blood pressure, and high chloride levels in surface waters are toxic to some fish, bugs, and amphibians. Furthermore, excess road salt accumulates on roadside areas killing roadside plants and harming wildlife that eat the salt crystals. Salty roads also attract animals like deer and moose (who love licking up the salt), increasing the probability of accidents and roadkill.

In an effort to mitigate the dark side of road, salt, Montgomery County is encouraging residents to be Salt Wise --

Shovel early & often - Remove snow and clear pavement before snow turns to ice.

Consider green alternatives - There are many organic, salt-free and pet-safe de-icers on the market today. Products containing calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) are more eco-friendly. Remember to use these products sparingly, and don't expect them to replace the need for shoveling. In addition, scattering sand on icy surfaces can provide temporary traction and reduce the danger of slipping.

Go easy! - Sprinkle de-icers sparingly and evenly. Read the directions carefully and apply the least amount necessary. More is not better. When applied properly, it won't take much to get the desired results. Leave space between the grains. Using a lawn spreader can help spread deicer evenly and prevent clumping.

Know when to treat - De-icers and salt are not meant to replace the work of shoveling. They are meant to loosen ice so it can be shoveled away.

Check the temperature and weather conditions - Let the sun be your friend! It can do the work for you. If temperatures are expected to rise, de-icers or salt may not be needed.

Choose wisely - Weather conditions can change the effectiveness of certain de-icers. Check that your de-icer is designed to work for the current temperature and conditions. Only apply to surfaces that are already icy. When pavement temperatures drop below 15°, salt doesn't melt ice.

Sweep - At the end of a weather event, sweep and collect any sand, salt, or undissolved de-icer. Any excess can be reused for the next storm. Letting them runoff into our waterways is harmful to our drinking water and wildlife.

Save money - Adding too much salt is a waste of your money, and the environmental costs affect our whole community.



Source: Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection



Save the date!

Native Plant Sale April 14-16, 2022

Due to scheduled construction and space constraints at the plant sale site, the plant sale will be online in 2022.

The dates of the plant sale will be April 14-16, 2022

April 14, 2022, for members only

April 15-16, 2022 for the general public

Pick-up appointments will be on Fridays-Sundays April 22-30, 2022

Friends of Black Hill Nature Programs

The Friends group was formed in April 2001 by volunteers interested in supporting the interpretative naturalist staff and the nature programs, to ensure that nature experiences and environmental education would be available to individuals of all ages.

Contact Us!

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