

Producing Native Plants at Large and Small Scales



photo credit: Neil Soderstrom

Native Plants!

- Non-Profit Organizations
- Nurseries
- Landscape Operations



Wholesale Native Plant Production



- Propagation and Seed Collection with Ernst Conservation Seeds
- Nursery Operation at Environmental Concern
- Consultation for other operations
- Collecting local ecotype seed whenever possible

Native Plant Propagation

In recent years, landscape professionals and homeowners have demonstrated an increased demand for sustainable, low-maintenance landscaping.

As a leading public garden in the Chesapeake Bay region, Adkins Arboretum supports this movement by evaluating select native plants of local provenance in order to enhance the offerings of ornamental horticulture. This work is made possible through generous support from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust.

In addition to the more popular native plant species, new choices that are easy to care for and provide numerous ecosystem benefits are now being located, collected, and propagated as seeds or cuttings by a core group of Arboretum staff and volunteers. Plants under evaluation in the project will be grown to larger sizes for testing in trial beds and assessed for potential ornamental worthiness.



Monarda punctata
spotted beebalm



Passiflora lutea
yellow passion-flower



Euonymus americanus
running strawberry bush



Silene stellata
starry campion



Rhexia mariana
Maryland meadow-beauty



Mitchella repens
partridgeberry

Euthamia graminifolia
flat-top goldenrod



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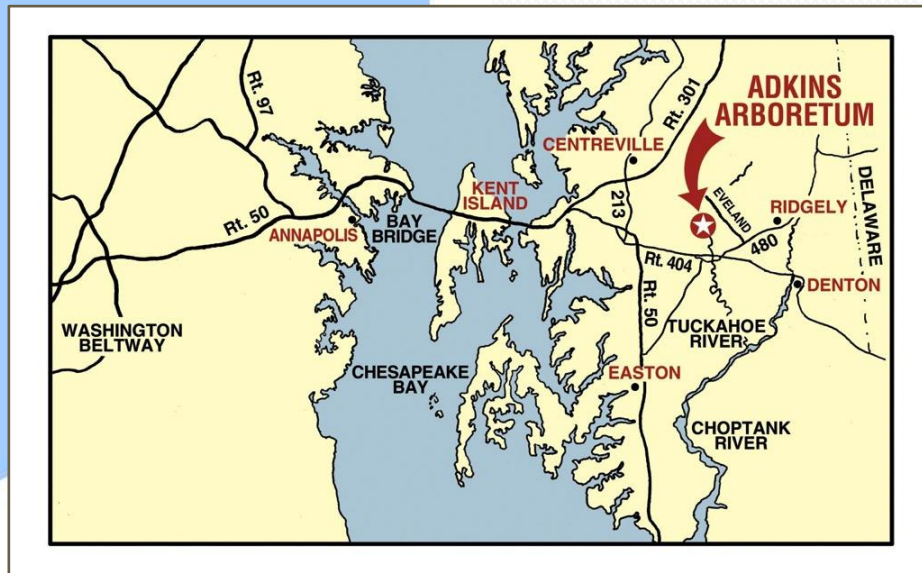
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PROJECT GOALS

- add native species with some ornamental worthiness and under-representation in the trade
- propagate local ecotype plants
- increase the volume of seed collected
- engage volunteers
- share project information
- expand living collections data









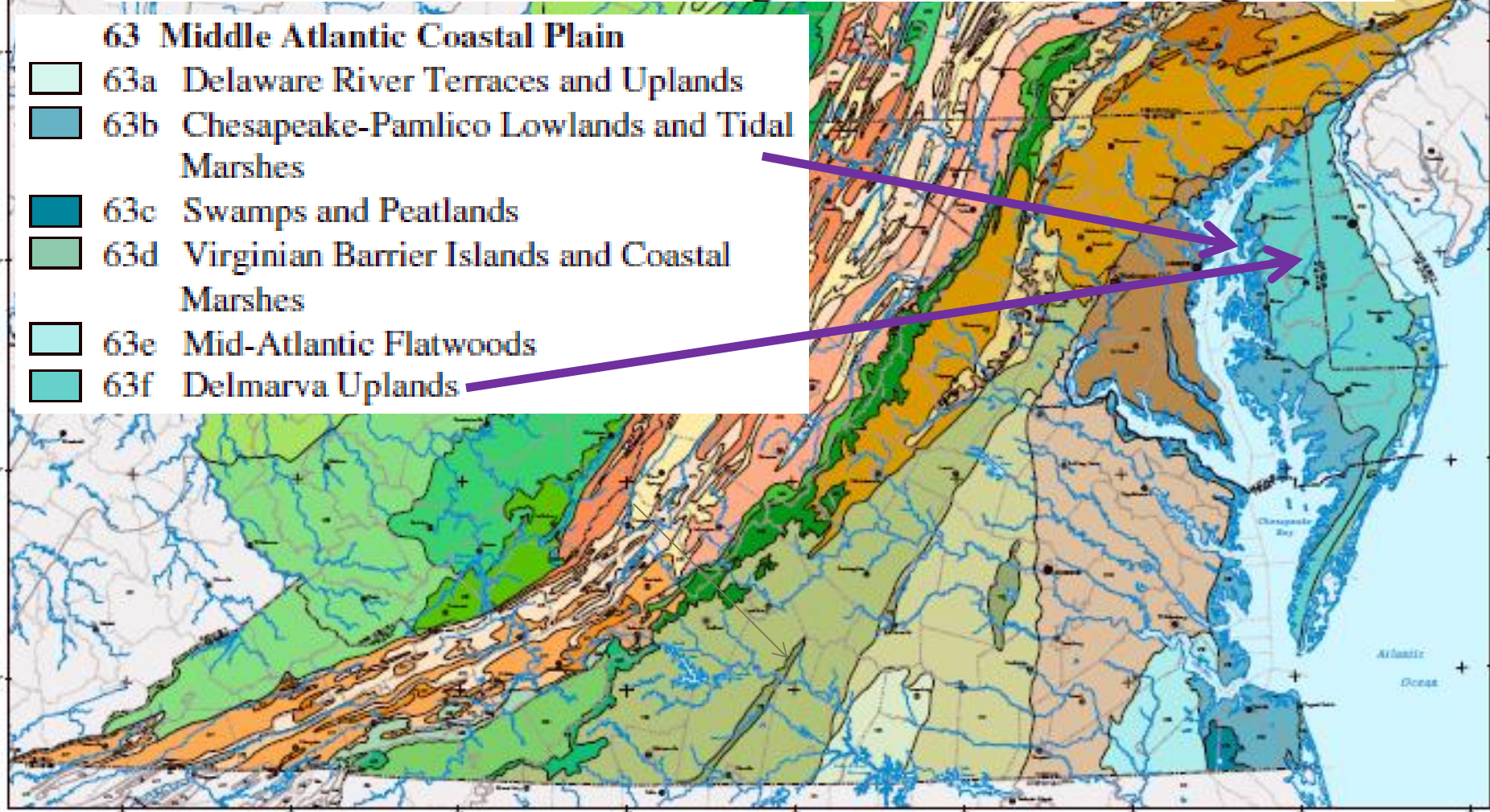
Where is Adkins Arboretum?



Level III and IV Ecoregions of EPA Region 3

63 Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain

-  63a Delaware River Terraces and Uplands
-  63b Chesapeake-Pamlico Lowlands and Tidal Marshes
-  63c Swamps and Peatlands
-  63d Virginian Barrier Islands and Coastal Marshes
-  63e Mid-Atlantic Flatwoods
-  63f Delmarva Uplands



Current Project Activities

- Research

LEGEND

Research Plots



Plant Communities



Gardens, meadows or lawns



Marshes, swamps or floodplains



Pine plantation



Slope forest



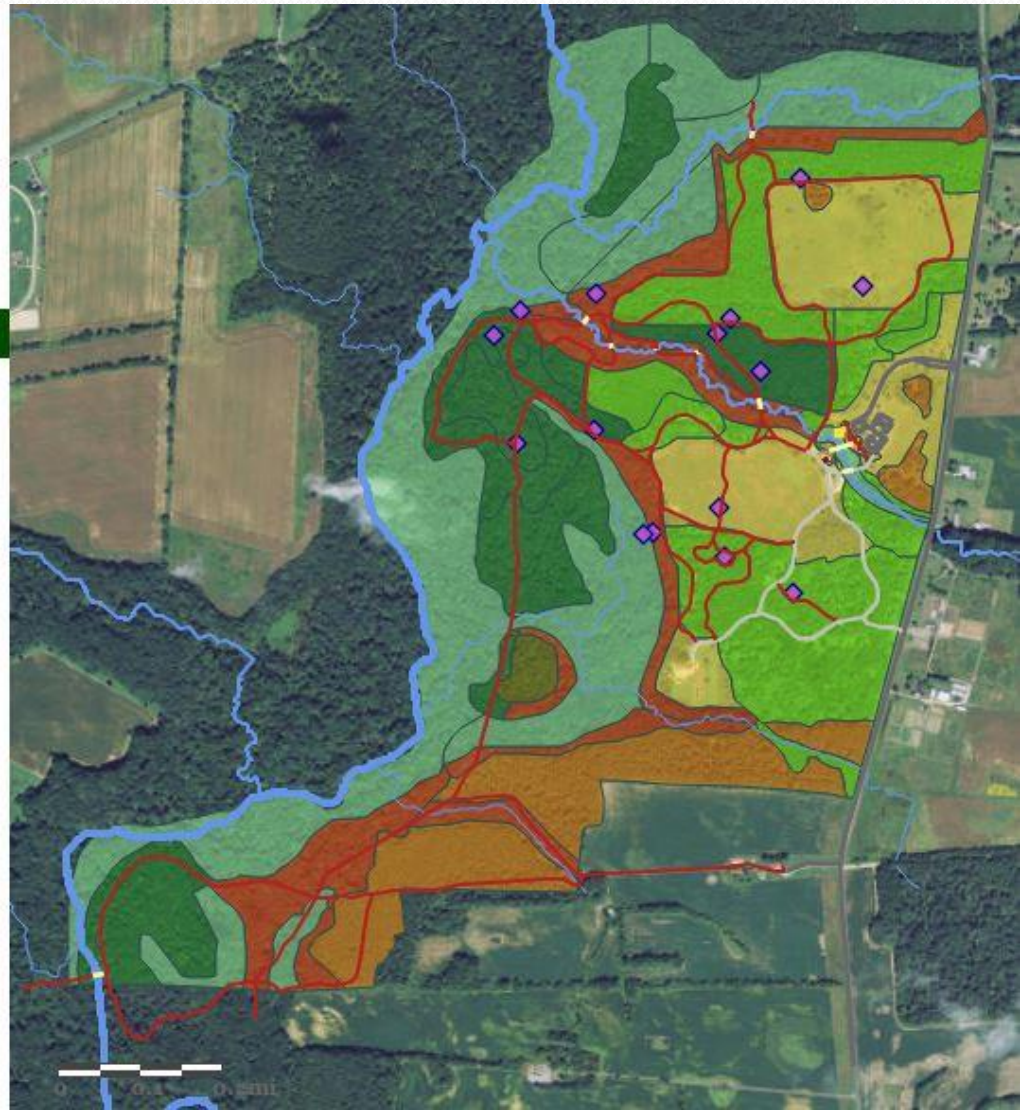
Thicket or young forest



Upland forest



Upland forest, pines



Current Project Activities

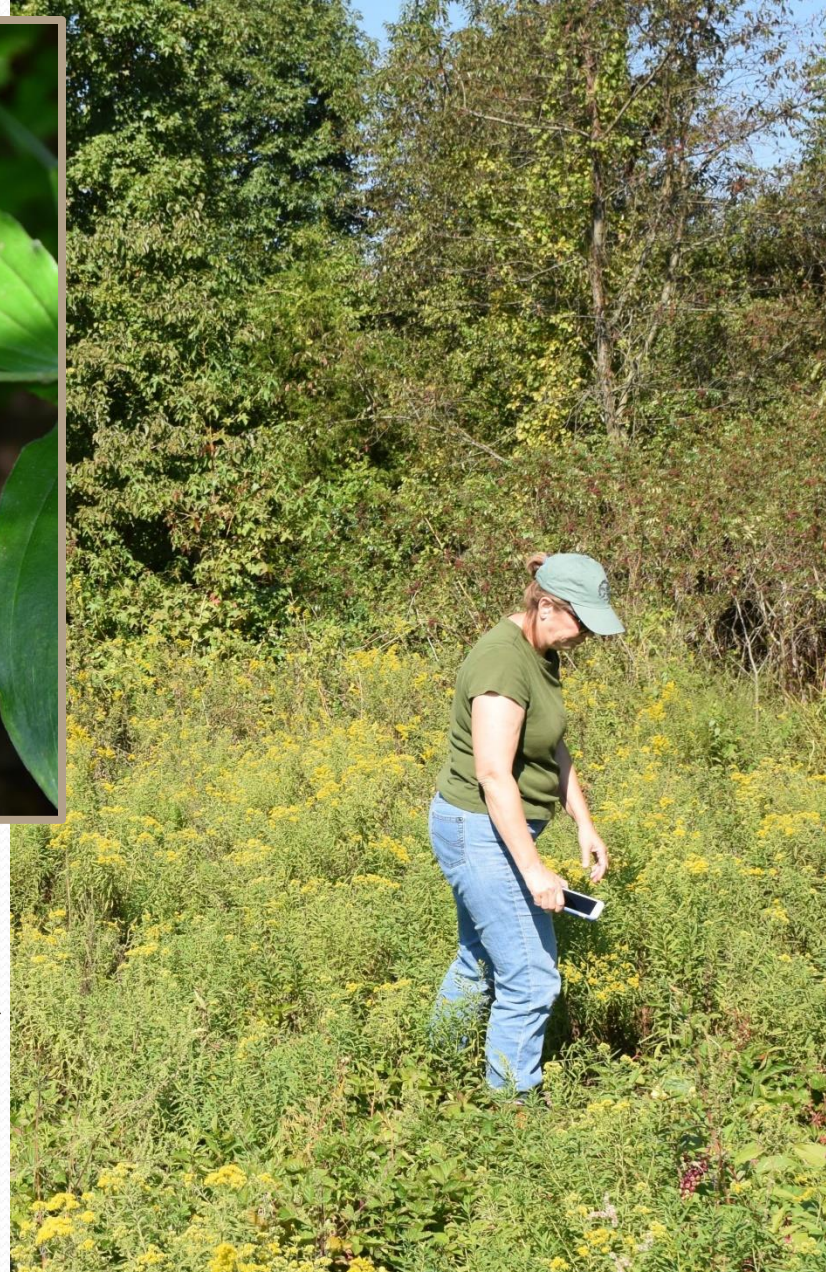
- Scouting on the Trails



Current Project Activities



- Seed Collection



Current Project Activities

- Seed Cleaning and Storage



Current Project Activities

- Seed Stratification



Current Project Activities

- Seed Sowing
- Propagation



Future Project Activities



To Locate:

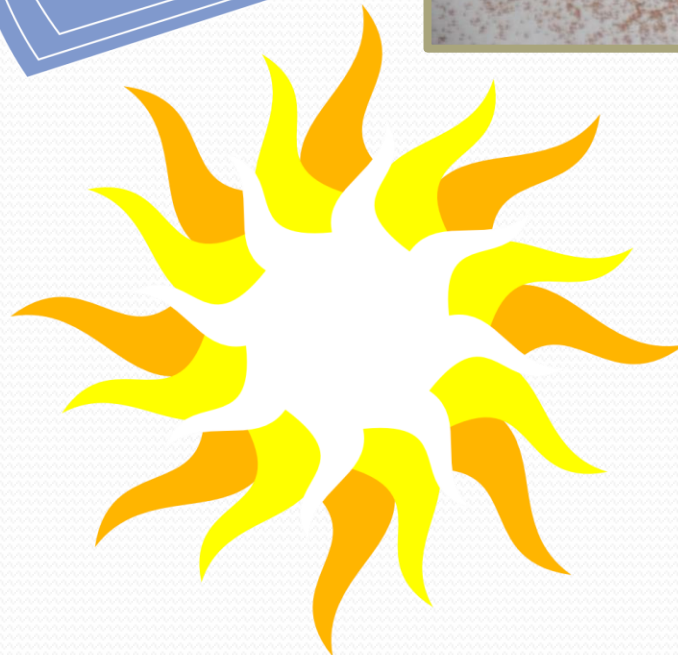
- *Asclepias amplexicaulis* – blunt-leaved milkweed
- *Hypericum (Triadenum) virginicum* – marsh St. John's wort
- *Monarda punctata* – spotted beebalm
- *Pycnanthemum incanum* – downy mountain mint
- *Danthonia spicata* – poverty grass
- *Aristolochia serpentaria* – Virginia snakeroot
- *Ilex laevigata* – smooth winterberry
- *Leucothoe (Eubotrys) racemosa* - fetterbush

Future Project Activities

- Additional propagation of local ecotype seeds and cuttings
- Seed collection and cleaning
- Plant stock areas
- Maintain nursery and stock plants
- Update nursery brochure/rack card and info on web
- Share project information through workshops, articles, conferences, and online resources
- Incorporate project data into Adkins Living Collections Database →
- Seek funding for infrastructure improvements



Lessons Learned

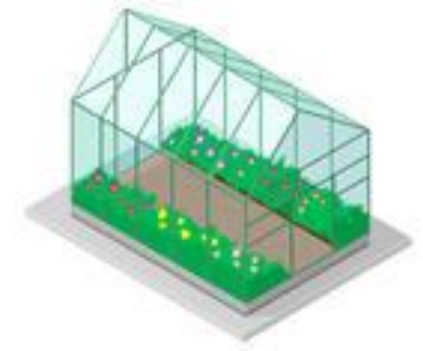


Which is ideal?



Large Scale

- time fully dedicated
- staff
- ↑ diversity, ↑ quantities
- facilities usually adequate
- lower cost per plant



Small Scale

- intermittent attention
- volunteer effort
- ↓ diversity, ↓ quantities
- facilities may be limited
- higher cost per plant

Keep in touch!

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