

DELAWARE



Limulus polyphemus

CENTER FOR THE INLAND BAYS

Rehoboth Indian River Little Assawoman

1000 Rain Gardens for the Inland Bays

Purpose: To promote the creation of rain gardens throughout the Inland Bays Watershed as a citizen education/engagement project to build awareness about native plants, species diversity, stormwater management and habitat restoration.

Objective: To work with partners to promote the creation of 1,000 rain gardens at town halls, schools, churches, communities through HOA's, and in backyards.

Partners:

Regional	US EPA Region 3 Office of State and Watershed Partnerships Water Protection Division- Sue McDowell Partnership for the Delaware Estuary Maryland Coastal Bays Environmental Concern Low Impact Development Center American Rivers
State	Delaware Nature Society-Ginger North and John Harrod University of Delaware, Department of Agriculture University of Delaware, Sea Grant Delaware Native Species Society Delaware Invasive Species Council Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC)
County	Sussex County Cooperative Extension Sussex County Conservation District
Watershed	CIB Citizens Advisory Committee Outreach working group Town of Millville Town of Fenwick Island Gardeners by the Sea Sussex Gardeners Millsboro Garden Club

Press partners: Cape Gazette-greater Lewes area
Wave and Delaware Coast Press-Bethany and south coastal area and Rehoboth
Coastal Point-Ocean View west on 26

Plan:

January 2009

- *Meeting with Sue McDowell, Region 3 EPA* to discuss Region-wide Rain Garden Campaign
- *Meeting with Ginger North and John Harrod, DE Nature Society* to propose partnership to reach homeowners in the Inland Bays Watershed, "Plant a Rain Garden to Create a Backyard Habitat"
- *Meeting with CIB Gardening for the Bays Native Plant Sale Committee* to discuss the kick-off of the 1000 Rain Gardens at the Plant Sale

February 2009

- *Meeting with Sue McDowell* to discuss logistics of the region-wide initiative, discuss funding, and plan a meeting of the three National Estuary Programs.
- *Meeting with the director of Abbott's Mill, and Ginger North and John Harrod* to begin planning the details of their role in the partnership

March

- *Meeting of the three NEP partners and Sue McDowell* to discuss the region-wide program, begin to plan shared elements, and assigning responsibilities
- *Work with Sue McDowell* to create the region-wide Rain Garden Project website
 - General Information on Rain Gardens
 - Pages for each of the Outreach Material topics
 - Registration of Rain Gardens
 - Calculator for rain gardens
- *Work with Sue McDowell and NEP Partners* to begin producing and assembling outreach materials: (these will all be on the website in pdf format)
 - Many of these already exist:
 - How to plant a rain garden
 - List/brochure of DE native plants for rain gardens
 - Where to obtain native plants
 - Where to obtain rain barrels
 - Designs for rain gardens
- Begin development of 1000 Rain Gardens for the Inland Bays for the CIB website
- Begin work on Inland Bays-specific outreach materials
- Schedule 1000 Rain Gardens for the Inland Bays Presentations for late April-early May

- Rain Gardens for your Backyard-DE Nature Society ?
- Plants for your Rain Garden-DE Native Plant Society ?
- Rain Gardens for Butterflies, Birds and other Pollinators-Sue McDowell

April

- Launch press/promotion of 1000 Rain Gardens for the Inland Bays
 - Write press releases
 - Meet with editors/reporters
 - Prepare feature stories
- Create an exhibit on rain gardens for use at the Native Plant Sale and at community events
- Series of three or four presentations in the community from mid-April to mid-May

May Kick-Off

- May 16 2009 Gardening for the Bays Native Plant Sale
 - Rain Barrel Demonstration-Extension Service
 - Rain Garden Plant “kits” for sale by nurseries
 - Backyard Habitat Program-DE Nature Society
 - Native Plants for Rain Gardens-DE Nature Society
 - Auction Rain Barrels
 - Auction a Rain Garden

Year 1 Goals

- Identify funding to building a demonstration rain garden at every town hall in the watershed
- Identify a community partner and develop a demonstration rain garden at an HOA on the Inland Bays
- Develop a power point presentation that CAC Outreach members can take to community groups
- Launch the *Rain Gardens for Back Yard Habitats* program
- Develop incentives: rain garden contests, photography contests, etc.

On-going

- Promotion through garden clubs
- Presentations to HOA’s-CAC Outreach?
- CIB Town Hall Demonstration Habitat Program
- Schoolyard Habitat Program
- Annual contests for rain gardens
- Publicizing benchmarks

Funding

- Start up funding through the CIB Education and Outreach budget
- Assistance-financial and in-kind from partners
- Plan to apply for a foundation grant
- Federal Stimulus package funding-stormwater management infrastructure for municipal projects?

Methodology for Monitoring and Evaluation

Measuring the Effectiveness of the Program in terms of EPA workplan objectives.