

Legislative Hall Certified as Wildlife Habitat & County Executive Meyer to sign Native Plant E.O. at Native Plant Sale Opening



L to R: Anne Harper, Acting Executive Director, Delaware Nature Society; Alice Mohrman, Education Coordinator, Delaware Nature Society; New Castle County Executive Matthew Meyer; Brenna Goggin, Director of Advocacy, Delaware Nature Society; Habitat Stewards, Bren Sharp and Donna Hoyt ; Collin O'Mara, NWF President & CEO; Habitat Steward Nan Zamorski; Senator Stephanie Hansen; and Tracy Surlles, Acting General Manager, New Castle County Public Works

Photos available here: <http://bit.ly/2w4vka2>

HOCKESSIN, Del. (May 2, 2018) – On Tuesday, May 1, in another first for The First State, Legislative Hall in Dover became the first State Capitol to become a National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Certified Wildlife Habitat (CWH). Certified Wildlife Habitats are properties that provide food, water, cover and places to raise babies for birds, bees, butterflies, and other wildlife, coupled with using wildlife and water-friendly gardening practices. Any public or private property can be certified including homes, businesses, schools, churches, and parks. The event included remarks from Senator Stephanie Hansen, National Wildlife Federation President and CEO Collin O'Mara, New Castle County Executive Matthew Meyer, and Delaware Nature Society Acting Executive Director Anne Harper.

Delaware Nature Society Education Coordinator, Alice Mohrman, worked with Mr. Don Gerardi, DE Office of Budget and Management, and Mr. Justin King, DE Facilities Management to prepare Legislative Hall for certification. The site is home to a variety of native trees and shrubs, including Tulip Poplar and Winterberry Holly, and a short distance from the St. Jones River. The grounds crew are dedicated to sustainable practices, that minimizes the use of pesticides and herbicides, and support healthy habitat and water quality for wildlife and people.

To follow this landmark event, County Executive Meyer will be signing an Executive Order requiring the use of native species in landscaping projects on county owned property and encouraging native species county-wide! The signing will take place Thursday, May 3rd at 2 pm at Delaware Nature Society's Annual Native Plant Sale at Coverdale Farm Preserve, 543 Way Road, Greenville, DE 19807. The Native Plant Sale is open to Delaware Nature Society members on Thursday and Friday and open to the public on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, visit DelNature.org/NativePlantSale.

Founded in 1964, Delaware Nature Society works to improve the environment through conservation, advocacy, and education. For more information, visit www.DelNature.org.

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