Welcome! Thank you for your interest in native habitats and their yearly maintenance needs. This newsletter is intended for owners and caretakers of native habitats installed in conjunction with The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. However, feel free to share this newsletter with anyone you may know that is interested in cultivating and maintaining native habitats.

Our First Newsletter!

Time for Action: Starting Simple

This first newsletter is coming to you in winter, which means limited maintenance! However, there are always things you can do now to try to be prepared for the busy growing season ahead. No need to go out in the snow, but near the end of winter, when things start to thaw, you can give your habitat a bit of a head start.

If you have a rain garden, you can often get a better handle on water flow through the garden by watching and listening to the snow melt. The melt water flows a little slower, but can often provide a great source for birds throughout the winter, but is also a sure to bring a great contrast to the dreary winter space. At this time of year many invasive plants are easier to pull, and by pulling the dormant plants now you may be able make space and find next years growth sooner by reducing crowding. A few invasives like English ivy, garlic mustard, and dame's rocket can be mistaken for a native, look for the evergreen rosette. Dame's Rocket Rosette. Photo: G.D. Bebeau

Space Invaders--Invasive Species Spotlight

Winter can be a good time to control invasive species (see Space Invaders section below). Time for the maintenance your habitat requires. Recurring topics in the newsletter will include: information to readers about the maintenance needs of their habitats, but also to act as a simple reminder to make

What’s “Up”?--Seasonal Plant identification

Winterberry, *Ilex verticillata*, is one of the most showy of winter shrubs. The bright red berries are great for pollinators throughout the year. Learn more about Winterberry here.

Perennial Pages

Late winter can be a great time for pruning shrubs (when plants are still dormant) or

Remove debris and broken branches left by storms

Spring storm.

Book it! Plan out and schedule time for planting, mulching, and other maintenance in the spring storm.

302-655-4990.

What to do in March:

Rain Garden at Wilmington Friends School, Wilmington, DE Photo: Sarah Bouboulis

Meet the Editor

Hi, I'm Sarah Bouboulis, Habitat Project Specialist and newsletter editor. I've worked for PDE for since 2015 and have 5+ years of experience working in habitat restoration and environmental sciences. If you have any questions about your habitat or its maintenance needs, please don't hesitate to reach out.

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The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, a National Estuary Program, *leads science-based and collaborative efforts to improve the tidal Delaware River and Bay, which spans Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.*