

**The 1750 Hale Byrnes House located on the banks of the Wild & Scenic White Clay Creek was the site of a Revolutionary Council of War three days after the Battle of Cooch's Bridge.**

## **PRESS RELEASE**



### **For Immediate Release**

Today's Date: Friday, April 13, 2012

Program Date: Sunday, May 20, 2012 3:00-5:00 pm.

Contact: Kim Burdick at [Halebyrneshouse@aol.com](mailto:Halebyrneshouse@aol.com)

Contact the speaker, Jeanne Frett at [jfrett@mtcubacenter.org](mailto:jfrett@mtcubacenter.org)

Hale Byrnes website: [www.halebyrnes.org](http://www.halebyrnes.org)

**The Public is Cordially Invited to Attend Jeanne Frett's Talk on Natural Dyes.  
Sun., May 20, 2012 3:00PM - 5:00PM**

Well-behaved children always welcomed.

\$5 at the door includes coffee & dessert.

The Hale Byrnes House is located at 606 (old) Stanton-Christiana Road, Newark, DE 19713, next door to White Clay Medical Center near Shones and Bells Supply.

### **About Our Speaker**

Jeanne Frett is the Research Horticulturist at Mt. Cuba Center, a non-profit horticultural institution in northern Delaware, where her activities over the past 22 years have included native plant propagation, production, and evaluation research. She has taught workshops at Mt. Cuba Center and the University of Delaware Botanic Garden on dyeing with native plants and home grown indigo. Jeanne has authored several horticultural references including: [Asters in the Mid-Atlantic Region](#); [Coneflowers for the Mid-Atlantic Region](#), [Trilliums at Mt. Cuba Center, a Visitor's Guide](#); and co-authored [Mt. Cuba, Dedicated to the Study of Piedmont Flora](#). She holds a M.A. in teaching degree from the University of Iowa and studied horticulture and landscape design at Temple University.

### **Dyeing with Natural Dyes**

Throughout history, before the discovery of synthetic dyes in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, plants were commonly used as a source of dye for fabric and yarns. Join Jeanne Frett as she sets up dye pots and demonstrates how to extract dye from such common plants as coreopsis, goldenrod, walnuts and black oak bark. See her exhibit of weaving, spinning, and knitting projects using hand-dyed yarns and try your hand at dyeing several samples of yarn.

**The 1750 Hale Byrnes House located on the banks of the Wild & Scenic White Clay Creek was the site of a Revolutionary Council of War three days after the Battle of Cooch's Bridge.**



**Did you know that natural dyes are part of Delaware history?**

“In 1826 John and Alexander Peterson opened a tannery in Smyrna...In addition to tanning, black oak bark was ground from 1850 until 1877. The quercitron bark (black oak ) is used for dyeing purposes, and is principally shipped to Europe. The capacity for grinding is one thousand tons per year.” [Scharf, History of Delaware, 1888, p.1108.]