

Third Haven Woods, Talbot County



Third Haven Woods is an unusually old hardwood forest containing oaks, beeches, and hickories that measure up to 48 inches in diameter. It is a remnant of the forests that once covered much of the Delmarva Peninsula. Parts of the forest are relatively young, but in several hundred years it will become an old-growth forest. In addition to the dominant trees, there are also red maple, gums and tulip-tree, making for a diverse landscape. Soils in the forest were originally formed by sediments transported down the Susquehanna and Delaware River watersheds by melted glacial ice. This transportation occurred during two widely separated periods of the Pleistocene era (3 million to 15,000 years ago). Since then, vegetation and climate have altered these parent materials to a rich soil that supports the preserve's mature woodland and adjacent fields.

VA State Parks Staff



Pink Flowering Dogwood is one of the many pleasing blooms at Third Haven Woods.

Many flora and fauna exist beneath the canopy. Third Haven Woods is a habitat for a small population of the Delmarva fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger cinereus*), a recovering endemic subspecies that has been federally listed since 1973. In addition, there are frogs, skinks, mud minnows, turtles, and a wide variety of resident and migratory birds throughout the preserve. Plants include flowering dogwood, southern arrow-wood,

ironwood, American holly, and amelanchier. The shrub layer contains coastal pepperbush, swamp azalea, and blueberry.

Third Haven Woods is one of the largest blocks of forested upland not used for timber in the central Eastern Shore. Natural Heritage Program ecologists identified an excellent example of a rare hydrophytic oak community at Third Haven Woods in 2013. Management at this preserve focuses on responding to neighbor complaints about poaching, managing a hunting program, tree maintenance and development of an audio tour trail in 2014. Since 1977, the Conservancy has protected 500 acres here.

Key Elements

- Delmarva fox squirrel
- Bald eagles
- Flowering dogwood
- Swamp azalea
- Pepperbush

Contact

The Nature Conservancy of Maryland/DC
5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 100
Bethesda, MD 20814
P: 301-897-8570
For more information:
www.nature.org/Maryland

Directions (GPS Coordinates: 38°49'05.1"N 76°06'14.6"W) From Route 50 north of Easton

Turn right (west) onto Airport Road. Continue on Airport Road for about 1 mile (past Easton Airport) to a T intersection. Turn right at T intersection onto Goldsborough Neck Road. In 0.7 mile bear left at fork. Continue for 0.3 mile around left turn in road. The preserve is 1.5 miles on right.

Visiting

- No facilities, trails or convenient parking