



SEPTEMBER
2011

NEWSLETTER
NUMBER 27

AT WESTCHESTER
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FIRST NATIONAL AFFILIATE
OF THE
LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 17 & 18:

Native Plant Appreciation Weekend
Rosedale Nurseries, Inc. located in
Hawthorne, New York - (914) 769-1300

SEPTEMBER 23:

Lewandowski, Staso, Payne & Beck
Autumn Landscape Conference
*Native Culture: Developing Plant Diversity
for Sustainable Design* 3.75 PDHs

OCTOBER 15:

FIELD TRIP - Members Free
Fee Applicable for Non-NPC Members
Pruyn Sanctuary ~ near Chappaqua

OCTOBER 18:

Tour the Forgotten Nature Trail at WCC

NOVEMBER 2:

ANNUAL AUTUMN FUND-RAISER
Wine Reception & Photo Presentations
Forever Spring - Wildflowers Around the World
Dr. Bob Gibbons & Carol Gracie

NOVEMBER 12:

LECTURE
*Native Grasslands: Protecting and Rebuilding
the Original Green* 1.5 PDHs (See box on pg. 2)

SPRING 2012:

January: Annual Native Plant Pre-Sale
February: Spring Lecture Series begins
March: Annual Spring Landscape Conf.
April 28: Wildflower & Native Plant Sale
May/June: Annual Garden Tour and
Field Trip - Dates & Destinations TBA

JOIN AS AN NPC MEMBER TODAY!
RECEIVE MANY MEMBER PERKS
ADVANCE RESERVATIONS & FEE MAY BE REQUIRED
WWW.NATIVEPLANTCENTER.ORG
PHONE (914) 606-7870 FOR DETAILS

WADING THROUGH WILDFLOWERS WITH DR. BOB GIBBONS

by Brooke Beebe, NPC Steering Committee

Last April, I was fortunate enough to be part of a wildflower discovery tour on Italy's Gargano peninsula led by Dr. Bob Gibbons, proprietor and main tour leader of Natural History Travel based in Dorset, England. Bob is one of Britain's best naturalists, as was quickly evident to all participants on the trip. Most had traveled with him before, and knew the routine: out all day moving to different locations that had been previously scouted for their abundance of wildflowers, then a pre-dinner wrap-up of species identified. In just one week our group identified over 43 species of

wild orchids, along with hundreds of other wildflowers, insects and birds.

Bob obviously delights in the natural world and shares his pleasure freely and generously. The breadth and range of his knowledge is astonishing, and his guided wildflower trips are so popular that they are sold out almost as soon as the descriptions appear online.

I do not doubt that he knows the best flowery places in the world, and I hope you will take the opportunity to meet him and enjoy his lecture at The Native Plant Center on November 2.

[Related story below](#)

FOREVER SPRING ~ WILDFLOWERS AROUND THE WORLD SPECTACULAR PHOTOS BY GIBBONS SURE TO ENTICE ALL

The Autumn Fund-Raiser promises to please the most discerning audience members. All your senses will be enticed as Dr. Bob Gibbons presents his recently released book *Wildflower Wonders: The 50 Best Wildflower Sites in the World*. Carol Gracie will introduce Bob on November 2. Benefit invitations will be mailed soon.

Festivities include wine and heavy hors d'oeuvres before you embark on a

visual tour of our magnificent planet. Bob will showcase his spectacular photos and experiences of his world-wide travels. Although winter may be biting at your heels, you will imagine yourself in a more vibrant place, at least for a few hours. Join us on this journey around the world of floral landscapes! Proceeds from this benefit will help further the mission of The NPC.

[Books available for purchase and signing](#)

\$45,000 GRANT RECEIVED FOR COLLEGE CAMPUS TRAIL PROJECT

by Darrin Duling, Director

The Native Plant Center has been awarded a grant through the Zoos, Botanical Garden and Arboreta Program (ZBGA) administered by The New York State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The grant amount of \$45,000 will be disbursed over a three-year period, and applied toward the mapping, survey and initial stabilization of an old nature trail located on the Westchester Community College Campus. The NPC is working

in conjunction with the Westchester County Department of Planning and local nature-based organizations to develop a plan of action that will bring this hidden gem back online as a campus and community resource.

Want to find out more about this exciting project? [A preliminary behind-the-scenes tour of part of the trail will take place on Tuesday, October 18 from 1:30-3:00. There will be no charge. All are welcome.](#) [Related story on page 2](#)

ANNUAL AUTUMN LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE - SEPTEMBER 23

NATIVE CULTURE: DEVELOPING PLANT DIVERSITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

The Annual Autumn Landscape Conference *Native Culture: Developing Plant Diversity for Sustainable Design* will be held on Friday, September 23.

Professional Development Hours (3.75 PDHs) are available from LA CES for landscape architects and designers.

Speakers include: Rick J. Lewandowski of Mt. Cuba Center, Kevin Staso from North Creek Nurseries, Jody Payne and Travis Beck of the New York Botanical Garden.

[Details and brochure available on the web at \[www.nativeplantcenter.org\]\(http://www.nativeplantcenter.org\) or pay online at \[www.mysunywcc.org/store\]\(http://www.mysunywcc.org/store\)](#)

WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S FORGOTTEN NATURE TRAIL

by Prof. Michael Priano, WCC Biology Department

When I arrived on the Westchester Community College (WCC) Campus as an instructor in the Biology Department in 1974, a nature trail was just a few steps from our offices and laboratories. "Take only photographs, leave only footprints" read the redwood-stained sign at the entry.

The creation of the trail resulted from the vision and efforts of Professor Carlton Van Patten who taught biology and ecology at WCC from the 1960's until his retirement in 1995. At that time the trail primarily followed the path of a stream as it meandered through the campus and adjacent land to eventually join the Bronx River. Carl used this area for field ecology and aquatic laboratories for his students and at the same time established the student Ecology Club, a vibrant group of students and staff that existed on campus until the 1990's. By 1972, he had convinced the new college president, Joseph Hankin, the college Board of Trustees and the County of Westchester to dedicate approximately 35 acres of college property as a nature sanctuary "to be used for ecological study" with the land and watercourses to "remain undisturbed except for those physical changes... that make the area more acceptable to proper and convenient observation of the natural environment."

In addition to its role as an outdoor laboratory, the trail was used extensively in its early years for walking, jogging, bird watching, fishing in the pond, picnicking or cooling off in one of the many deep pools in the stream. By the mid-1970's, along with another retired colleague, I agreed to be the Ecology Club faculty advisor. The Club maintained the trail and built bridges and walkways with hand tools after classes and on weekends. The students took pride in their extra-curricular efforts and learned by literally getting their hands dirty and feet muddy in service to

the college. Their efforts produced a magnificent trail with an upper portion threading through a series of rolling hills along a gentle ridge and a lower portion, following along a millpond and stream populated with gigantic specimen trees and terminating with a rock-walled gorge.

Those were indeed 'the good old days.' Currently large sections of the trail, particularly within the lower portion, are difficult to walk after years of neglect and disabuse. The Ecology Club exists only on paper, students don't have the time to spend on campus activities as the prior generation did and service often does not involve physical labor. I still bring my Environmental Science lab students along the upper trail to witness deciduous forest, riverine and wetland habitats (including a vernal pond) to observe terrestrial and aquatic succession and to record the varied influences of human activity on nature.

The recent award of a NYS Parks and Recreation grant to our Native Plant Center that will help fund the trail's restoration promises a bright future for an area of the campus that so few know first-hand. A functional trail system would add a necessary dimension to other environmental activities currently happening on our campus including the development of new degree programs in Environmental Science and Environmental Studies, the recent opening of the LEED Gold certified Gateway Center and a program (*Between River and Sound*) that is providing training and incentives for faculty to include sustainability topics in their course curricula. With adequate funding and a commitment from the college, the WCC Nature Trail of the future can be the educational and recreational opportunity for campus and community that it once was.

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Photo by: Darrin Duling

Join the free guided tour of the Forgotten Nature Trail on October 18

PARTICIPATE IN ONE OF OUR MANY EVENTS THIS AUTUMN

- SEPTEMBER 17 & 18:
NATIVE PLANT APPRECIATION WEEKEND
- SEPTEMBER 23:
AUTUMN LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE (3.75 PDHs)
- OCTOBER 15:
AUTUMN FIELD TRIP TO PRUYN SANCTUARY
- OCTOBER 18:
TOUR OF THE FORGOTTEN NATURE TRAIL
- NOVEMBER 2:
ANNUAL AUTUMN FUND-RAISER

- REGISTER & PAY ONLINE AT
www.mysunywcc.org/store
- FORMS & INFO ON THE WEBSITE AT
www.nativeplantcenter.org
- PHONE (914) 606-7870 - FAX (914) 606-6143

NOVEMBER 12: LECTURE

Native Grasslands: Protecting and Rebuilding the Original Green
Long Island's Hempstead Plains, once the largest native grassland prairie on the east coast at 60,000 acres, is now reduced to 60 acres. This rare remnant is now protected and a LEED-certified visitor center project is under development. Cece Haydock a landscape architect, who is part of the project team, will give us an overview of the history of this area and discuss the issues and challenges involved with this unique project. Using this grasslands ecosystem as a model, she will show us ways in which we can convert traditional turf areas into natural meadow habitat in our landscapes. 1.5 PDHs

Cece Haydock (ASLA) is the SITES (Sustainable Sites Initiative) project manager for Hempstead Plains. She is a landscape architect who has worked in the New York City Parks system and on public and private sector projects. Cece is a member of, and an educator for, the United States Green Building Council.

AUTUMN FIELD TRIP

Saturday, October 15: 10 - 12 noon
Members Free - Join Now - Member Form Last Page
Registration Requested - Phone (914)-606-7870

PRUYN SANCTUARY

Free to NPC Members
Non-NPC Members \$10

Pruyn Sanctuary is a 92-acre site that is the headquarters of the Saw Mill River Audubon, located at 275 Millwood Road (Rt. 133), 1.5 miles east of Millwood, near Chappaqua, New York. Our morning guided tour will take us through a butterfly garden, native plant arboretum, small wildflower meadow, woodland trails and a swamp boardwalk.

Walking is easy to moderate. Tour will be held rain or shine.
Weather appropriate clothing and shoes are highly recommended.

For more information call: (914) 666-6503 or visit: www.sawmillriveraudubon.org

NATIVE NOTES

Darrin Duling

The Native Plant Center continues to grow! As of May, The Center occupies the former campus security gatehouse at the upper Grasslands Gate entrance to the WCC Campus. This new NPC Administration Building houses the offices of the Assistant Director, Nancy Inzinna and Special Programs Coordinator, Beth Roach. The location within The Lady Bird Johnson Demonstration Garden is ideal and solidifies our presence there. Our beloved Stone Cottage will continue to be used as the Director's office, however potential visions include constructing a building addition on the new site that will house a meeting room and an office for the director, giving us an all-inclusive headquarters facility. Under this scheme the Stone Cottage would be re-tooled as a NPC-managed visitor center outpost for the WCC Native Plant Arboretum and an information center for other nature-based organizations in Westchester County and beyond. The NPC extends its heartfelt thanks to Westchester Community College and the Westchester Community College Foundation for their generosity in making this possible.

Attention intrepid native plant shoppers, mark your calendars for a special opportunity to find rare and choice natives: On Saturday, September 17 and Sunday, September 18, Rosedale Nurseries, located at 51 Saw Mill River Road in Hawthorne, is holding its second Annual Native Plant Center Benefit Weekend with a percentage of

sales of all goods being donated to The NPC. Last year's Benefit was a huge success with a lot of happy people taking home an array of carefully-chosen native woody and herbaceous plants. This year's event promises to be even bigger and better, with a larger inventory of plants. Staff at Rosedale will assist you in making selections and the garden shop invites you to peruse its marvelous selection of books, gardening supplies and ornaments that will help you select, design and maintain your native plantings. Native plant enthusiasts from The NPC will be present both days to share their expertise and answer questions. Look on our website for a list of plants that will be available. We look forward to seeing you there!

Visit www.rosedalenursery.com or call (914) 769-1300 for further information.

Did you know that hummingbirds balance their voracious diet of sugary nectar with insects for protein? Their "bug buffet" includes large quantities of pesky mosquitoes, midges, aphids, gnats and whiteflies - what a tremendous combination of beauty and utility! A few of the regional native plants that will attract these charming little workhorses to our gardens include: trumpet vine, coral honeysuckle, bee balm, cardinal flower, blueberry, swamp hibiscus, garden phlox, Virginia bluebells, wild bergamot, spotted jewelweed, Indian pink, columbine, chokecherry, Canada lily, red buckeye and rosebay rhododendron.

2010/11 ANNUAL FUND DONORS

Our thanks to all who contributed ~ additional contributions were received in January from:

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Ralph Crosby Harriet Delihias Darrin Duling
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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Our deepest thanks go to all our members.

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The Native Plant Center
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 Website: www.nativeplantcenter.org
 E-mail: wcc.nativeplant@sunywcc.edu
 Nancy Inzinna, Editor, Assistant Director

MEMBER DONATIONS CONTRIBUTE 22% OF THE NPC'S OPERATING BUDGET - JOIN TODAY!

Help fulfill Lady Bird Johnson's vision of a more naturally beautiful America. Past contributions have enabled us to enter the new millennium with the assurance that our native plants will be a permanent part of local landscapes.

\$45 Friend - All levels receive a Free NPC Lecture

Help support the educational programs and operations of *The NPC*.

Benefits include:

- 10% discount on NPC Symposia and Lectures
- Discount on Pre-Sale plant order - EARLY Entry into Regular Plant Sale in April
- Monthly e-mail of the *Wildflowerwire* Newsletter from our affiliate the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas
- Invitation to *NPC Members Only* Field Trips

\$80 Household Member and Garden Clubs/Organizations

Benefits include all of the above, plus:

- **Free** Gardening Gloves
- 10% discount on Symposia and Lectures for **TWO** household members

For an additional \$30, purchase a Membership to the LBJ Wildflower Ctr

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center benefits:

- Award winning magazine, *Native Plants*
- 10% discount on *Wild Ideas: The Store and Catalog*
- Reciprocal privileges at more than 100 gardens

\$125 Supporting Member

Benefits include all the above plus:

- "Free" Membership to the Lady Bird Johnson Center

\$250 Advocate

Benefits include all the above plus:

- Free "Friend" Membership for a garden enthusiast of your choice

\$500-\$999 Sustaining Member

Benefits include all of the above, plus:

- An invitation to the Director's Tour of our Demonstration Gardens

\$1,000-\$2,999 Conservator

Benefits include all of the above, plus:

- Gift book about wildflowers

\$3,000 + Heritage Circle

Assume a leadership role in *The Native Plant Center*

Benefits include all of the above, plus:

- Teak garden bench at West. Comm. College with inscribed brass plaque

NATIVE PLANT CENTER MEMBERSHIP FORM - DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Fax: (914) 606-6143 E-mail: wcc.nativeplant@sunywcc.edu Phone: (914) 606-7870

Mail to: The NPC - 75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla, NY 10595

SAVE TIME ~ PAY ONLINE: www.mysunywcc.org/donations

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL \$ _____ ADDITIONAL LBJ \$30 YES / NO TOTAL AMT. DUE \$ _____

And/Or I am enclosing a **donation** of \$ _____ ***Gift membership** in the amount of \$ _____

MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS ARE APPRECIATED - CONTACT YOUR EMPLOYER FOR DETAILS

MEMBER NAME _____

(Print name of member as you wish it to appear in publications.)

STREET _____ **CITY** _____ **STATE** _____

ZIP _____ **PHONE** _____ **FAX** _____ **E-MAIL** _____

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Make checks payable to **The Native Plant Center** ~ **MC/Visa/Discover #** _____ **Exp. Date** _____

NAME OF CARDHOLDER _____ ***NAME OF GIFT GIVER** _____

STREET _____ **CITY** _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____ **PHONE** _____

Educating people about the environmental necessity, economic value, and natural beauty of native plants in the Northeast.