

AUGUST
2006

THE NATIVE PLANT CENTER

AT WESTCHESTER
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER
NUMBER 17



FIRST NATIONAL AFFILIATE
OF THE
LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 28

NPC Members Only Field Trips
The Gardens & Sculpture Tour at Kykuit

October 14

5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Champagne/Buffer Gala

"Visions of Nature" Art & Photography
Show and Sale - Meet the Artists

6 p.m.

Environmental Award presented to
The Honorable Andrew J. Spano

October 15 - October 21

The NPC's Art & Photography Show
Free & Open to the Public - Gallery
Hours listed in Art Show article

October 17

Luncheon & Slide Show Lecture:

"The Master Forger"

Ivan MacDonald

Lunch & Lecture 12 noon - 2:30 p.m.

Lecture Only: 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

October 18

Luncheon Lecture:

"Nature & the Writer's Perspective"

Roxana Robinson

Spring 2007

February 3

Pre-Sale Plant Selection Workshop with
Personal Shoppers for you

Date To Be Announced

Sow & Grow Workshop

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR ALL
EVENTS LISTED ABOVE, UNLESS
OTHERWISE STATED**

(914) 606-7870

www.nativeplantcenter.org

LADY BIRD JOHNSON ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD TO BE PRESENTED AT VISIONS OF NATURE ART SHOW GALA: FIRST LADY JOHNSON SALUTES THE HONORABLE ANDREW J. SPANO'S "GOOD STEWARDSHIP OF THE LAND" WITHIN WESTCHESTER COUNTY

The Native Plant Center is pleased to present the *Lady Bird Johnson Environmental Award* at the fifth annual *Visions of Nature Art and Photography Show & Sale Champagne Gala* at the Westchester Community College's Fine Arts Gallery. Westchester County Executive Andrew J. Spano is this year's recipient for his environmental advocacy and leadership. His 2001 Executive Order on native and invasive plants in Westchester created an extraordinary mandate that we hope will be replicated around the state and the country.

On Saturday, October 14, from 5 to 8 p.m., the *Meet the Artists Champagne/Buffer Gala*, catered by Sam's of Gedney Way, will be held. Festivities this year include: pianist Michael Fitzsimons, a Silent Auction, and twelve area artists and photographers. On Tuesday, October 17,

The Master Forger, a luncheon and slide show lecture, will be presented by Ivan MacDonald. He will recount the story of the most sensational forgery case in art history. During the luncheon on Wednesday, October 18, author Roxana Robinson will discuss her Adirondack novel *Sweetwater*, an intriguing love story and meditation on the environment. It's a must read for lovers of a good story in a great, natural setting.

FINE ARTS GALLERY HOURS
WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

OCTOBER 15 - 21

Sunday - 12 noon - 3 p.m.

Monday - Saturday - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Thursday Evening - 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

For details visit us on the web at:

www.nativeplantcenter.org

Closed for Pre-Registered Events

Oct. 17 & 18 - 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

THE HEALING POWER OF NATIVE PLANTS SOLD AT NPC PLANT SALE

by Mimi Edelman

So many friends of the community benefited from the Wildflower & Native Plant Sale at *The NPC* this past April. For example, the elders at My Second Home in Mount Kisco have set aside a place in their therapeutic garden for native plantings this year, and we bought many of our plants at the sale.

This garden is called the "Generation Garden," for the elders share the garden with the children of Mt. Kisco Day Care Center. Whether the communities interact together in

intergenerational activities or with their peers alongside a horticulture therapist, the joys of gardening are available to all. The elders practice organic gardening techniques in borders, garden plots and accessible raised beds. Each growing season they grow herbs, flowers and vegetables. The garden at this time of year is inspiring and colorful. By now, all your native plants are rooted into their new setting. The art of gardening has many values including horticulture therapy.

Continued on page 2

NEED GARDEN HELP? ASK THE EXPERT - MR. SMARTY PLANTS

Mr. Smarty Plants is actually a Ms. Wildflower Center volunteer at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Texas. Dr. Nan Hampton is a retired genetics lab instructor from the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Texas, Austin. She is well equipped and ready to respond to the public's queries about native plants. Direct all your native plant questions to Mr. Smarty Plants - log on to www.wildflower2.org/NPIN/FAQs/Faq.html

WE'VE GONE ELECTRONIC - HELP SAVE POSTAGE & PAPER !

FORWARD YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS TO

WCC.NATIVEPLANT@SUNYWCC.EDU

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT WWW.NATIVEPLANTCENTER.ORG

CONTINUOUS SUPPORTERS

Our deepest thanks go to our previous members who continue to support our mission: educating people about the environmental necessity, economic value, and natural beauty of native plants in the Northeast.

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GARDEN CONSERVANCY OPEN DAY TOURS

If we didn't convince people to use natives on Saturday, July 15 at the annual Garden Conservancy Open Day Tours, we never will. The plants looked spectacular! The wild bergamot, black-eyed Susans, purple coneflower, beebalm, mountain mint, coreopsis, etc. were just blooming their heads off. Come by and see the gardens if you weren't here. Remember to stop by the new Cottage Garden, located across from Lot # 1 at WCC.

Nearly 60 people attended the butterfly demonstrations, presented by Nancy Hough. Her enthusiasm and passion for butterflies was quite apparent and inspirational to all.

Many thanks to our committed volunteers. As always, they made the day a great success!

HEALING POWER OF NATIVE PLANTS

Continued from page 1

The Edible Education Project provides horticulture and cooking therapy for the elders at My Second Home. The Edible Education Project has a therapeutic approach to the path from garden to table. Experiential activities are gardening, cooking and nutrition themed. The native plants from the sale will give the elders an opportunity to be outdoors, prepare the beds with compost-rich soil, plan the placement of the plants and tend them



Photo by Harry Archer

Too many choices for such a small basket!

throughout the season. For elders that suffer from depression or Alzheimer's, working with plants can open windows that have been long closed. The horticulture therapist will share the origins of the plants with the participants and perhaps bring back

pleasant memories of woodland walks and lush gardens of long ago.

What is especially wonderful about the ferns, bleeding hearts and Jacob's ladder that will be planted by the elders is they were tended by the young people at Children's Village in Dobbs Ferry. Troubled adolescent boys develop a sense of responsibility and ownership of their greenhouse and gardens on their campus. Horticulture therapy can guide the way to lessons of life - healing, self-esteem and the connection we all need to the beauty of our natural environment.

If you would like to learn more about the healing nature of human-plant relationships in horticulture therapy or wish to volunteer, please contact Barbara Fischer at Children's Village (914) 693-0600 or Mimi Edelman at the Edible Education Project (914) 241- 2774.



Cece Fabbro

Wildlife Watch

Eastern Bluebird

Sialia sialis

Length: 7 inches.

Male's Plumage: Vivid blue in bright light, black at a distance; the breast is cinnamon-red, the under parts white.

Female's Coloring: Duller than the male.

Distribution: North American migratory bird of the family Turdidae (thrush family).

Diet: Insects and native berries.

Behavior: Among the first spring arrivals in the North. Pairs raise several broods during a single mating season. The female is responsible for the incubation duties.

Habitat: Edges of woodlands, fields and meadows.

Look for more bluebirds around Westchester . . .

Eastern bluebirds once again nesting in the area. Volunteers are placing nesting boxes in their preferred habitat to attract these helpful creatures.

NPC MEMBERS ONLY FIELD TRIP

Photos and text by Cece Fabbro

It was a stormy June morning as 100 NPC Members and friends boarded the two buses that would transport all to Cantitoe Corners, Martha Stewart's farm in Katonah. As if on cue, the sky opened up just as the last member climbed aboard. Fortunately, the rain stopped as the buses arrived at the farm.

Cantitoe Corners is a 153 acre farm purchased by Martha Stewart five years ago. It is comprised of several homes, several barns, a stable complex and a greenhouse. The three houses, which were built from 1770-1925, were restored and rebuilt by



Martha. A four mile "carriage" road on the property was topped with recycled asphalt from old roadways. An extensive landscape plan is in place. This includes, in addition to trees and shrubs, planting more vegetable and flower gardens, and rejuvenating the woodland areas.

Our tour started at the stable complex - cleaner than most of our houses, some remarked - continued on to the many flower and vegetable gardens, including a newly planted native plant garden (photo above) and spectacular peony beds in bloom. We proceeded to the greenhouse where a delicious fruit punch and shortbread cookies were served.

The tour ended back at the stables and paddock area where Martha's five Friesian horses sauntered over to greet us. And, as luck was with us that day, the rain started again... just not until we boarded the buses for home.

Join as an member to participate in exclusive NPC Field Trips. Membership details and form on last page of this newsletter.



River - South Shore Audubon Society. **Result:** 5 boxes were installed there this spring. Two pairs nested and nine nestlings fledged. For more information, contact Sandy Morrissey at sandym@cloud9.net or 949-2531.

I have gone mad for Monarchs! After I saw Nancy Hough give her fabulous butterfly rearing presentation at our July Garden Conservancy Open Day, I just had to try to raise some Monarchs myself. With her guidance, I found some eggs, and am now nurturing 5 caterpillars; one "cat" has made a pale, green chrysalis. All butterflies will be released. For more information, visit monarchwatch.org.

NATIVE NEWS

Brooke M. Beebe

Eastern bluebirds (see left) are returning to this area thanks to volunteers all over the County who install birdhouses, monitor houses and find new nesting sites. Eastern bluebirds are found in open woodlands, meadows, orchards, and farmland edges. Open spaces with scattered trees and low ground cover such as those found in Westchester parks, cemeteries and golf courses are ideal locations for nest box placements. *The NPC* was pleased to link bluebird volunteers with a new site at Kensico Cemetery, where we took a recent field trip to see the native plantings.

Sharp-eyed member Cece Fabbro noticed that the site would be ideal for bluebird boxes and contacted bluebird expert Sandy Morrissey from the Bronx

Martha Stewart's Farm

ANNUAL FUND DONORS

Our thanks to all who contributed.

We are pleased to report over \$10,000 was raised.

- | | |
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E-mail: wcc.nativeplant@sunywcc.edu
Brooke M. Beebe, Project Director
Nancy Inzinna, Newsletter Editor

YOU ARE NOT CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE NPC. JOIN TO HELP SUPPORT OUR MISSION AND FUTURE PROGRAMMING!

MEMBER DONATIONS CONTRIBUTE 22% OF *THE NPC* 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 our local landscape.

\$45 Friend

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
- Monthly e-mail of the *Wildflowerwire* Newsletter from our affiliate the Lady Bird Johnson 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:

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

For an additional \$30, purchase a Membership to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas

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

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