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Brooke M. Beebe, Project Director
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SEPTEMBER 2007

THE NATIVE PLANT CENTER

AT WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 19

10th Anniversary FIRST NATIONAL AFFILIATE OF THE LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
GARDEN PARTY AT FRENCH FARM
12 noon - 4 p.m.
Festivities:
◆ Fanciful gardens and live music
◆ Family Scavenger Hunt "Find the Golden Egg"
◆ Cider pressing
◆ Feed the farm animals
◆ Stroll through a "petrified forest"
◆ Perch in a life-size pterodactyl's nest atop a stone tower
12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.
◆ Gourmet picnic lunch catered by Sugar Bee Catering served with various wines and apple cider

FRENCH FARM TICKETS PER PERSON:
Adult Ticket - \$75
Child's Ticket (9 - 17) - \$25
Child's Ticket (8 and under) - \$15

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT
Phone (914) 606-7870 or visit us on our website at www.nativeplantcenter.org

FRENCH FARM CO-CHAIRS:
Heather Sandifer and Phillis Warden

FRENCH FARM COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Lois Barker, Laura B. Blau, Jinx Chapman, Claire Christ Crasto, Nancy Dexter, Cece Fabbro, Mary Hinrichs, Penelope Hofmann, Patricia Keesee, Sandra Motland, Denise C. R. Santomero and Lucille Werlinich.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4
NPC MEMBERS' FALL FIELD TRIP
Private Garden & Wildflower Meadow in Greenwich, Connecticut

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR EVENTS LISTED ABOVE.
PHONE (914) 606-7870 FOR DETAILS.

LADY BIRD JOHNSON MADE IT HER MISSION TO CALL ATTENTION TO THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE NATION

It is with heartfelt sadness that we pass along the news that Lady Bird Johnson died on July 11, 2007. It is because of your support that former First Lady Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson shared this thought with us as we dedicated the Lady Bird Johnson Demonstration Garden at Westchester Community College to her in October, 1999:

"Fifteen years ago, when I decided to 'throw my hat over the windmill' and founded the National Wildflower Research Center with the help of Helen Hayes and some like-minded friends, one of my greatest hopes was that satellite centers would rise in other regions of the country. Today, you transform that hope into reality. I am thrilled and delighted that you are affiliated with us."

Related story within.



FALL FUNDRAISER TO BE HELD AT HISTORICAL FRENCH FARM FAMILY FESTIVITIES PLANNED ARE WELL WORTH THE PRICE OF A TICKET

by Nancy Dexter, French Farm Committee Member
On Sunday, September 23rd, The NPC will host a very special family-friendly garden party and picnic at French Farm, a private estate in Greenwich, CT. This event will kick off The Center's 10th Anniversary celebrations.

Although many activities are planned, event Co-Chair Phillis Warden says, "Just a visit to the gardens at French Farm is well worth the price of a ticket." French Farm, the first Greenwich property to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, is a private gentleman's farm. The fanciful gardens, designed by owner D.R.A. Wierdsma, have been featured in *The New York Times*, *Greenwich Magazine* and *Fairfield County Home*.

Pathways with mirrors, petrified wood from Madagascar and sculptured stone lead to a "pterodactyl tower" topped by an elaborately woven nest to climb and explore. All will enjoy the whimsical touches around the grounds. The French Farm buildings were

designed by architect H. VanBuren Magonigle in 1905. The original farm, belonged to Mary Billings French, hence the name French Farm.

In 1942, Mr. Wierdsma's father bought 4 acres at the site. According to their original application for the National Register of Historic Places, the farm "provided for its owners a haven from the fast pace of urban life." The farm still contains the original, simple farm buildings from 1880. Mr. Wierdsma points out that the "historic people really liked the chicken coop."

Corporate sponsors include Petr A. Thorson & Donald J. Selinger of the Thorson/Selinger Group, Merrill Lynch PBIG, and Sugar Bee Catering.

This event will benefit The Center's two Demonstration Gardens and their many educational projects. The NPC's celebrations will include an April trip to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas, and a sumptuous Founder's Dinner in the fall of 2008.

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

NATIVE PLANT CENTER MEMBERSHIP FORM - DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE
Phone: (914) 606-7870 Fax: (914) 606-6143 E-mail: wcc.nativeplant@sunywcc.edu

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 _____
Help Save Postage & Paper - Keep Us Updated

Make checks payable to **WCC Foundation** or charge MC or Visa # _____ 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.

Sushi & Puffer, the Vietnamese potbellied pigs, will be roaming the farm for all to enjoy. Tina the lamb will be making a special appearance with the peacocks and other farm animals.



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.

CONSERVATORS

Patricia H. Keesee* Dr. & Mr. Lee Sommerfield*
Phillis Warden*

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Nancy Ross*

ADVOCATE

Karen Trepp*

RETURNING MEMBERS

Jane Beers Diane P. Cardinale* Ann K. Clark
Frank Clemens, Jr. Dr. Iris Cook
Dorothy Coyne Kathleen A. Gaffney, M.D.
Judith A. Herguth* Peggy Jett Becca Mudge
Michael G. Parker Elise Richman Marilyn Slaatten
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UPGRADED RENEWALS

Barbara A. Abeles* Lena Crandall* Ann McDuffie
Helen Oja* Ann Patton Sondra R. Peterson*
Cynthia P. Sammis* Andrea Raab Sherman*

RENEWALS

Mr. Mark Austin & Ms. Maria McKenna Lois M. Barker
Stephen Bauer Alison Beall Linda M. Beane
Susan Bender* Janice Blaire Ms. Marilyn Brown
Catherine Campbell Carol Capobianco* Marcia Case*
Susan Cherbuliez Virginia Clark Ruth Rogers Clausen
Jan Clough Lisa Cohen Patty Cohen Ann K. Collins
Christine Cook Cathy Corbin Kathleen Cotter
Marion Cowles Jean Crichton Bobbie D'Andrea
Lydia Dallis Holly Daly* Frances Dearing
Harriet Delihis* Robert L. DelTorto
Marie DeNoris Christine Detmer* Karen & Steven Doblin
Marilyn Donahue Kimberly Eierman Cece Fabbro*
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Barbara Fischer* Rip Fisher Helene Fishman
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M.J. Wilson Arline Wood Kris Wycisk

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Thorson/Selinger Group - Merrill Lynch PBIG
Sugar Bee Catering
Whole Foods of Greenwich, Connecticut



NATIVE PLANT CENTER CELEBRATES ITS 10th ANNIVERSARY!



The Native Plant Center is proud to have fulfilled Mrs. Johnson's wish for satellite centers as the first national affiliate of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. We became an affiliate in 1998 and have brought the mission and concepts of the Austin Center to the Northeast. There are now 17 other affiliates all across the United States.

As we begin our 10th anniversary year, we'd like to celebrate our growth from a small but dedicated core of volunteers to an organization of 400-plus members that promotes, protects and preserves native plants in the Northeast. Our founders, Marybeth Weston Lobdell, Marie Schwartz and Betsy Stern, had a vision ten years ago that such an organization could thrive, and so it has.

The Lady Bird Johnson installed in 1998 and Johnson and her daughters in attendance (below right). The garden was of grass near our lege Information Center. and Sara Stein, thought long and hard of the garden so it would we receive hundreds of year, where they can learn how they grow. The Stone later, and dedicated in 2005.

The NPC has given over 50 lectures, conferences and symposia for the public over the last 10 years. We hosted 23 field trips and nine overnight trips to different parts of the country to see wildflowers and gardens. (Above: Director Brooke Beebe lectures WCC students in garden)

Today, more people than ever are interested in planting native wildflowers, shrubs and trees, creating native habitats, protecting biodiversity, and reducing pesticide use and the size of their lawns. We think that we have played a part in those changes with Mrs. Johnson's support and counsel over the years, and will continue to do so in her memory.



Demonstration Garden was dedicated in 1999 with Mrs. Barbara Denson Ilma Dietz Vince Donahoe Mary R. Feely Eleanor Fitzpatrick Megan Gladstone Melanie K. Goldstine Carol S. Greenwald Emily Grotta John Habich Maria Harris Joan R. Heilman Susan Henry Jean Heyl Gary Hohenstein Hollis Keller* Gloria Lewit Kathleen Luhrs Pedro L. Maymi* Katherine P. Moreau Wendy Murphy Linda Pate Betsy Pausch Marianne Pei Donna Polizio Grisella Ramos Lynn Reichgott George Reis Maureen M. Roach* Billie Jean Sorensen Otilla Tanner Mary K. Travis Michelle Walter Mitzi Weissman



Photos by Cece Fabbro

Left:
1998 The Lady Bird Johnson Garden is installed
Above:
2005 Bountiful blooms in this garden
Right:
2007 A new sign graces the Stone Cottage Garden



ANNUAL FUND DONORS

Our thanks to all who contributed. We are pleased to report nearly \$5,000 was raised.

Bedford Garden Club Brooke M. Beebe
Elizabeth Carlton Patricia Condello
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Nancy M. Vincent M. Victor von Althann

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Our deepest thanks go to our members who support us, and we encourage you to join them.

SUPPORTING MEMBER

Jane Grant*

HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

Bill & Bunny Beekman Sally Sankin

FRIENDS

Carolyn Adessa Diane C. Alden
Barbara Anderson-Greenfield Barbara Clapman
Barbara Denson Ilma Dietz Vince Donahoe
Mary R. Feely Eleanor Fitzpatrick Megan Gladstone
Melanie K. Goldstine Carol S. Greenwald Emily Grotta
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Pedro L. Maymi* Katherine P. Moreau Wendy Murphy
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Maureen M. Roach* Billie Jean Sorensen Otilla Tanner
Mary K. Travis Michelle Walter Mitzi Weissman

* Proud supporter of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

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