

AUGUST  
2008



# THE NATIVE PLANT CENTER

AT WESTCHESTER  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER  
NUMBER 21

FIRST NATIONAL AFFILIATE  
OF THE  
LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER 27 - The NPC's 10th Anniversary Founders' Dinner

Read adjacent article for further details.  
Advance reservations required.

### SEPTEMBER 28 - Free to Members Lecture

#### *Garden with the Environment in Mind*

Presented by Douglas Tallamy, author of  
*Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants  
Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens*.

Lecture description bottom right corner.  
For information, phone (914) 606-7870.

#### 1 P.M. Lecture Open to the Public

\$10 Admission Fee at the door for  
non-NPC Members. Join today to  
attend for free. Membership form on last  
page of this newsletter.

#### NPC MEMBERS ONLY FALL FIELD TRIP

Date and destination to be announced.  
Join as an NPC member to attend.  
Member form on last page of newsletter.

#### JANUARY, 2009 - 2009 Wildflower & Native Plant Pre-Sale

- NPC mem-  
bers automatically receive a pre-sale  
list. Free list available on line for  
non-NPC members at  
[www.nativeplantcenter.org](http://www.nativeplantcenter.org) or phone  
(914) 606-7876 for a free copy.

MARCH 16, 2009

#### Landscape Design Conference

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

# 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FOUNDERS' DINNER

by Nancy Dexter

The Native Plant Center was founded ten years ago by three local residents who initiated a plan to develop a Northeastern affiliate of Lady Bird Johnson's own Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas. These visionary women, Marybeth Weston Lobdell, Marie Smith Schwartz and Betsy May Stern, were all members of the Board of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in 1998. It occurred to them native plants could be promoted and preserved most effectively by a local center. Now there are twenty-two national affiliates.

To celebrate this 10th Anniversary, a Founders' Dinner and Awards Reception will be held on Saturday, September 27, at the Bedford Golf and Tennis Club, starting with a cocktail reception at 7 p.m. Both of Lady Bird Johnson's daughters, Lynda Johnson Robb and Luci Baines Johnson, agreed to be Honorary Chairs for this event.

Awards will be presented during the dinner. Dr. Douglas W. Tallamy, Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, will receive the Lady Bird Johnson Environmental Award for his environmental advocacy and the long-range impact of his recent book, *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens*.

Katonah resident Martha Stewart, Founder, Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, will be present to accept the NPC's new Acorn Award, which is designed to honor an individual or group

that inspires people to learn about native plants and to grow them in their own gardens. Ms. Stewart, an enthusiastic gardener, has developed an extensive woodland garden at her Katonah home.

Co-Chairs of this 10th Anniversary celebration are Jan Blaire of Irvington, Laura Blau of Bedford and Phillis Warden of Bedford Hills. Phillis Warden has been involved with The Native Plant Center since its inception, generously supporting and helping to plan such events as the 'Visions of Nature' Art Show along with former Bedford resident, Mary Berol; the 2007 outing at French Farm in Greenwich; the Spring Wildflower and Native Plant Sale; and even offering tours of her own fabulous garden to benefit The NPC.

Both Laura Blau and Jan Blaire have joined the effort more recently, and are lending their expertise in event planning and fundraising as members of The NPC's Steering Committee. "We consider the Founders' Dinner a valuable way to help us grow. No donation is too small," said Ms. Blau. "Even if you can't attend, any contribution will enrich our educational mission, and help develop programs for schoolchildren."

For further information about this 10th Anniversary celebration, please contact The Native Plant Center at (914) 606-7870, or visit the website at [www.nativeplantcenter.org](http://www.nativeplantcenter.org).

## NPC DIRECTOR ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Brooke Beebe, NPC director, will be retiring in October. Brooke has spent the last ten years nurturing this non-profit organization. With the help of devoted volunteers and staff, The Center has become a leading authority on

native plants in the area.

Although it will be difficult to replace her, please visit page three for a posting of her position and Brooke's final thoughts for Native Plant Center supporters.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

### DOUGLAS TALLAMY APPEARING AT THE NPC

Gardening in this crowded world carries both moral and ecological responsibilities that we can no longer ignore. Dr. Tallamy's last sold-out talk in this area brought the audience to its feet in appreciation of his insights and vision for the future. His message: the home garden and home gardener are important! Learn how to create a garden beneficial to our ecosystem.

FREE TO NPC'S MEMBERS - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (\$10 ADMISSION FEE)  
1 P.M. AT WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAMPUS

## 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.*

### HERITAGE CIRCLE

Phillis Warden\*

### CONSERVATORS

Patricia H. Keese\*

### ADVOCATE

Barbara Abeles\* Nancy Ross\*

### RETURNING MEMBERS

Janet Beal Alan Devenish John Fava  
Cathryn Flynn Darcy Hadjipateras\*  
Sharon Hernstadt Anita Malpica Peter Muroski  
Mary Ellen Pirozzoli Dorothy Sebesta  
Caroline & David Silverstone

### UPGRADED RENEWALS

Marilyn Brown Janet Seus Helen Beekman\*  
Jan Blaire\* Maria Harris\* Angela Morris\* Chris Murray\*  
Heather Sandifer\* Sarah & Seth Glickenhous\*

### HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Anne Megaro

### RENEWALS

Diane C. Alden Barbara Anderson-Greenfield  
Lois M. Barker Alison Beall  
Susan Bender Marcia Case Barbara Clapman  
Ann K. Clark Virginia Clark Lisa Cohen  
Patricia Cohen Dr. Iris Cook Marion Cowles  
Lena Crandall\* Claire C. Crasto Bobbie D'Andrea  
Harriet Delibas\* Gracemarie Dell'Angelo\*  
Bob Del Torto & Dottie Hilton  
Marie A. DeNoris Kimberly Eierman  
Cece Fabbro\* Gwen Feher Patricia L. Fine  
Barbara Fischer\* Robert P. Fisher, Jr.  
Eleanor Fitzpatrick Dr. Kathleen A. Gaffney  
Jenny Geer Mark Gilliland\* Gerry Gilmartin\*  
Kathleen Golden Suzanne Graham  
Carol S. Greenwald Susan Henry Beth Herr  
Jean Heyl Penelope Hofmann Gary Hohenstein  
Nancy Hough Elizabeth Hunter\* Cathy Jarosz  
Hollis Keller\* Maureen P. Keller Alexandra Langner  
Kathleen Lenihan Mrs. Hugh D. Leslie  
Gloria Lewit Patricia MacGregor  
Elizabeth Martin Kathleen McArdle  
Claire C. McDonald Sue Monk  
Pru Montgomery\* Roseline Morandin  
Mary Morrisett George J. Morrison  
Helen Munoz\* Lucille S. Munz, ASLA  
Wendy Murphy\* Todd Mydland  
Michael Nadeau Maryrose Nihlen Anne Owen  
Donna Pagano Ann Patton Marianne M. Pei  
Sondra Peterson Mark Phelan Jane Poehler  
Donna Polizio Rita Poux  
Claire Prohl Christel Pugin Karen Ragins  
Grisella Ramos-Santiago Rita Ré  
Richard Redmond Lynn Reichgott  
Sandra Reyes-Guerra Dr. Nancy Rice\*  
Peggy S. Rice\* Elise Richman\*  
Barbara Rissmeyer Diana W. Rivet  
Maureen M. Roach Kaaren B. Rousseve  
Emma Lou Sailors, M.D. Cynthia P. Sammis  
Dr. Audrey Jean Sheehy Janet K. Schloat  
Sharon Schneider Gerrie Shapiro\*  
Andrea Raab Sherman Jeanne Simchick  
Cathy Slivinski Elsie M. Smith  
Mrs. Arden Sperry Barrie Curtis Spies  
Maralyn Steeg Grace M. Stuart, M.D.  
Mary Kathryn Travis Robert L. Tranzillo  
Kathleen Turner Mr. & Mrs. Boris F. Utko  
Alik Valsamakis Catherine Wachs Elizabeth Wagner  
Beth Wallach Michelle Cranwell Walter\*  
Elizabeth S. Wattles\* Kate Weingarten  
Gwyn H. Willbanks M.J. Wilson Kris Wycisk

\* Proud supporter of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

## RAIN GARDENS - SLOW, CAPTURE & INFILTRATE RAIN CREATE ONE TODAY & MAKE A DIFFERENCE

by Jan Blaire  
NPC Steering Committee Member

A rain garden can be created from a shallow depression in the ground that can be natural or man-made. A rain garden may be used to collect rain water that might normally go into the street and down a storm drain. The rain water that is initially collected contains the highest concentration of pollutants washed off of impervious surfaces such as roofs, roads, and parking lots. The stored water slowly dissipates into the ground and is naturally filtered by the stones, soil and plant roots. Rain gardens can be small areas located on a lawn or as large as a bioretention system in a parking lot. The reason for creating them is to purify and keep water where it falls and not send it out filled with pollutants into our lakes, rivers and oceans.

Rain gardens are usually planted with **perennial native plants**, and designed to slow, capture, and infiltrate rain. **Native plants** are an excellent choice for planting because they are drought-resistant, are best adapted to soil and temperature conditions in a particular area, and attract butterflies and birds.

### RAIN GARDENS ARE BENEFICIAL BECAUSE THEY:

- Recharge local groundwater
- Conserve water
- Improve water quality
- Remove standing water in a yard
- Reduce mosquito breeding
- Reduce potential for flooding

In addition to creating a rain garden, you may also choose to buy or make a rain barrel. Rain barrels are containers that collect rain water from your roof. This water can be used later to water plants inside or outside your home.

It is becoming more apparent that there is a need for water conservation across the entire country. Keeping rain water where it falls is a natural solution. By creating a rain garden, you will have a lovely garden plus you will be helping to protect our rivers, streams, and lakes from pollution caused by dirty water from heavy storms, i.e., stormwater runoff.

## HUNDREDS OF GARDENERS IN THE TRI-STATE AREA INCORPORATE THE USE OF NATIVES TO LANDSCAPE PROPERTY

Desire and dedication lead to over 4,000 wildflowers and natives plants being sold this past Spring by The Native Plant Center at the 9th Annual Plant Sale. The desire, as well as the dedication to educate the community about why using native plants in a garden enhances the landscape and helps the environment, made this year's Plant Sale the most successful yet.

No sooner did the 2007 Plant Sale end, the planning for the 2008 Sale began. Through careful orchestration by the Plant Sale Chair, Carolyn Summers, and NPC staff members, Brooke Beebe, Beth Roach and Nancy Inzinna, the process resumed. In December, the jolly man in the red suit was not the only one checking lists, so were we! Supplier lists, pre-sale lists, volunteer lists, customer lists ... the results were phenomenal. By May 3, over eighty varieties of native plants were on their way to a new home, ultimately to sustain area wildlife, conserve resources, and beautify the northeast.

If you are interested in participating in the 2009 Plant Sale, there are many volunteer opportunities available. Contact The NPC Volunteer Coordinator, Beth Roach at (914) 606-7876 for further details. Non-NPC members: phone for your free Pre-Sale list.



*Plant Natives!  
One plant in one  
garden makes a  
difference.*



Photos by: Sandy Morrissey

Dedicated volunteers answered questions about native plants at this year's Sale.

## MEMBERS' FIELD TRIP

In June, NPC members embarked on a visit to Swindler Cove Park, a project of the New York Restoration Project (NYRP). Amy Gavaris, executive vice president of the NYRP, and Chris Vanterpool, director of horticulture, led us on a very informative tour through the wilds of upper Manhattan. Starting at the education center, where boats are built by students based on historical models, we moved along the shoreline of Sherman Creek to the Harlem River and Swindler Cove Park itself.

Amy was able to give us special access to the Peter Jay Sharpe boathouse, a floating structure in the Harlem River. We saw some of the boats built by students, and where the shells for various crewing teams were stored. Children from the neighborhood – in fact, all over New York – are encouraged to come there and learn how to row. The NYRP's plan is to train students in this sport – especially girls – to help them become eligible for college sports scholarships around the country.

The weather was fine, the tour fascinating, and the NPC members delightful – a perfect day!

## NATIVE NEWS

Brooke M. Beebe

It is a bittersweet moment for me to be writing my last *Native News*, where I share with you all the interesting pieces of plant information that come my way. I am definitely looking forward to my retirement in October (though I can't believe I'll be sitting still for very long), and I will certainly be following the progress of The Native Plant Center as it goes onward and upward.

If you want to see the remarkable path we've traveled, please go to the link on our website at [www.nativeplantcenter.com](http://www.nativeplantcenter.com) called "NPC Years in Review-Summer 2008" at the bottom of the home page. I say "we've traveled" deliberately, because without the support of our volunteers, members, community and all of you who are reading this now, we would not have been able to accomplish most of this.

So, a big heartfelt THANK YOU for your support, which has allowed Nancy Inzinna, Beth Roach and me to continue planting, promoting and protecting our valuable native plants for the last ten years.

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I thought you might be interested in this information from an article written by Michelle Buckstrup from *City Trees*.

"The Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA) has chosen black tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*) as its Urban Tree of the Year. The Urban Tree of the Year must be adaptable to a variety of harsh conditions and have strong ornamental traits.

"Dr. Michael Dirr, calls black tupelo, with its glossy leaves, attractive blue fruits, and unsurpassed fall color, 'one of our most beautiful native trees.' In the tree's native range, from Maine to Florida (Zone 4 to 9), it can be found from dry ledges to swamps. Therefore, city foresters from Chattanooga to Milwaukee find that black tupelo is a useful urban tree for swales or other sites prone to

seasonal flood/drought cycles. Although *Nyssa* doesn't perform well in very alkaline soils, it has been observed coping admirably with clay soils. It is relatively pest-free.

"Of course, there is no one perfect tree for every situation, and black tupelo has its limitations. It can be tricky to transplant and slow to establish, and it needs a moderate soil pH to perform best. It should be given adequate space to grow: with proper tree care, it can be expected to mature at approximately 45 feet tall and 25 feet wide."

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I cannot leave you without thanking our founders, Marybeth Weston Lobdell, Marie Schwartz and Betsy May Stern. As you have no doubt read in the Founders' Dinner article, these women had the vision ten years ago to begin this first, little affiliate of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. The Wildflower Center now has twenty-two affiliates and partners to help them in their work.

My thanks also go to the vision of Dr. Joseph Hankin, president of Westchester Community College and Shirley Phillips, executive director of the Westchester Community College Foundation, who welcomed this fledgling organization (who knew it would grow so much?) and fully backed all our endeavors, from creating Demonstration Gardens on the campus to letting us use a stone cottage to house our office.

Lastly, my heartfelt thanks go to Nancy Inzinna, our Media and Membership Coordinator, who has been at the NPC almost as long as I have, and has contributed in so many ways to the success of this organization, from designing and publishing the newsletter, keeping the website up-to-date, bringing in members, providing invaluable event support and so many other things. Thank you, Nancy!

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

*Our deepest thanks go to our newest members.*

### SUPPORTING MEMBER

Beverly Isis\* Ann R. Roberts\*

### HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

Christian Daviron William & Kristina Georges  
Nancy & Brad Spaulding

### FRIENDS

Deborah Behler Marion Brown\*  
Betsy Hills Bush Kathleen Conlon Dana Connell  
Amy Cooper Stephen D. Corrsin Susan Crawford  
Jan Crittenden Ron Dionne Barbara Gerson  
Judy Kennedy Nan Klemmer Kate Kune Kogler  
Rowan Lindley Leslie Needham  
Katherine E. Nelson Rhona Neuwirth  
Helen Richardson Lora Robins Emily Sack  
Walter Schatz Brett Schneiderman  
Beth Stephens Sarah Tucker  
Melanie Wyler Betsy Towl Christian Daviron

\* Proud supporter of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

### BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS

Ann Brooke Design, Inc.  
Garden Club of Irvington-on-Hudson  
The Garden Club of Mamaroneck  
The Garden Club of Yorktown  
Highstead Arboretum Hill & Dale Garden Club  
Hudson River Garden Club  
Larry Weaner Landscape Design\*  
Little Gardens of Tarrytown  
Pleasantville Garden Club  
Rye Garden Club Rusticus Garden Club  
Saw Mill River Audubon Society  
Town of Mamaroneck Conservation Department  
Verdant Landscapes Wave Hill, Inc.  
Westover Landscape Design, Inc.

### DONATIONS

The Braewold Fund Chevron Matching Gifts Program  
Jean Crichton Kimberly Eierman  
William and Kristina Georges  
JP Morgan Chase Foundation  
Alexandra Langner Patricia MacGregor  
Barbara E. Marks Alan Vernon  
Lucy R. Waletzky, M.D.\*

\*\*\*\*\*

### JOB POSTING: P/T DIRECTOR, NPC

Candidates with the following qualifications submit salary history, w/letter & resume to: Westchester Community College, HR Dept., 75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla, NY 10595; fax (914)606-7838 or e-mail [humanresources@sunywcc.edu](mailto:humanresources@sunywcc.edu). For more info, pls visit: [www.sunywcc.edu/jobs](http://www.sunywcc.edu/jobs). AA/EOE.

#### Job Responsibilities Include:

- Developing and implementing programs, including education and outreach
- Supervising maintenance of demonstration gardens and a familiarity with native plants
- Communications/public relations experience including written and oral communications and public contact
- Fund raising, including events and grant writing experience

BA required, + min three years exp w/in a college, not for profit org, or community svc agency or program. 1 yr supervisory exp req'd. Sal \$48,270, pro-rated, w/benefits. Part time, 21 hours a week (occasional weekend days), with excellent benefits.



The Native Plant Center  
 75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla, NY 10595  
 Website: www.nativeplantcenter.org  
 E-mail: wcc.nativeplant@sunywcc.edu  
 Brooke M. Beebe, Project Director  
 Nancy Inzinna, Newsletter Editor

## 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.