

AUGUST
2004

THE NATIVE PLANT CENTER

NEWSLETTER
NUMBER 13

AT WESTCHESTER
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



FIRST NATIONAL AFFILIATE
OF THE
LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 17 - 21

Native Plant Trip to Chicago &
Midwestern Prairies

October 2

Champagne/Bufferet Gala
Visions of Nature Art & Photography
Show and Sale - Meet the Artists

October 3 - 9

The Native Plant Center's Art &
Photography Show and Sale
Open to the Public - Admission Free

October 5

- LUNCHEON LECTURE:
The Art of John James Audubon
with Dr. Annette Blaugrund

October 6

- LUNCHEON SLIDE LECTURE:
Thirty Years of Garden Photography
with Curtice Taylor

October 7

- FREE MEMBERS' ONLY TOUR:
Gallery & Garden Guided Tours with
photographer Cece Fabbro

October 14 or 21

NPC Members' Only Field Trip
Stone Barns Center for Food
and Agriculture

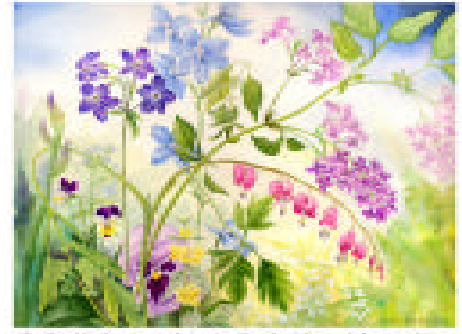
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR
ALL EVENTS LISTED ABOVE,
UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED
(914) 785-7870.

VISIONS OF NATURE ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW & SALE - EXHIBIT BEGINS OCTOBER 3

by Cece Fabbro

The Native Plant Center and the Westchester Community College Foundation will once again present a special exhibit and sale of artworks in the College's Fine Arts Gallery this fall. Thirty artists' and photographers' works, selected by Mirella Hajjar, art historian, professor of photography and curator of the Brownson Gallery, Manhattanville College, will grace the Gallery's walls from October 2nd through October 9th. This year, over half the artists will be first-time exhibitors to the show.

A Champagne/Bufferet Gala and fundraising event will open the show Saturday, October 2nd. Two luncheon speakers will be featured this year. Dr. Annette Blaugrund, director of the National Academy Museum and School of Fine Arts, will speak on *The Art of John James Audubon*. Curtice Taylor, noted garden photographer, will offer a slide lecture on *Thirty Years of Garden Photography*. Photographer, Cece Fabbro will host a free members' only tour of the Gallery and Wildflower Garden on Thursday, October 7.



Tickets for the Gala are available at various levels. The Wildflower Guardian level is \$500 or more, Benefactor level \$250, Patron level \$150. Individual tickets are \$60 each.

Visions of Nature Show Hours October 3 - 9

Sunday - 12 noon - 3 p.m.
Monday - Saturday - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Thursday Evening - 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Friday Evening - 7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Gallery Closed for Pre-registered Events

Tuesday, Oct. 5 - 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 6 - 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 7 - 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Art will be sold during above hours
or by appointment. Call (914) 785-7870.

Travel East and West to Visit Great Gardens

Join *The Native Plant Center* on Sept. 17 - 21, as we visit the landscape of the pioneers - the American prairie. Come with us to see Chicago's architecture, lakefront, parks and gardens and the new Millennium Park.

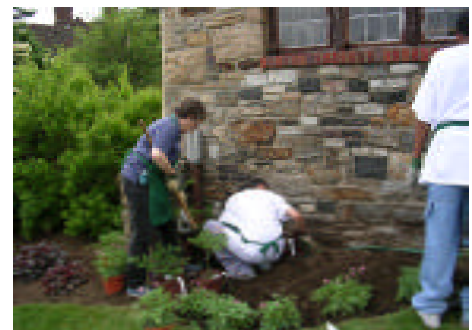
Cruise aboard the Queen Mary 2 to England on June 20 - July 2, 2005. This Trans Atlantic Sailing & London Land

Tour offers 13 days and 12 nights of excitement. See flyer enclosed.

Members receive a discount on the trip to Chicago. If you are interested in supporting future programs offered by *The Center*, please join today. Membership benefits are listed on the last page of this newsletter.

STONE COTTAGE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN GETS SPRUCED UP

Our Stone Cottage Garden was spruced up this June with the addition of over 60 native plants to the beds, such as elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) and bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*). Barbara Fischer, WAY (Work Appreciation for Youth) Greenhouse Supervisor at Children's Village, recruited four of her best students to dig holes and plant the new natives. Students from her program have also volunteered at our last two plant sales.



Barbara Fischer assists boys from Children's Village in planting of black cohosh.

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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RENEWALS

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JOE-PYE WEED - NOT A WEED AT ALL

by Connie Krochmal

The golden glow of the autumn sun shows the flaming golden-rod and fall asters at their best. Despite the undisputed beauty of these wild species, my loyalties lie with the joe-pye weeds.

These lovely wildflowers are often found in moist, low spots and meadows. I've often noticed them growing along the edges of woods.

I'm not alone in admiring these wild plants, members of the aster family. In the late summer and fall when they bloom, they become a magnet for butterflies. The flower heads are particularly reliable nectar and pollen sources, since they bloom for about six weeks.

Joe-pye weeds thrive in moist garden soils in partial shade to full sun where they require little attention. For optimal growth, amend the bed with organic matter before planting. Though they will tolerate a range of pH, they don't do well in pure clay or sand.

As garden plants, the joe-pye weeds suffer from one drawback-their size. These giant, multi-stemmed perennials, five to ten feet in height, can appear tall and gangly. The solution is to take advantage of their stature. Let these architectural plants add height to the garden. I put them at the back of mixed borders. When interplanted with shrubs, they create a perfect background for viewing early summer-flowering perennials. Later in the season when the joe-pyes bloom, they become the center of attention.

According to folklore, several stories account for the common name. They were named after Joe Pye, an early American herbal healer. Some sources say he was a Native American. Another story says that the plants were used to treat typhoid patients, and that the native word for typhoid sounded something like joe-pye. Historically,

joe-pye weeds have been used for various ailments.

There are several species of joe-pye weeds. Spotted joe-pye weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*) has a solid stem that may be dark purple or green with purple spots. This species prefers moist soil. The blooms open in flat-topped heads. There are four to five leaves per whorl.

Hollow joe-pye weed (*Eupatorium fistulosum*) is noted for its hollow stem, which is purple all over. The blooms may be pink to purple, and it has four to seven leaves per whorl. This species occurs in thickets and wet meadows.

Sweet joe-pye weed (*Eupatorium purpureum*) has a solid stem with purple only at the nodes.

*They were named after
Joe Pye, an early
American herbal healer.
Some sources say he was a
Native American.*

There are three to four leaves per whorl. When crushed, the fragrance is reminiscent of vanilla. The pink blooms occur as dome-shaped heads. This species is found in moist to

dry woods. For gardens, this is a very good choice, since it will tolerate a drier soil than the others.

One of the best choices for gardens is the cultivar, 'Gateway.' This improved, refined plant is only five feet tall. There is less space between the nodes, which keeps the stems very compact. The flower heads are very thick and tight. This plant is in the collections at Cornell Plantations. It was discovered by Kurt Bluemel, the legendary nurseryman.

The only confusing thing about this wonderful cultivar is its origins. Some catalogs list it as a cultivar of *E. maculatum*, while others say it is *E. purpureum*. What we can't deny is that it is a perfect garden plant.

Connie Krochmal is a horticulturist and free lance writer specializing in native plants. This article originally appeared in the October 2003 issue of "Solidago", the newsletter of the Finger Lakes Native Plant Society.

NATIVE NEWS

Brooke M. Beebe

If you are not a member of *The Native Plant Center*, and wish to be mailed a Presale Order Form in January for the 2005 Wildflower & Native Plant Sale, phone (914) 785-7870 or send your request to wcc.nativeplant@sunywcc.edu. Members receive forms automatically as well as many other benefits. See back page for more details.

Spring events: The 2004 Wildflower Symposium: *Native Plants Are for the Birds* was successful both as a fundraiser and "friendraiser." We were thrilled to have co-sponsored the Symposium with five local Audubon Societies, and to see so many of their members there, both as audience participants and presenters.

The Board of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center invited me to their May meeting to present the history and accomplishments of *The NPC*, which I was happy to do. All that we have done, we owe to you, our generous members, supporters and volunteers.

The Plant Sale kicked off Wildflower Week, which we promoted in conjunction with the Texas Center. The Plant Sale not only attracted home owners looking for natives to fill their gardens, but also people working at various parks all over Westchester County. The word is getting out that this is the place to get the best natives, thanks to our super Plant Sale Committee under the leadership of Anne Megaro, who decides what plants we will offer.



Photo by: Cece Fabbro

Rip Fisher, Parks Commissioner of Crane Berkley Park, and his wife, Noreen, shop for native plants for this six-acre park in Scarsdale.

Project Wildflower update: Seeded in June, 2002, the wildflower plantings along the Taconic State Parkway are now

blooming with more vigor and variety than ever. Spotted in the four-acre plantings in July were: tickseed (*Coreopsis lanceolata*), purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), false sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*), wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), yellow coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*), and many, many black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia hirta*). Driving by, the diversity is hard to spot, but the very tall plants towering over the meadows are yellow coneflowers, the pale lavender flowers are wild bergamot, and the deep pinks are purple coneflowers.

The meadows were planted between the Pleasantville Road/Pleasantville exit and the 134/Ossining exit. To get a close-up look at the plantings, get off at the Pinesbridge Road exit and park in the shoulder or up on Pinesbridge Road. The meadow in the triangle created by the Parkway and the exit is full of flowers and, of course, many butterflies and other insects. It is quite a sight.

News from Texas: The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center has chosen Susan Rieff, former policy director for land stewardship at the National Wildlife Federation, as their new Director. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Texas Christian University with a degree in environmental sciences, Ms. Rieff also holds a Master of Public Affairs degree from the University of Texas and has completed additional graduate work at Duke University. She is a part-time visiting professor at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas. We welcome her to the world of native plant enthusiasts.

Garden Conservancy Open Day: Visitors were treated to two gardens in full flower in mid-July. If you haven't seen the Lady Bird Johnson Demonstration Garden or the new Stone Cottage Garden, late summer and fall are good times to visit. Just when other gardens are suffering a mid-summer slump, the native gardens are booming and blooming.

NPC members will be offered another guided tour of the garden this fall on Thursday, October 7. See the Art Show article on page one of this newsletter.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

CONSERVATORS

Patricia H. Keesee Lucy R. Waletzky, M.D.
Lucille Werlinich

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Rye Garden Club Saw Mill River Audubon
Teatown Lake Reservation Three Arrows Coop Society
Westchester Fairfield Horticultural Society

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Harriet Delahas Mrs. Jules Enrich Judith Higgins
The J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation - Matching Gift Program
The Garden Club of Englewood
The Garden Club of Yorktown
White Plains Garden Club

STONE COTTAGE GARDEN DONATIONS

Lucille Werlinich Cynthia P. Sammis

MEMBERSHIP RAFFLE WINNER

Cindy Coombs

2004 RAFFLE PRIZES DONATED BY

Crown House Antiques Cece & Richard Fabbro
Green Valley Nursery Michaels Garden Gate
Millwood Garden Center Perennial Gardens
Rosedale Nursery Smith & Hawkin
Valhalla Garden Center & Florist Wild Bird Center



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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. Consider joining today! 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. Your contribution is directly related to our success. As a member, you may participate in upcoming events for free or for a discounted fee.

\$30 Friend

Help support our programs and operations

Benefits include:

- Advance notice of all Symposia, lectures and garden tours
- 10% discount on Symposia and classes
- Invitation to *Members' Only* NPC Field Trips

\$60 Dual Member

Be a friend of both *The Native Plant Center* and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas

Benefits include all of the above, plus:

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center benefits:

- Award winning magazine, *Native Plants*
- 10% discount on *Wild Ideas* The Store and Catalog
- Free admission for a full year to the Austin Center
- Reciprocal privileges at more than 100 gardens around the country
- Discounts on Clearinghouse information

\$75 Household Member and Garden Clubs/Organizations

Benefits include all of the above, plus:

- 10% discount on Symposia and lectures for **two** household members

\$125 - \$999 Sustaining Member

Sustain outreach projects and activities of *The Native Plant Center*

Benefits include all of the above

\$1,000-\$4,999 Conservator

Help build and maintain demonstration gardens

Benefits include all of the above, plus:

- Gift book about wildflowers

\$5,000 + Heritage Circle

Assume a leadership role in *The Native Plant Center*

Benefits include all of the above, plus:

- Teak garden bench at college with inscribed brass plaque

Native Plant Center Membership Form

Phone: (914) 785-7870 Fax: (914) 785-6143 E-mail: wcc.nativeplant@sunywcc.edu

_____ \$30 Friend _____ \$60 Dual _____ \$75 Household (Suggested Garden Club Level)

_____ \$125 - \$999 Sustaining _____ \$1,000 - \$4,999 Conservator _____ \$5,000 + Heritage Circle

_____ 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** _____

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.