

FEBRUARY
2007

THE NATIVE PLANT CENTER

AT WESTCHESTER
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER
NUMBER 18



FIRST NATIONAL AFFILIATE
OF THE
LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 3 - *Carolyn Summers*
Pre-Sale Plant Selection Workshop

March 1
Plant Pre-Sale Order Deadline

March 3 - *A. Megaro & B. Fischer*
Sow & Grow Natives Workshop

March 15 - *William Cullina,
Rick Darke & Larry Weaner*
NDAL: The Layered Landscape

April 28 - 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
2007 Wildflower & Native Plant Sale

May 7-12 - National Wildflower Week
Visit www.nativeplantcenter.org for
events around Westchester County

May 7 - *Carolyn Summers*
Gardening with Nature

May 8 - *Brooke Beebe*
Tour of the NPC Demonstration Gardens

May 10 - *Carol Gracie*
A Closer Look at Spring Wildflowers

May 17
NPC Members' Spring Field Trip
Teatown's Wildflower Island

July 15
Garden Conservancy Open Day
Free Guided Tours - 12 noon - 4 p.m.
Park in Lot # 1 at West. Comm. College

July 25 - 27 - Phone for Details
Annual Garden Tour of
Connecticut and Massachusetts

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

EMULATE NATURE IN YOUR BACKYARD WITH TECHNIQUES LEARNED AT THE NDAL CONFERENCE

On Thursday, March 15 at Westchester Community College, *The NPC* will co-sponsor *The Layered Landscape: Creating Natural Gardens From the Ground Up* with New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL), an organization focused on educating professionals about native/natural landscape design. Although planned for landscape architects, designers, planners and other professionals, it will be of interest to anyone interested in ecological landscaping and native plants.

This year's conference will be presented by nationally renowned speakers: William Cullina (New England Wild Flower Society),

Rick Darke (author and consultant) and Larry Weaner (Larry Weaner Landscape Design Associates).

While garden plans are often static two-dimensional documents, our native landscapes consist of interwoven and multi-layered tapestries that transform dramatically over time. In this conference we will illustrate how plants grow and proliferate in their native habitats, and how that information can be used to create more dynamic landscape gardens.

Registration form and further conference details available on the web at www.nativeplantcenter.org, or on the 2007 Lecture insert in this newsletter.

INVENTORY INCREASES FOR THE 2007 NATIVE PLANT SALE !

by Carolyn Summers, Plant Sale Chair

Now that winter is finally here, it must be time to order new plants for spring from *The Native Plant Center!* Members should have received a copy of the Plant Pre-Sale list. By ordering early you will have the best chance of getting some truly extraordinary plants this year. The 8th Annual Wildflower & Native Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, April 28 from 10 a.m. - noon at Westchester Community College.

Once again, we have some hard-to-find native plants from the New England Wild Flower Society (NEWFS), the venerable institution based in Massachusetts that runs Garden in the Woods. These plants are rarely available in the commercial nursery trade, but be aware that quantities may be limited, so order early! All plants from NEWFS are ethically propagated and true to name.

In addition, we are fortunate to be able to again offer plants from McCue's

Nursery in Connecticut (see related article on page 2) and another local source, Pinelands Nursery in New Jersey. We continue to expand our offering of affordable groundcovers, grasses, annuals and short-lived perennials sold as economical, easy-to-plant "plugs." Finally, this year we're going for the butterflies, offering even more plants than usual that butterflies find irresistible, including, by special request, limited quantities of the monarch's favorite: common milkweed, *Asclepias syriaca*, as well as the usual butterflyweed, *Asclepias tuberosa*, and the rare nodding milkweed, *Asclepias exaltata*.

Visit *The Center's* website at www.nativeplantcenter.org for Pre-Sale Plant Photo Gallery. For design suggestions to stimulate your creative vision, we have indicated which plants might be appropriate for "Butterfly Border" and "Shady Grove" designs.

ARTICLES FEATURED WITHIN . . .

- ◆ NATIVES NESTLED IN FOR THE WINTER
- ◆ WILDLIFE MINI-MEADOW - PERFECT SOLUTION FOR THE HORIZONTALLY CHALLENGED BACKYARD
- ◆ ANDREW SPANO RECEIVES ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD
- ◆ NATIVE PLANT CENTER GARDEN TOUR

WILDFLOWER WEEK: MAY 7 - 12 EVENTS AROUND TOWN . . .

- ◆ TEATOWN LAKE RESERVATION
MAY 9, 11 AND 12 - (914) 762-2912
 - ◆ GREENBURGH NATURE CENTER
MAY 12 - (914) 723-3470
- COMPLETE LISTING OF EVENTS AVAILABLE
AT WWW.NATIVEPLANTCENTER.ORG

NOT AN NPC MEMBER? GET YOUR FREE COPY OF THE PLANT PRE-SALE LIST!
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.NATIVEPLANTCENTER.ORG - ORDER DEADLINE: MARCH 1.

McCUE'S NATIVES NESTLED IN FOR THE WINTER

by Carolyn Summers

Tucked away on a quaint residential street in Connecticut, McCue's Nursery is easy to miss. But if you drive slowly down the street, a few telltale signs - a glimpse of some tarps and equipment in back of a modest home - provide clues confirmed by a small sign hanging from the house. A walk around back reveals the amazingly compact nursery that produces 400,000 perennials on less than three acres.

I interviewed owner Bruce McCue as he was in the process of putting the nursery to bed for the winter. Most of the tightly packed rows were already covered by white polyester "blankets" pulled tight over homemade hoops that keep the snow from crushing the plants. This coming season marks the 40th year of operation for McCue's Nursery. The teenage Bruce McCue started propagating plants on a bet with the original Comstock and Ferre Company (located

behind the present-day McCue's Nursery). Success with pansies has expanded to success with a vast inventory of perennials, including some of the more difficult to propagate native wildflowers, such as Painted Trillium.

Although not strictly a native plant nursery, McCue's specializes in native wildflowers. Tucked away in the back of the nursery are permanent beds holding thousands of stock plants of trilliums, orchids and other wildflowers. Most propagation is by division. This rich store of plants was built up over the years by careful, licensed collecting. Bruce maintains contact with a network of plant people, including one 80-year-old man who runs salvage operations "in front of" the bulldozers. Bruce showed me a small section of bed just planted with over 400 yellow ladyslippers salvaged from a site for a new Walmart.

Nowadays, most native plant enthusiasts consider any type of salvage collecting suspect. Speaking with Bruce

McCue about some of his failed attempts to prevent stands of precious wildflowers from being mowed down and bulldozed all around him in suburban Connecticut gave me a slightly different perspective. Bruce's evident love of his wildflowers clearly outweighs any business motive that would bring harm to wild populations.

As it is the policy of *The NPC* to offer only nursery-propagated native plants, none of the recently rescued yellow ladyslippers will be offered at our sale. We are pleased, however, to be able to offer many of McCue's own nursery-propagated wildflowers, including ladyslippers from McCue's own stock.

We are interested in the opinions of our members on the subject of plant rescue/collection. We welcome your thoughts on whether you feel our policy is too protective, or not protective enough. And, regardless, we hope to see you voting with your pocketbook at our 2007 Native Plant Sale on Saturday, April 28.

A WILDLIFE MINI-MEADOW GROWS UNDER MY KITCHEN WINDOW - - - LIMITED SPACE? NO PROBLEM - LET WILDFLOWERS & NATIVES WORK FOR YOU!

by Sandy Morrissey

A fritillary butterfly floats by. The ruby-throated hummingbird helicopters in for a sip of salvia. The bees are busy on the black-eyed Susan. I enjoy this whirl of activity outside my kitchen window as I pour my own nectar - a glass of diet Coke.

Two summers ago I removed a bed of overgrown evergreens and replaced them with plants that I knew - after years of wildlife gardening - would attract birds and butterflies. My new garden outside my kitchen has been such a delight. In a space that is only 15 feet by 6 feet, I created a meadow.

I have listed the top ten best plants in my garden in Hartsdale for luring wildlife of the winged variety. All these plants do well in my "part-shade" property. Plan to add these plants to your garden in the spring and you, too, can enjoy this gorgeous fauna flitting amongst your beautiful flora. *Similar species offered in our 2007 Plant Sale are marked with *.*

Natives:

1. * *Monarda* (beebalm). Top performing variety is 'Raspberry Wine.'
2. *Lonicera sempervirens* 'Magnifica.' A native trumpet honeysuckle.
3. *Echinacea purpurea* (purple coneflower). Birds, especially goldfinches, love its seeds
4. *Phlox paniculata* (garden phlox). Fragrant. 'Robert Poore' and 'Bright Eyes' great choices.
5. * *Rudbeckia nitida* 'Herbstsonne.' Attracts butterflies, bees and other flying insects. Birds like its seeds.
6. * *Liatris* (gay feather). A native that attracts the most different species of butterflies.

Non-Natives:

7. *Buddleia davidii* (butterfly bush). Butterfly nectar plant.
8. *Salvia guaranitica*. My #1 hummingbird plant.
9. *Verbena bonariensis*. Great for both hummingbirds and butterflies.
10. *Nepeta faassenii* (catmint). Both butterflies and hummingbirds visit often.

Editor's Choice



Meadow Anemone - *Anemone canadense*
53 in the 2007 Pre-Sale

Hummingbirds also nectar at my native *Heuchera* and *Lobelia cardinalis*, also *hosta*, *lantana*, *zinnia*, and *impatiens*. Butterflies visit my **Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly weed), **asters*, **Eupatorium purpureum* (Joe-pye weed) and *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy' - all important late-summer and fall-blooming perennials.

For more information on plant culture or questions, please e-mail Sandy at sandym@cloud9.net. Visit www.nativeplantcenter.org for the complete version of this article.

Sandy Morrissey is a Bronx River-Sound Shore Audubon board member and an avid birder, butterflyer and gardener.

ANDREW SPANO RECEIVES NPC'S ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

County Executive Andrew J. Spano is the first recipient of the Lady Bird Johnson Environmental Award, which recognizes an individual or group for environmental advocacy and/or leadership, particularly involving native plants. He received the award from Brooke Beebe, director of *The Native Plant Center*, at the Art Show Gala on October 14, 2006 at Westchester Community College. Mr. Spano was honored primarily for his 2001 Executive Order, which mandates the planting of wildflowers and native plants on Westchester County properties.

NATIVE NEWS

Brooke M. Beebe

On January 9, *The Native Plant Center* was proud to accept the Millennium Trophy award given by the Westchester Fairfield Horticultural Society. This award has been presented annually since 2000 to a group or an individual who have contributed to horticulture in the local community.

Save the date, July 25 – 27, for *The Native Plant Center's* trip to Connecticut and Massachusetts! We have an exclusive invitation to a private 450 acre estate in the northwest corner of Connecticut. A tour of the native meadows, large areas of planted and managed woodlands, a formal reflecting pool, and a highly refined cutting garden will be lead by the designer of the natural plantings, Larry Weaner, who will discuss the design, planting and management techniques behind this unique landscape. From there we will proceed to historic Deerfield. Visits to gardens, historic homes and native nursery Nasami Farms will follow.

To welcome Spring's arrival, *The NPC* is joining forces with Teatown Lake Reservation and Westchester County Parks to celebrate Westchester Wildflower Week May 7 – 13. These three organizations will co-sponsor the promotion of the week, which is coordinated with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's National Wildflower Week.

During this week, the three Co-Sponsors will have special programs to focus the public's attention on wildflowers, the threat to wildflowers and the need to preserve them. Members of any Sponsoring Organization will receive membership discounts for any event. Learn about, conserve and enjoy wildflowers!

Roxana Robinson shared a fine essay with us called *The Monarch and the Milkweed* which begins, "Near my back door is a tall straggly plant, with an awkward shape, nearly colorless flowers. If you saw it you'd think it was a weed, and you'd be right. I planted it." Turns out she planted the common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), the best native milkweed for Monarch butterflies' eggs. (We're selling that plant, along with two other milkweeds, in our Wildflower and Native Plant Pre-Sale this year.) For the full essay, visit our website.

On Garden Conservancy Open Day on July 15, we are delighted that Nancy Hough will be back at WCC to demonstrate how she raises monarchs from egg to butterfly. Also, she will hold a butterfly-rearing workshop here on July 28 at 10 a.m. Sign up for the workshop on the Lecture Registration Form.

Monarch butterflies were very plentiful in the Northeast this year, and we're hoping for a repeat performance this year. *The NPC* became a certified Monarch Waystation in October. We are #895 in the registry.

Volunteers needed! We are shameless about tapping into the talents of our tireless volunteers. Without them, we wouldn't have fabulous flower arrangements for our Art Show lunches, gardening and designing help, connections to plant suppliers, and all sorts of other things. If you have a talent you'd like to share, call us at (914) 606-7876.

NPC NON - MEMBERS
PHONE (914) 606 - 7876 FOR
YOUR PLANT PRE-SALE LIST.
ORDER DEADLINE:
MARCH 1, 2007

WELCOME MEMBERS

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

CONSERVATORS

Betsy Stern* Lucille Werlinich*

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Carolyn Summers*

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Ms. Helen Stier Kathleen Strader

UPGRADED RENEWALS

Christine Detmer* Sandra Morrissey*
Clare M. Pierson* Peggy S. Rice*

RENEWALS

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* Proud supporter of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

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The New York Botanical Garden
Heather & Michael Sandifer Betsy Stern
Carolyn Summers Phyllis Warden Lucille Werlinich



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Website: www.nativeplantcenter.org
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

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 \$ _____
Addit. \$30 Applicable for \$45 or \$80 Level ONLY

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.)

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

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

THE NATIVE PLANT CENTER'S 2007 SPRING LECTURE SERIES

PRE-SALE PLANT SELECTION WORKSHOP WITH PERSONAL SHOPPERS - MEMBERS ONLY

Carolyn Summers
Saturday, February 3
10 – 12 noon at WCC

Plant Sale Chair Carolyn Summers will begin by showing slides of many of the plants listed in the 2007 Pre-Sale List growing in her own garden. Then, NPC members can consult with our own "Personal Shoppers." They'll help you choose the best plants for your garden from our better-than-ever Pre-Sale List. NPC members: your list will arrive in late January. Bring your copy and we can help you fill out the Order Form. Enjoy a morning with our volunteer experts and learn more about our wonderful natives. Join as a member to attend.

Carolyn Summers worked for New York City's Department of Environmental Protection as the Director of Natural Resources for seven years, and implemented a new native plants policy for all agency construction projects. She currently works as a self-employed consultant on a variety of environmental issues and is the Chair of the NPC's Wildflower and Native Plant Sale.

SOW & GROW NATIVES WORKSHOP

SPACE LIMITED - REGISTER EARLY

Anne Megaro and Barbara Fischer
Saturday, March 3
9:30 – 11:30 a.m. at WCC

Have you tried to grow your own meadow (or just some impatiens) from seed and failed? Take this course and learn from the mistakes of your teachers! Class covers the basic techniques and pitfalls of seed sowing as well as the more advanced requirements of many native perennials. This hands-on program supplies you with soil, packs, seeds and bags for seeded packs. You will sow and take home packs of *Aquilegia canadensis* (wild columbine) and *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly weed). Proper transplanting and aftercare will also be demonstrated.

Anne Megaro has been teaching planting techniques for 20 years at Wildcliff Greenhouse in New Rochelle. As Field Coordinator for Groundwork Yonkers, Inc., she works on environmental projects.

Barbara Fischer, a Master Gardener, runs the after-school greenhouse program for The Children's Village in Dobbs Ferry. She is the Co-Chair of the NPC's Steering Committee.

CELEBRATE WILDFLOWER WEEK AT THE NATIVE PLANT CENTER IN MAY

GARDENING WITH NATURE

Carolyn Summers
Monday, May 7
5 - 7 p.m. at WCC

Integrating native plants with your garden design is fun and easy and this program will stimulate your creativity. This speaker will use examples from her own gardens in Westchester and the Catskills, and will cover plants for beauty and wildlife in shade, sun, wet and dry conditions. She will show how to use non-native plants responsibly by explaining some basic plant reproductive strategies, with the emphasis on gardening *with* nature rather than against nature for much better results.

Carolyn Summers worked for New York City's Department of Environmental Protection as the Director of Natural Resources for seven years, and implemented a new native plants policy for all agency construction projects. She currently works as a self-employed consultant on a variety of environmental issues and is the Chair of the NPC's Wildflower and Native Plant Sale.

A CLOSER LOOK AT SPRING WILDFLOWERS

Carol Gracie
Thursday, May 10
5 - 7 p.m. at WCC

The wildflowers that brighten the Northeastern woodlands in spring are more than just a delight for the eye and a lift for the winter-weary spirit. Come learn about the interesting life histories of some of your favorite spring wildflowers. Topics will include adaptations for early blooming, medicinal and other uses, the origin of wildflower names, and pollination and seed dispersal.

Carol Gracie is the co-author of Wildflowers in the Field and Forest: A Field Guide to the Northeastern United States published in 2006. She is also a co-author and photographer for a two volume work on the plants of central French Guiana. Since 1983 Carol has organized and led natural history tours for The New York Botanical Garden. Destinations include the Amazon, the Galapagos, and European sites known for their scenic beauty and profusion of wildflowers. Carol lectures on wildflowers, both local and from afar, and on some of her travel destinations.

THE LAYERED LANDSCAPE - NDAL SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

William Cullina is the Nursery Director at Nasami Farm and Head Propagator at the Garden in the Woods, both of which are owned and operated by the New England Wild Flower Society. He is also the author of *Native Trees, Shrubs and Vines* and *Growing and Propagating Wildflowers*. His newest book, *Native Ferns, Moss and Grasses* will be published in the fall of 2007.

Rick Darke heads a Pennsylvania-based consulting firm focused on landscape ethics, photography, and contextual design. He has been photographing and studying North American plant communities for over 30 years. His work has been featured on National Public Radio and is reflected in his many books including *The American Woodland Garden: Capturing the Spirit of the Deciduous Forest* and his latest, *The Encyclopedia of Grasses for Livable Landscapes*. For further information see: www.rickdarke.com

Larry Weaner is president of Larry Weaner Landscape Design Associates, a natural landscape design/build firm that he founded in 1982. He has lectured throughout the U.S. and his projects have been featured in numerous publications. He is a past board member and environmental committee chair of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers, and developed the New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL) educational series in 1990.

NATIVE PLANT CENTER 2007 LECTURE REGISTRATION FORM

SAVE POSTAGE & PAPER - INCLUDE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS TO RECEIVE YOUR CONFIRMATION

REGISTER A FRIEND AT REGULAR PRICE AND SAVE \$2 ON YOUR REGISTRATION

REGISTER FOR 3 OR MORE LECTURES AND SAVE \$5 ON THE TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE

	Amount	Name _____
_____ Pre-Sale Plant Selection Workshop (FREE - OPEN TO MEMBERS ONLY)	N/A	Street _____
_____ Sow & Grow Natives Workshop (Fee: \$25 non-member, \$22 member)	_____	City _____
_____ NDAL: The Layered Landscape (Fee: \$118 non-member, \$110 member) (Fee includes lunch and breaks)	_____	State _____ Zip _____
_____ Gardening with Nature (Fee: \$20 non-member, \$18 member)	_____	Day Phone: _____
_____ A Closer Look at Spring Wildflowers (Fee: \$20 non-member, \$18 member)	_____	E-mail: _____ <small>(Lecture confirmation & directions will be e-mailed to you.)</small>
_____ Raise Butterflies at Home (See Native News) (Fee: \$20 non-member, \$18 member)	_____	Please make checks payable to WCC Foundation _____ I wish to pay by credit card (Visa/MC)
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