

JANUARY
2008

THE NATIVE PLANT CENTER

AT WESTCHESTER
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER
NUMBER 20

FIRST NATIONAL AFFILIATE
OF THE
LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2 - Carolyn Summers & NPC
Volunteer Plant Experts
NPC Members Only
Pre-Sale Plant Selection Slide Show and
Workshop with Personal Shoppers

FEBRUARY 22 - Pre-Sale Order Deadline

Six-Part Lecture Series

Carolyn Summers

Native New Yorkers

FEBRUARY 29 - *Why Natives*

MARCH 7 - *Principles of Safe Sex*

MARCH 14 - *Wildlife Habitat*

MARCH 28 - *Native Substitutes*

APRIL 4 - *Shopping & Design*

MARCH 8 - Anne Megaro & Barbara Fischer

Sow & Grow Natives Workshop

MARCH 20

Natural Landscape Design Conference

RADICAL TRANSFORMATIONS

MAY 3: 10 A.M. - 12 NOON

2008 Wildflower & Native Plant Sale

MAY 21

TRIP & Lunch - Fee Applicable

Quaker Hill in Pawling, New York

JUNE 19

NPC MEMBERS' SPRING FIELD TRIP

NY Restoration Project, Swindler's Cove

JUNE 28 - Sven Hoeger

Rain Gardens Workshop

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

10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS WELL UNDERWAY FOR THE NATIVE PLANT CENTER

by Nancy Inzinna, Editor

As with all well-planted seeds, The Native Plant Center continues to grow strong as it enters its tenth year as Westchester County's leading authority on northeastern natives. Its yearlong anniversary celebrations kicked off in September at historical French Farm. Additional celebratory events are predicted to draw participants from as far away as Texas when members of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center visit their New York affiliate for the Founders' Dinner.

Two hundred visitors stepped back in time for a day at French Farm. Adults and children alike savored the warmth of the autumn sun as they strolled through the fantasy garden and petrified "forest." Others just perched in a life-size crow's nest atop a stone tower. Many participated in a scavenger hunt and pressed cider as live music wafted through the air. Farm animals galore were on hand to delight the little ones. Pound Ridge Nursery was on hand to introduce a variety of native plants. Martha Stewart joined in the festivities to meet and mingle with other guests.

Various committees have developed educational and entertaining events. Scheduled events will run through September, 2008.

The Spring Lecture Series will begin with the 2nd Annual Personal Shopper Day for NPC members. A native plant slide show will be presented to NPC members. After being introduced to a

wide variety of wildflowers available for purchase through the 2008 Plant Pre-Sale, native plant experts will be on hand to provide answers to the age-old question, "What native plants will grow best in my garden?" Additional lectures include *Sow and Grow*, a hands-on workshop, *Rain Gardens* workshop, and an innovative six-part lecture series, *Native New Yorkers*. The Spring Conference *Radical Transformations: The Process of Natural Landscape Establishment* will be held on Thursday, March 20.

Twenty eight travelers will embark on a trip to Texas. Included in the trip is a visit to where The NPC's roots began, The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, located in Austin. For information, phone (914) 606-7715.

The 9th Annual Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, May 3 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The Wildflower and Native Plant Pre-Sale Order Form will be mailed in January. Over 55 varieties of native plants will be available in this year's Pre-Sale. NPC members will automatically receive a copy. **Not an NPC member? Request your complimentary copy on the website at www.nativeplantcenter.org.**

The year-end Anniversary celebrations will conclude with a Founders' Dinner to honor Betsy Stern, Marybeth Weston Lobdell, and Marie Schwartz at the Bedford Golf and Tennis Club. Invitations will be mailed in July.

5TH ANNUAL NATURAL LANDSCAPE DESIGN CONFERENCE

On Thursday, March 20, The NPC will host the 5th Annual Natural Landscape Design Conference at Westchester Community College with co-sponsor New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL). This year's theme will be *Radical Transformations: The Process of Natural Landscape Establishment* with speakers William Shutkin, global leader in sustainability and author of the award-winning *The Land that Could Be* and other books, Dr. Richard Lighty, founding director of Mt. Cuba Center, and Larry Weaner, president of Larry Weaner Landscape Design Associates. Although planned for landscape architects, planners, designers and other professionals, it will be of interest to anyone interested in ecological landscaping. Continuing education units (CEUs) will be available for Landscape Architects and designers.

Continued on page 2

NOT A MEMBER? GET YOUR FREE COPY OF THE 2008 PLANT PRE-SALE LIST AT
WWW.NATIVEPLANTCENTER.ORG OR PHONE (914) 606-7870.

PRE-SALE ORDER DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 22

BOOK REVIEW

BRINGING NATURE HOME BY DOUGLAS W. TALLAMY

by Carolyn Summers

For those of us native plant enthusiasts who have struggled to explain our gardens to those gardeners who insist on planting anything from everywhere, Doug Tallamy has given us a wonderful new tool called *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in our Gardens*. This book is chock-full of compelling facts based on late-breaking scientific research proving that gardening with native plants is not just fun, but necessary, if we are to save our wildlife populations from crashing.

Professor Tallamy cites facts, statistics and studies to build the case that native plants are the base upon which the

entire food chain rests. When exotic plant species begin to make up a high percentage of our vegetation, insect populations will inevitably plunge, causing havoc in the natural world.

The uninitiated may think that sounds fine, but without an adequate supply of high-protein insect food, baby birds cannot fledge. And, of course, the food chain doesn't end with birds. The good news is that we, as native plant gardeners, can turn things around.

My only disappointment with the book is a lack of information about maintenance. It would be nice to have some signal, tied perhaps to some annual

phenomenon such as shadbush flowering, to let us know that the over-wintered caterpillars are out and about and we can commence spring clean-up without harm to them.

This book has the potential to be as influential as Sarah Stein's *Noah's Garden*. I believe it will help convince many more gardeners and landscape professionals to turn away from stylish biological deserts and towards gloriously productive wildlife habitats.

Visit www.nativeplantcenter.org to read the full review of this book.

Continued from Page 1

SPRING CONFERENCE MARCH 20TH

COME CELEBRATE THE FIRST DAY OF SPRING

Our three speakers will be inspirational as well as practical. Bill Shutkin was described by environmentalist Bill McKibben as "among the very smartest people out wandering the frontier of social and environmental possibility, the kind of guide we'll be relying on in the difficult years to come." In his lecture, he will illustrate how local landscape decisions affect not only our own backyards, but the planet as a whole. His book, *The Republic of Trees*, is "... a must-read for all those who believe ... that a green and just world is possible and a primer on how to get there." (Cheryl L. Dorsey)

Larry Weaner has inspired professional and amateur designers alike with his haunting pictures and narratives of sweeping native plant landscapes. In fact, an NPC member was so taken with his presentation at WCC several years ago that she engaged him to convert her whole Hastings property to an ecosystem filled with native plants. Larry has worked with the NPC on various projects for years, most notably on *Project Wildflower*, designing and installing wildflower meadows on the Taconic

Parkway.

Can you believe that Dick Lighty and his wife Sally have gardened for 46 years on seven acres of woodland and sunny, open space around their home and that they maintain it themselves working only about 8 hours per week? Dr. Lighty is a legend in the gardening world, and he will have many secrets to share about plants, design and low garden maintenance. Winner of horticultural awards too numerous to mention, he was the founding Director of Mt. Cuba Center for the Study of Piedmont Flora and founded the Longwood Graduate Program in Public Garden Administration at the University of Delaware.

SPRING CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION & DETAILS
AT
WWW.NATIVEPLANTCENTER.ORG
OR USE
2008 SPRING LECTURE SERIES
NEWSLETTER INSERT TO
REGISTER

ADDITIONAL LECTURES

SPACE LIMITED - ADVANCED REGISTRATION
(SEE SPRING LECTURE INSERT)

PRE-SALE PLANT SELECTION WORKSHOP SLIDE SHOW & PERSONAL SHOPPERS

Saturday, February 2

10 – 12 noon at WCC - **Members Only**

Slide show of plants listed in the 2008 Pre-Sale list, followed by consultations with our own "Personal Shoppers." They'll help you choose the best plants for your garden. NPC members: your list will arrive in late January. Bring your copy and we can help you fill out the Order Form.

SOW & GROW NATIVES WORKSHOP

Saturday, March 8

9:30 – 11:30 a.m. at WCC

Have you tried to grow your own meadow (or just some impatiens) from seed and failed? This 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.

Claire Aniela Arthurs, the park and recreation supervisor at the Rockefeller State Park Preserve, sent us an update on the status of the "wildflower garden" in the median within Route 117 between the entrance and the exit. "The wildflower garden was mismanaged for years and wound up looking disastrous. The Preserve had neither the staff, resources, or expertise to handle it. Through generous consultation and efforts from Brooke Beebe, of The Native Plant Center, and Al Agrasto, of the Department of Transportation, that area is now a part of Department of Transportation's Project Wildflower. They have several highway wildflower prairies that they manage beautifully. This is a much better fit and the Preserve and public are lucky to benefit from the future flowers and peaceful view along 117."

The NPC is delighted that Claire and the Preserve have taken this initiative to beautify the median strip and expand Project Wildflower further into Westchester County. To see the history of Project Wildflower, go to www.nativeplantcenter.org/hortev.htm

Native plant gardens are springing up not only in private residences, but also in public spaces. We recently visited a new garden at Kendal Residences in Tarrytown, NY, spearheaded by NPC members Cynthia Sammis and Jean Heyl. With approval from Kendal, they bought plants at our Plant Sale and incorporated them into a large shrub bed. We hope to have pictures of this successful project on the website next summer.

The Torrey Botanical Society offers a series of free botanical walks to the general public lead by local botanists throughout NY, NJ, and CT. These events are a great way to learn about the local trees, shrubs, wildflowers and ferns. For more information, please visit their website: www.torreybotanical.org

Did you know that during World War II, children in the United States were encouraged to collect seed pods from the native common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) for the war effort? The silky threads attached to the seeds are light and buoyant, and they were used to stuff life vests and flying suits. Does anyone know any other ways native plants are used or have been used?

In our efforts to go even more "green" Nancy Inzina, newsletter editor and marketing coordinator, is asking people on our mailing list if they would like to receive newsletters and select information electronically by e-mail rather than via the mail, saving paper, postage and office personnel hours. She has received a tremendous response. If you would like to join this "Go Green" initiative, just let us know at wcc.nativeplant@sunywcc.edu.

Your address will not be shared with any other organization, and your mailbox will not be inundated with unnecessary correspondence. Please alert us to any address changes.

For over a year, Barbara Fischer, NPC Co-Chair, has been visiting local nurseries with other Steering Committee members to ask what more the NPC could do for them. The results of her conversations are most interesting. Most nurseries would like us to provide them with attractive lists of native plants. Suggestions were made for membership cards for discounts and website links. This kind of interaction is essential if we wish to have nurseries carry and correctly label good selections of native plants. We'll keep you informed of her progress on this vital project.

ANNOUNCEMENT - DEADLINE 2/22
2008 Plant Pre-Sale Order Forms Available
For your copy and to view photo catalog visit www.nativeplantcenter.org or phone (914) 606-7870

2007

ANNUAL FUND DONORS

Our thanks to all who contributed.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

SUPPORTING MEMBER

Katherine Bang* Jill Lerner*

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Debra Arch-Myers & Forrest W. Myers
Sarah & Seth Glickenhau Ellen & Eric Petersen
Carolyn Swensen

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Susan Fragala Lynne Hansen Maria Harris*
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Lisa Miller Polly Rattner Sonia Rieber Sheila Stein

RENEWALS

Our deepest thanks go to our previous members.

CONSERVATOR

Betsy May Stern* Lucille Werlinich*

RETURNING MEMBERS

Russell Hammond Florence Zipkin

UPGRADED RENEWALS

Gracemarie Dell'Angelo Ana Hajduk
Sandra C. Motland

2007 RENEWALS: JULY - DECEMBER

Lynne G. Arnold	Katherine Barnard	Jeri D. Barrett
Linda M. Beane	Brooke M. Beebe	Melvin Berry
Laura Blau	Julie Bouchet-Horowitz	
John R. Whitton Bria	Ann Brooke	Pip Cacciato*
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Barbara M. Dille	Lisa L. Dorfman	June Farnham
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Mary Hinrichs	Eleanor Hoffman	Lauretta Jones
Maxine J. Kaplan*	Esther Kates	Sally Krefting
Linda Lefkowitz	Lorraine Levine	Vera Matic
Ann Van N. McDuffie	Michelle R. McNally*	
Rosalind Mendell	Leonard J. Miller	
Sandra C. Morrissey	Marjorie Phillips*	
Clare M. Pierson	Elaine Sanders	Nancy Sessions
Jean Sparacin	Jack Stadler	Maralyn Steeg
Penny Steppacher	Carolyn Summers*	
Judith L. Terlizzi	Theresa Tori	Robert L. Tranzillo
Justine Troia	Sissy VonAncken	
Elizabeth H. Wagner	John & Phillis Zekauskas*	

DONATIONS

Katherine Bang Janet S. Beal Inge Jensen Brown
Janet S. Matthews Marie D. Schwartz

* Generous Supporter of The Lady Bird Johnson Center in Texas



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** _____

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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** _____

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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 2008 SPRING LECTURE SERIES NATIVE NEW YORKERS: PLANTS AND OTHER WILDLIFE FOR YOUR GARDEN

Carolyn Summers

Friday: Feb. 29; March 7, 14, 28; April 4 (2 hours/double session)

10: 30 - 11:30 a.m.

Supported by: Poundridge Nurseries, Inc., Rosedale Nurseries, Inc., Sprainbrook Nursery, Inc.

For design professionals, master gardeners and gardening enthusiasts, this 6-part course provides a comprehensive foundation for garden design using regional native plants. Issues covered include wildlife benefits, harmful invasives and sustainable design. Students will learn to apply basic ecological and design principles in their own and clients' gardens.

Course participants who attend all six lectures will receive credit towards the Native Plant Center's Certificate of Merit.

Why Natives The first unit explains the essential roles played by native plants in the food web, roles that cannot be duplicated by exotic plants.

Principles of Safe Sex in the Garden This lecture covers the minimal and safe use of exotics; learn to use plant reproductive strategies to limit spread of exotics and enhance native plant productivity.

The Garden as Wildlife Habitat This unit will cover plantings and design elements for basic wildlife needs, discuss the role of maintenance in nurturing wildlife populations and a brief overview of deer control.

Showy Native Substitutes for Popular Plants This will highlight some of the more obscure natives, in addition to unusual cultivars of well-known natives.

Basic Design Concepts and Styles; Grouping Natives by Habitat Explore the design versatility of native plants as applied to traditional vernacular styles such as Japanese and English, as well as a brief overview of natural habitat design.

Shopping for Native Plants The last unit will briefly cover sources for some of the more obscure natives, as well as a review and Q&A for the previous sessions.

THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE DESIGN 2008 SPRING CONFERENCE

RADICAL TRANSFORMATIONS: THE PROCESS OF NATURAL LANDSCAPE ESTABLISHMENT

CEUs AVAILABLE FOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS & DESIGNERS

SPEAKER PROFILES REVERSE SIDE

Thursday, March 20th 2008 (Snow Date: March 21, 2008)

8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Co-Sponsored by The Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College and New Directions in the American Landscape

Everything is changing in our landscape gardens; why we create them, how we plant them, and how we live in them are all being re-evaluated and revolutionized. Explore with our distinguished presenters how innovation, creativity and ecological understanding can enhance the individual experiences and global impacts that our landscapes provide.

The Big Picture

Backyard Forward: Small Places, Big Decisions - *William Shutkin*

Zoom in on Google Earth from the stratosphere to a single property and you will see, quite literally, where the big meets the small. From the profound to the practical, Mr. Shutkin will illustrate how local landscape decisions affect not only our own backyards, but the planet as a whole.

The Details

Creating Natural Landscapes for the Real World - *Larry Weaner*

Are native plant gardens automatically "low maintenance"? Are all natural gardens "wild" in appearance? What actually is a "sustainable" landscape? In this presentation we will move beyond the buzzwords and oversimplifications to examine a practical, step by step process for creating easily managed landscapes that seamlessly combine ecological diversity, cultural expression, and garden art.

The Long Term

Gardening on Earth: A Half-century of Respect for Nature - *Richard W. Lighty, Ph.D*

Over a 45-year period, Dick Lighty and his wife Sally have designed, installed and maintained, without outside help, a seven and one-half acre property with two and one-half acres of lawn and gardens. These include sunny meadows, woodland wildflower glades, mixed borders, wetland landscapes, and numerous edible and ornamental gardens. Dr. Lighty will illustrate how the use of innovative techniques, many derived directly from natural processes, has allowed them to reduce maintenance on these extensive gardens and natural areas to approximately 8 hours per week.

RADICAL TRANSFORMATIONS - CONFERENCE SPEAKER PROFILES

William Shutkin is a global leader in sustainability and social entrepreneurship. An attorney, author, educator and non-profit leader, Shutkin's expertise spans a variety of fields and disciplines, from urban planning to economic development, green design to global warming, public policy to social justice. He has written two books, the award-winning *The Land That Could Be: Environmentalism and Democracy in the Twenty-First Century* and *A Republic of Trees, Fields Notes on People, Place and the Planet*. The legendary environmentalist David Brower described Shutkin as "an environmental visionary creating solutions to today's problems with a passion that would make John Muir and Martin Luther King equally proud."

Larry Weaner is recognized nationally for his work in integrating the ecological sciences with the fine art of garden design. He has been president of Larry Weaner Landscape Design Associates since 1982 and has designed gardens throughout the Eastern U.S. Larry's projects have been featured in national and international publications and he is a past board member and environmental committee chair of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers. He also developed the New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL) educational series in 1990.

Richard W. Lighty is a pioneer in the introduction of native plants for gardeners, particularly in his work as the founding director of Mt. Cuba Center for the Study of Piedmont Flora in Greenville, De. From 1983 to 1998 he managed the center's development emphasizing the selection, introduction and display of native plants. He has been honored by many prestigious organizations including the Arthur Hoyt Scott Medal from the Scott Arboretum at Swarthmore College, and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Perennial Plant Association. He also serves on numerous boards including The Garden Conservancy, Longwood Gardens and The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

NATIVE PLANT CENTER 2008 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

JOIN AS A MEMBER AND SAVE - MEMBERSHIP FORM ON LAST PAGE OF NEWSLETTER

	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 _____
		State _____ Zip _____
_____ Spring Conference: Radical Transformations (Fee: \$122 non-member, \$115 member) (Fee includes lunch and breaks)	_____	Day Phone: _____
		E-mail: _____ <small>(Lecture confirmation & directions will be e-mailed to you.)</small>
_____ Native to New York Six-Part Series (Fee: \$82 non-member, \$75 member)	_____	Please make checks payable to WCC Foundation
Feb. 29 Why Natives		_____ I wish to pay by credit card (Visa/MC)
March 7 Principles of Safe Sex in the Garden		Card # _____
March 14 The Garden as a Wildlife Habitat		Exp. Date _____
March 28 Showy Native Substitutes for Popular Plants		Card Holder's Name _____
April 4 Basic Design Concepts and Style; Grouping Natives by Habitat		Card Holder's Signature _____
April 4 Shopping for Native Plants		
Lectures Sub-Total	\$ _____	
Subtract Applicable Discount	\$ _____	
Total Amount Enclosed	\$ _____	
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Special discounts on lecture fees for senior citizens and WCC staff members/students. Phone for details.