

AUGUST
2003

THE NATIVE PLANT CENTER

AT WESTCHESTER
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER
NUMBER 11



FIRST NATIONAL AFFILIATE
OF THE
LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 14

Wildflower Tours at the LBJ Demo Garden - Free & Open to the Public

September 20

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

September 21 - September 27

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

September 23

- LUNCHEON LECTURE: *Art as Nature - the Hudson River School Artists* with **Anthony Speiser**

- TEA AND SHERRY TALK: *Collecting Nature Art* with **Roberta S. Rosenthal**

October 4

- MORNING WORKSHOP: *Secrets & Myths: Native Plant Propagation*
- AFTERNOON LECTURE: *Beyond Black-eyed Susans: Exceptional Natives for Creative Gardening*
William Cullina

October 17

**Low Impact Development & Site Design Conference:
Let Nature Do the Work, II**

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

SECOND ANNUAL VISIONS OF NATURE ART & PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW AND SALE

by Betty Wamsley, Art Show Co-Chair

The Native Plant Center and the Westchester Community College Foundation will once again present a special exhibit and sale of artworks this fall. This year's exhibition will feature works by 40 select artists and photographers from the tri-state region. Landscape, still life, animal, and botanical works in oil, acrylic, pastel, watercolor, graphics and color and black and white photographs will grace the walls of the WCC Fine Arts Gallery Sunday, September 21 through Saturday, September 27, 2003.

A Champagne/Bufferet Gala and fund raising event will open the show on Saturday, September 20th. Our luncheon speaker this year will be Anthony Speiser, of the Newington Cropsey Foundation, who will give a talk on the Hudson River School Artists, his specialty. At an afternoon tea and sherry, Roberta S. Rosenthal, accomplished artist and illustrator, will speak about criteria for collecting botanical and nature art.

Tickets for the Gala are available at



© Cece Fabbro

Secret Garden photo by participating artist Cece Fabbro

various levels. The Wildflower Guardian level is \$500 +, Benefactor level \$250, Patron level \$150 and the Individual level is \$60. Please phone (914) 785-7870 for tickets or additional information. We look forward to seeing you at the Gala.

Visions of Nature Show Hours

Sunday - 12 noon - 4 p.m.
Monday - Saturday - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Thursday Evening - 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Closed Tuesday, September 23

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

AUTHOR WILLIAM CULLINA SHARES GROWING SECRETS AT WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

William Cullina, nursery manager and head propagator of the New England Wild Flower Society in Massachusetts, will make a rare appearance in Westchester to present a propagation workshop and lecture on Saturday, October 4 at Westchester Community College.

Learn all about native seeds and sowing in *Secrets and Myths: Native Plant*

Propagation, a hands-on workshop. In *Beyond Black-eyed Susans: Exceptional Natives for Creative Gardening*, you will discover plants that thrill the eye and feed the soul.

Space is limited for these exciting presentations, so sign up early. More information and registration can be found on page two of this newsletter.

WILDFLOWER TOURS AT THE LBJ DEMONSTRATION GARDEN



Please join us for guided tours of the Lady Bird Johnson Demonstration Garden at Westchester Community College on Sunday, September 14 from 12 to 4 p.m. as part of the Garden Conservancy's Open Days

Program. There is no charge for admission.

The Demonstration Garden, which includes two wildflower meadows, was planted in 1998, and includes more than fifty species of native perennials, grasses, ferns, shrubs and trees. For more information, call *The Native Plant Center* at (914)785-7870. For details about the Garden Conservancy and its programs, phone (845) 265-5384.

DISCOVER PLANTS THAT THRILL THE EYE AND FEED THE SOUL!

For one day only, William Cullina, nursery manager and head propagator at the New England Wild Flower Society's Garden in the Woods, will present a workshop and a lecture in October at Westchester Community College. He is an extraordinarily knowledgeable and inspiring speaker. He is the author of *The New England Wild Flower Society Guide to Growing and Propagating Wildflowers* and *Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines – a guide to using, growing and propagating North American woody plants*, both of which are essential for the native plant lover's library. Do not miss this opportunity!



Secrets and Myths: Native Plant Propagation

Saturday, October 4, 10 – 2:30 p.m. at WCC – *Bring lunch*

In Bill's own words, "Raising your own plants from seed is like deciding to brew your own beer or knit your own sweaters – it is a commitment to immerse yourself completely in something you feel passionately about. When I collect and clean seeds, sow them and nurture the young plants to adulthood, they are old friends by the time they find a place in my garden. They are like the kids next door who I have watched grow up – and that fosters a connection that can't be had by merely purchasing a plant at your local purveyor. I think you learn a great deal about a plant's needs and habits along the way, and as a bonus, you can grace your garden with all manner of interesting things.

"Yes – raising plants from seeds is cheap, and it inevitably leaves you with extras to share with friends. It is one of the most profoundly satisfying things I can think of to spend my time doing. Granted, growing woodland wildflowers or native trees does require some patience, but is not difficult if you understand some basic aspects of their biology.

"Starting from seed also gives you access to an incredible diversity of species available from specialty nurseries, collecting forays, plant society seed exchanges and your own back yard. Many rare unusual plants are often only available as seeds, and other wonderful natives are too "wild" to attract the attention of commercial growers. Most of all, though, it's just plain fun, and once you wade through the flood of confusing technical language and well-meaning but misguided information out there, it is pretty easy as well.

"So come, enjoy the talk, and let's get propagating!"

Beyond Black-eyed Susans: Exceptional Natives for Creative Gardening

Saturday, October 4, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. at WCC

Though gardening with native plants has truly come of age in this country, the nursery industry has barely begun to tap the amazing diversity within our flora. You don't need to travel to Tibet to find plants that will thrill the eye and feed the soul.

In this program, Bill Cullina will profile some of the outstanding native perennials yet to be discovered by the gardening public. His slides will show their remarkable beauty, and he will give sources for finding these treasures. Novice and experienced gardener alike will want to include these plants in their gardening plans for next spring!

----- REGISTRATION FORM -----

Propagation Workshop October 4, 10 – 2:30 p.m.

\$55 (NPC member) \$60 (Non-member)

Beyond Black-eyed Susans October 4, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

\$22 (NPC member) \$25 (Non-member)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Total # of attendees _____ Total amount due \$ _____

Check (payable to WCCF)  

Credit card # _____

Exp. Date _____

Limited Space - Register Early!

For information or to register by phone, call (914) 785-7870. Fax to (914) 785-6143.
Mail this form to: *The Native Plant Center* at WCC, 75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla, NY 10595

NPC FIELD TRIP

NPC MEMBERS VISIT MARSHLANDS CONSERVANCY

by Penny Hofmann

On a recent Saturday, *Native Plant Center* members were treated to a guided walk at the Marshlands Conservancy in Rye, operated by the Westchester County Department of Parks.

As we waited for the participants to arrive, we viewed Libby Wagner's beautifully hand-painted depictions of the four different ecosystems of Marshlands Conservancy and her individual paintings of the native plants that grow there.

With this introduction, Curator Alison Beall proceeded to show us how each of these ecosystems are continually changing due to animals, insects, plants and climate.

We saw stands of trees in the forest area planted by the Jay family. She taught us with the flower of the tulip tree how to

remember the names of the male and female plant parts – staMEN and “pistil” packing Mama. We appreciated the beauty of the meadow that has been preserved as a meadow, and reminds us of what the view was like hundreds of years ago here.

Alison Beall encouraged us to return in July to see the meadow when the butterfly weed will be in bloom and in the fall to see the Indian paintbrush's display.

I learned so much on this walk and came away feeling so inspired by Alison's enthusiasm. I am excited about learning more and tending my own garden of native plants.

Penny Hofmann's first activity with The NPC was the trip to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas. She is a gardner who says that native plants have given her garden a new direction.

NATIVE NEWS

Brooke M. Beebe

If you are not a NPC Member, and wish to be mailed a Presale Order Form in January for the 2004 Wildflower & Native Plant Sale, phone (914) 785-7870.

Project Wildflower, another joint NPC project, has not only come to fruition, but is in flower! Six wildflower meadows along the Taconic State Parkway between the Pleasantville Road/Pleasantville exit and the 134/Ossining exit are in full bloom. Project Wildflower, initiated several years ago by Westchester Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, is a joint project of the NYS Department of Transportation, *The Native Plant Center* and Teatown Lake Reservation.

Seeds were sown in June; then we were hit by a long period of summer drought. Our consultant, Larry Weaner, assured us that the seeds would remain viable and germinate when the fall or spring rains came. They did, and as I write this, the meadows are thick with golden tickseed (*Coreopsis lanceolata*), creating a spectacular sea of yellow. Soon to bloom are purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), yellow coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*) and black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia hirta*).

In fall, we should be seeing asters (*Aster laevis* and *A. laterifolius*), goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*, *S. speciosa* and *S. nemoralis*). Some of the planted species take more time to develop and take hold, but in years to come, the

meadow will be dotted with anise hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*), Angelica (*Angelica atropurpurea*) and the native grasses which are essential to the meadows' success.

Native birds, bees and butterflies will benefit from the food and shelter these meadows provide. Non-productive grassy areas have been changed into productive, life-enhancing and beautiful meadows, thanks to the foresight of the NYS DOT. See the before and after pictures on page four of this newsletter.

Suffer from allergies and/or hay fever? Don't blame our lovely, native goldenrods (*Solidago spp.*) for it. The allergy culprit is ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*), whose flowers are wind-pollinated, and so small you'd barely notice them. But often blooming nearby are the very obvious goldenrods, whose flowers are insect-pollinated. When people sneeze, they assume the flowers they see are the cause.

Pollen meant to drift from plant to plant on the wind (wind-pollinated) is necessarily light and finds its way easily to your nose. Goldenrod pollen is big and sticky, made to cling to the bodies of pollinating insects. It can't be carried by the wind. Observe the bees and other insects getting covered with yellow goldenrod pollen as they move from flower to flower. You can stick your own nose in these flowers, too. No harm done!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

CONSERVATORS

Pat Keesee Lucy R. Waletzky, M.D. Phillis Warden

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Elizabeth Pedersen

DUAL MEMBERS

Hannah Burtnik Pip Cacciato Kathleen Cotter
Elizabeth Felber Jean Poindexter Waldes & Milo Waldes
Ken & Jean Halajian Patricia V. Henken
J. David Jackson Steve Miller Angela Morris
Anne Owen Marysue Robson John C. Shalvoy
Barrie Curtis Spies Lee & Doris Wiese

FRIENDS

John Auerbacher Chiara Becchi Ann Berdy
Marilyn Brown Denise Cancellare Belinda Cash
Carol A. Cioppa Ann Clark Jackie Clements
Lisa M. Cohen Karen Cowperthwaite
Mrs. Barbara M. Dille Marilyn Donahue
Patricia Ellis Pat Fine Karen Flynn
Shirley K. Friedman Robert Frommer Kathy Gaffney
Daryl Graves John P. Haas Henrietta Hendrick
Mrs. Penelope B. Hofmann Elise M. Hurley
Ann & James Kutter Patricia Mac Naughton
Elizabeth Martin Mr. Tom Morrison
Marjorie H. Nichols Marianita G. Perlstein
Elise Richman Diana W. Rivet Carol Sencen
Diane L. Singer Cathy Slivinski William T. M. Smith
Natalie Sutcliffe Stein Ronnie Taubenfeld
Mattie Varvaro Marvin Wexler
Suzanne Willis Arline Wood

RENEWALS

Jay Archer Midge Arnold Ms. Betsy Atkins
Susan Beebe Mary Berol Melvin Berry
Ruth Bierhoff Regina A. Blakeslee Linda Bourke
Marion Brown Kim Burns Anne P. Cabot
Susan Cherbuliez Joan Coffey Carol Coggeshall
Thomas Cohn Norma B. Collier Christine Cook
Catherine M. Corbin Marion Cowles Jean Crichton
Sally S. Cross Gracemarie Dell'Angelo
Robert DelTorto Jaclin B. Farrell Mary R. Feely
Barbara Fischer Beth W. Flanz Warren Geisler
Bernard F. Haley Judith Higgins Rob & Anne Houck
Elizabeth J. Hunter Gail Jankus
Tom Julius & W. Serkin Esther Kates David Kvinge
Alexandra Langer Carol LeFevre Mrs. Hugh D. Leslie
Chester Logan Fran MacEachron Janet S. Matthews
Anne Megaro Rosalind B. Mendell
Pru & Clark Montgomery Mary Morrisett
Helen Munoz Bruce Neary Blanche Nelson
Mercer W. O'Hara Sondra Peterson Kate Peyser
Mr. George Pouder Virginia & Jonathan Powers
Warrie Price Kathy Reuter Rosalin Rogers
Dorothy A. Rosner Denise C.R. Santomero
Janet K. Schloot Cecile D. Singer Marilyn Slatten
Mrs. Bradford Smith Jane Smith
Ed Sorken & Sharon Moskow Penny Steppacher
Carolyn Summers Linda Sweeney Anni Sylvester
Sinforosa "Rose" Tan, Ph.D. Ellen Temple
Dorothy Thomas Jane Torrence Beth Wallach
Joan G. Williams Linda B. Wilson Florence Zipkin

BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS

Ann Brooke's Gardens, LLC. Briarcliff Manor Garden Club
Garden Club of Irvington on Hudson
Garden Section of the White Plains Woman's Club
Garth Woods Conservancy Highstead Arboretum
Manitoga, Inc. Rye Garden Club, Inc.
Saw Mill River Audubon Teatown Lake Reservation, Inc.
The Garden Club of Yorktown Verdant Landscapes
Westchester Fairfield Horticulture Society
White Plains Garden Club Yonkers Planning Bureau

DONATIONS

Mrs. Marilyn Bonapace Mr. Richard D. Forman
Jean Stone Rusticus Garden Club

STONE COTTAGE GARDEN DONATIONS

Lucille Werlinch

Native Plant Center Newsletter is published by
Westchester Community College Foundation,
75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla, NY 10595
E-mail: wcc.nativeplant@sunywcc.edu
Website: nativeplantcenter.org
Brooke M. Beebe, Project Director
Nancy Inzinna, Newsletter Editor



Upper Left Photo: Despite the rain, volunteers loaded-up wagons full of natives for loyal Plant Sale customers in April, 2003.

Lower Photo: Even the youngest of *Native Plant Center* volunteers weathered the downpour to help spread sunshine with a sunflower demonstration.



Photos by: Bennett Edelman



Above Photo: Summer, 2003 - Wildflower plantings at Pines Bridge Road entrance ramp on Taconic State Parkway.



Lower Right Photo: One Year Earlier - Truax drill seeder plants wildflower mix at Pines Bridge Road entrance ramp on Taconic State Parkway.

Native Plant Center Membership Form

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

I wish to join *The Native Plant Center* at the following membership level (phone for details):

_____ \$25 Friend _____ \$50 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** _____

Mail to: *The Native Plant Center* at the WCC Foundation, Hartford Hall, 75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla, NY 10595

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