

FEBRUARY
2003

THE NATIVE PLANT CENTER

AT WESTCHESTER
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER
NUMBER 10



FIRST NATIONAL AFFILIATE
OF THE
LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 28

Creating a Natural Home Landscape
*Steven Clemants, Larry Weaner,
Adrian Binns*
Registration required

March 22

Create Your Natural Home Landscape
Eti Katoni, Gerrie Shapiro

March 25

Ferns for Your Garden and Woodlands
John Mickel

March 29

Water - Wise Gardening
Eleanor Hoffman

April 9 - April 14

Native Plant Center Trip to Texas

April 26

Wildflower and Native Plant Sale
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

May 18

Wildflower Ramble
Rockefeller Preserve

July 19

Butterfly Lecture
Rockefeller Preserve

July 26

Wildflower Island
Teatown Lake Reservation
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

WILDFLOWER & NATIVE PLANT SALE: THIS YEAR'S PLANT SELECTION INCREASED BY 33%

by John Zekauskas

The NPC's Fourth Annual Wildflower & Native Plant Sale will be held at Westchester Community College on Saturday, April 26 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine.

The Plant Sale Committee is hard at work preparing for this year's presale and plant sale. The goal is to expand the number of natives for sale by at least 33%. Tempting native varieties will include dwarf hardy ageratum (sold out last year), a non-invasive false dragonhead (nicknamed "Miss Manners"), and dwarf winterberries ("Red Sprite" - - gorgeous at this time of year).

This year, thanks to Barbara Fischer, fledgling gardeners at the Children's Village in Dobbs Ferry potted 100 unusual natives for our regular sale event. (See following report.) The bare-rooted natives were purchased by *The Native Plant Center* in an effort to provide high quality plants for the sale at a reduced cost.

NATIVE PLANT CENTER'S FIRST ART & PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW AND SALE *VISIONS OF NATURE* A SMASHING SUCCESS

by Cece Fabbro

This past fall, *The Native Plant Center* held its first Art & Photography Show and Sale at Westchester Community College's newly renovated Art Gallery. The success of this fund-raiser was beyond all expectations. Over 500 people stopped by the gallery to view an exhibition of select works by 47 different artists and photographers during the two week period that the show was open to the public. One hundred and eighty benefactors, patrons, artists and supporters attended a gala champagne preview party on September 28th and 40 luncheon attendees were treated to a lecture by special guest speaker, Ronald Varney, a fine arts agent formerly with Sotheby's New York.

We are pleased to report that this event raised \$30,000 for *The Native Plant Center*. Net proceeds of this fund-raiser will go towards the development of a new demonstration garden on the WCC campus and to future education programs. As co-chair of the event I

Mailings for the 2003 presale are scheduled to be sent the last week of January. Presale orders must be returned to *The Native Plant Center* by February 22, 2003. Members will receive a 5% discount on purchases over \$50. Join *The Center* and partake in other member benefits throughout the year. Phone (914) 785-7870 for membership details and perks.

Updated report from Barbara Fischer: The boys at Children's Village enjoyed putting the plants into the ground, although it was a bit more time-consuming than first expected! Distractions of all kinds kept cropping up - worms, bugs, lumps of coal, passing cars, clods of dirt - all were of great interest and required attention. One boy made earth moving sounds whilst digging a large trench for his pots. After a few days in late October, all were nicely nestled. We will pull them out in March and bring them into the greenhouse to get a bit of a head start on spring.

would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the entire Steering Committee, to once again thank the many volunteers and staff who devoted so much of their



Art Show Committee at Champagne Preview Gala
(Front row left to right): Wendy Shalen, Phillis Warden, Mary Berol, Nancy Dexter, Cece Fabbro, Betty Wamsley (Back row) Louisa Rawle Tiné, Claire Christ Crasto, and Brooke Beebe

time and energy to making this event such a success. To the benefactors, patrons, and supporters, whose financial support was most generous, we could not have done it without you.

EXPERIENCE BLUEBONNET HEAVEN IN ALL ITS GLORY!

by Brooke M. Beebe

There are a few places left on *The NPC* trip to San Antonio and Austin, Texas, on April 9 - 14. The trip will include visits to the Alamo, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, and captivating private homes and gardens. It is also peak season for wildflowers. Fields of Texas bluebonnets are truly a sight to see.

Reporting on our last trip to Texas, Pat Keese wrote: "There were bluebonnets everywhere, looking at times like a huge lake in the distance. Interspersed among the bluebonnets were red Indian paintbrushes, pink evening primroses and burgundy wine cups."

In San Antonio, we will stay at La Mansion del Rio Hotel, located on the famed River Walk. On Thursday, there will be a guided tour of the Alamo, followed by lunch at a colorful River Walk Restaurant. The day concludes with cocktails in a superb native plant garden at a private home and a festive dinner cruise.

On Friday, we will tour the Texas Hill Country, dappled with bluebonnets, picnic at El Cielo Ranch, a private home on the banks the Guadalupe River, and dine in Austin.

Saturday morning will be spent at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. On Sunday, the tour concludes with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at the home of a celebrated author, gardener, and cook.

For reservation information, call (914) 785-7870.



Wetland pond with native plantings at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas.

Photo by Ron Sprouse, sprousestudios.com

NATIVE NEWS

Brooke M. Beebe

A year-long joint project is about to bear fruit! I have had the pleasure of working with the NPAC (Native Plant Action Committee) on a brochure about Westchester native plants, to be published by the Westchester County Parks Department. It will be ready this spring. If you would like a copy, please call us at (914) 785-7870.

In September, The Federated Garden Clubs of NY State awarded a \$500 grant to *The Native Plant Center* to benefit the development of our Stone Cottage Demonstration Garden. It was presented at the 52nd Fall Conference, where I was invited to receive the award and give our native plant program, "Why Go Wild?" We are grateful for their support.

The NPC is happy to co-sponsor the 2003 "No Pesticide Day" this spring (date TBA). The event is a project of the Westchester Pest Management Committee. On this day, homeowners and municipalities are encouraged not to use pesticides. Committee members hope to increase awareness of the health dangers of

pesticides for people and wildlife. For more information, visit www.audubon.org/bird/at_home/.

The NPC will also co-sponsor two upcoming events with the Westchester County Parks Department and other organizations. On May 22, there will be an afternoon presentation primarily on the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, and a full day conference on October 17 on similar issues, including raingardens. Call (914) 773-3789 to register.

Planning your garden on these long winter nights? Check out our list of lectures on the insert in this newsletter to help you do just that. Then, in the spring, consider visiting the Xeriscape Demonstration Garden, located at the Westchester Joint Water Works, 1625 Mamaroneck Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY. To xeriscape is to landscape for dry conditions, and the garden contains plants (many natives) that require less water to survive and thrive as well as demonstrations of various irrigation methods. Call (914) 698-3500 ext. 614 for more information.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

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Betsy & Wally Stern Phyllis & John Warden
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HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

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STONE COTTAGE GARDEN DONATIONS

New York State Federated Garden Clubs
Carol Sommerfield

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 Brooke M. Beebe, Project Director
 Nancy Inzinna, Newsletter Editor



Upper Left Photo: Ronald Varney (luncheon speaker) and Mary Berol (*Visions of Nature* Honorary Co-Chair)
Lower Photo: Luncheon guests view portfolio pieces.



Above Photo: Luncheon Lecture guests - Lucille Werlinich, Barbara Kapp, Denise Santomero and Betty Wamsley (*Visions of Nature* Co-Chair)



Lower Right Photo: Art Show guest views botanical art at Champagne Preview Gala.

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