

FEBRUARY
2004

THE NATIVE PLANT CENTER

AT WESTCHESTER
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER
NUMBER 12



FIRST NATIONAL AFFILIATE
OF THE
LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 14

Sow & Grow Natives - Hands-on Workshop
Anne Megaro

March 20

**2004 Wildflower Symposium -
Native Plants Are for the Birds**
Tess Present, National Audubon Society
Ted Gilman, Audubon Center in Greenwich

March 27

The Wildflowers of Westchester
Beth Herr

May 1

2004 Wildflower & Native Plant Sale
Admission Free & Open to the Public
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

May 6

NPC Members' Only Field Trip
Ward Pound Ridge Reservation

June 5

Streamside & Wetland Restoration
Diane Miller and Rob Doscher

July 17

Medicinal Uses for Native Plants
Clare Pierson

July 18

Garden Conservancy Open Days
Admission Free & Open to the Public
12 - 4 p.m. at WCC - Parking Lot # 1

See insert for lecture information
and registration form

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

2004 WILDFLOWER SYMPOSIUM: NATIVE PLANTS ARE FOR THE BIRDS

by Sandra Marraffino, Symposium Chair

On Saturday, March 20, 2004, from **8:30 to 1 p.m.** *The Native Plant Center* will hold its Wildflower Symposium: *Native Plants Are for the Birds* at Westchester Community College, co-sponsored by the five Westchester Audubon Societies. See names and contact information on last page of this newsletter.

The Symposium will focus on practical information that all can use. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Tess Present, National Audubon Society, who is in charge of the *Audubon At Home* program, Audubon's initiative to promote personal conservation action at home. She will be followed by Ted Gilman, Audubon Center in Greenwich, who will help participants assess their home habitats and provide a variety of wildlife foods and shelter. A panel of Audubon members ends the program by discussing the pleasures and pitfalls of providing hummingbird, bluebird and butterfly habitats. Participants will receive an informative packet; books will be for sale.



Creator: Bob Hines Publisher: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Blackpoll Warbler

Day at a Glance

8:30 - 9:15 Registration
9:15 - 9:30 Welcome
9:30 - 10:30 Dr. Tess Present
10:30 - 11:00 Break
11:00 - 12:00 Ted Gilman
12:00 - 12:15 Break
12:15 - 1:00 Audubon Speakers

**For registration information, call
(914) 785-7870**

NATIONAL WILDFLOWER WEEK - MAY 2 THROUGH MAY 8



National Wildflower Week begins on Sunday, May 2 and will run through Saturday, May 8. Visit the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center website at www.wildflower.org for a listing of events. This year's

Plant Sale will kick off Wildflower Week!

In honor of Wildflower Week, *The Native Plant Center* will offer a Members' Only Field Trip on Thursday, May 6 to Ward Pound Ridge Reservation. Explore and enjoy the wildflower garden with Senior Curator Beth Herr and Trailside Museum Curator Brenda Bates. It's not too late to join and participate in this exciting trip. NPC Membership Form is located on last page of this newsletter. Other events will be posted on the Events page at www.nativeplantcenter.org.

NON - NPC MEMBERS: PHONE IN FOR A PLANT PRE-SALE LIST

If you are not a member of *The Native Plant Center*, phone (914) 785-7870 to request a copy of this year's Wildflower and Native Plant Sale's Pre-Sale list. All NPC members will be mailed a Pre-Sale list in early February. Members will receive a discount on pre-sale orders over \$50.

The Wildflower and Native Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, May 1 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Westchester Community College near Parking Lot # 1. Admission to the Sale is free and open to the public.

Join today, and enjoy many perks offered by *The Center*. Membership benefits include: free field trips, plant source lists, and discounts for symposia, lectures and pre-sale plants. If you are interested in supporting future programs offered by *The Center*, please join today. Fill out and return the membership form on the last page of this newsletter. **Membership donations contribute to 22% of the operating budget of *The Native Plant Center*.**

Native Plant

Q&A

Helpful hints for planning your plant sale purchases. Plants below will be for sale on May 1.

FUTURE PLANS INCLUDE ...

Planting Partners

by Barbara Fischer
Plant Sale Committee

The Native Plant Center will be wintering Plant Sale plants at the greenhouse on the grounds of The Children's Village in Dobbs Ferry. A private, New York State not for profit, The Children's Village was established in 1851. It is a residential treatment facility for emotionally scarred boys, who live and work in a homelike therapeutic community. The greenhouse is part of the Work Appreciation for Youth program (WAY): boys aged 11 to 18 who have worked their way up a multistep program can receive weekly remuneration for working in the greenhouse. The greenhouse employees will be tending the plants in a heated greenhouse equipped with automatic sprinklers, so they should be in good shape for the 2004 Plant Sale.

The greenhouse at Lockwoods is growing rare woodland natives for the plant sale. We thank these partners for their valuable contributions.

One-Third of NPC Members Are on Our E-Mail List. How About You? Phone In Today!

In an effort to save postage and paper, *The Native Plant Center* e-mails members occasionally with early announcements. We encourage all members to e-mail their address to wcc.nativeplant@sunywcc.edu

NPC "Members' Only" Page Located on the New Website

Phone (914) 785-7870 for your Members' Only website password. As a member of *The Native Plant Center*, you are entitled to early announcements of upcoming events, plant lists and much more at www.nativeplantcenter.org. These perks are on our website's Members' Only Page. Call for your password.

PARTICIPANTS ENJOYED ...

The Newington Cropsey Foundation trip: over twenty people signed up for a guided tour of the exquisite Gallery of Art in Hastings on Hudson. The tour was offered as a benefit to attendees of this year's *Visions of Nature* Luncheon Lecture. Become a member today and join future NPC Field Trips.

q What plants attract hummingbirds?

a

Indian pink is one of the top-rated hummingbird attractors! It is easy to grow, but rarely offered in nurseries. Monarda and a deep pink flowered heuchera also draw hummingbirds. Red salvia (native to the Southwest) are adored by hummingbirds.

q I'm making a butterfly garden this year. What plants can I use?

a

This year's sale emphasizes perennials, shrubs and vines that draw butterflies like magnets. Butterfly weed, coneflower, birdsfoot violet and ironweed are just a few. We offer the hard-to-find Dutchman's pipe, a larval host for the Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly.

q Deer decimate my garden. Can you help me?

a

While no plant is completely deer resistant, many of the perennial wildflowers, ferns and shrubs we offer are moderately to highly deer resistant. The wild bleeding heart, ostrich fern, wild ginger and potentilla are just a few.

q Do you have any plants for a water garden?

a

Yes. The corkscrew rush, whose stems actually grow in a spiral, look quite exotic. It is ideal for container water gardens.

q Will you be selling native hardy orchids?

a

Yes. Hardy spiranthes orchid 'Chadds Ford' is easy to grow and actually makes a large clump in 2-3 years. We also hope to have the large flowered yellow lady's slipper orchid.

If you are looking for a special native, e-mail amegaro@aol.com or call Anne at 235-4016.

DID YOU KNOW ...

Stinking Benjamin is the common name for the handsome, red-flowered *Trillium erectum*. How did it get such an unfortunate name? The stinking part is easy to figure out. Up close, the flower smells like rotten meat, so it can attract the carrion flies it needs for pollination. "Benjamin" is a corruption of "benzoin" or "benjoin," a substance used in perfume manufacturing, according to *The Secrets of Wildflowers* by Jack Sanders. Fortunately, the other common name is Wake-robin. Much nicer.



NPC FALL TRIP

SEE THE GREAT NATIVE PRAIRIES OF THE MIDWEST

Join *The Native Plant Center* on a trip to the great native prairies of the Midwest in September of 2004.

Current plans are for travelers on this all inclusive tour to visit the Morton Arboretum, the Chicago Botanical Garden, and the Art Institute, and to enjoy a walking tour of Chicago architectural masterpieces.

If you are interested in the trip, please phone Cecelia Lindberg of Limewalk Tours, toll-free at 1-888-580-9255.

Past *Native Plant Center* trips have included visits to The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Texas, and wildflower gardens in Vermont and Massachusetts. A portion of the proceeds of this trip will help *The Center* to continue its mission: *educating people about the environmental necessity, economic value and natural beauty of native plants in the Northeast.* We hope you'll join us!



Liatris pycnostachya also known as **Prairie Blazingstar**

NATIVE NEWS

Brooke M. Beebe

The Native Plant Center would like to thank Fuji Photo Film U.S.A., Inc., for its generous donation of a FinePix digital camera. It has been invaluable for recording the plants in our Westchester Community College gardens, all of our events and uploading photos to the website.

An updated version of the brochure *Go Native: Recommended Westchester County Native Plants for Homeowners and Landscapers* is now available from the publisher, the Westchester County Department of Parks. The first printing was gone within a month of its publication, and the opportunity arose to make some corrections in the text, mainly the plant list, that would make it a more informative document.

Senior Curator Beth Herr, of Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, and I struggled to make the right decisions on some entries. For example, should we include red maple (*Acer rubrum*), a beautiful native tree that some scientists warn is becoming invasive? (We did.) Include eastern hemlock with the current problems of woolly adelgid? (We did, warning of problems in the notes, and reasoning that on private property, the problems can be easily controlled with a dormant oil spray. Will this be enough of a warning to alert someone before they plant?

We hope so.) For more information about woolly adelgid, please check out www.fs.fed.us/morgantown/fhp/hwa/nwasite.html. To receive the *Go Native* brochure, call (914) 864-7007 and leave your name and complete address.

An amateur herbarium has been generously donated to *The NPC* by Irving Friedman. Mr. Friedman collected the plant specimens while taking courses at Fordham University. If you are curious as to what herbaceous plants (not just natives) were growing in lower Westchester and the Bronx in the late 1950's and early 60's, come to Westchester Community College's library (you ought to see the beautiful, new library anyway) and take a look. For more information, call the Circulation Desk at (914) 785-6965.

Speaking of libraries, *The NPC* would like to enlarge our collection of books on native plants for research. On our wish list are the two William Cullina books, *The New England Wild Flower Society Guide to Growing and Propagating Wildflowers* and *Native Trees, Shrubs and Vines*, as well as *The Secrets of Wildflowers* by Jack Sanders. If you have any books you would like to donate, please call me at (914) 785-7870.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

CONSERVATORS

Marie D. Schwartz Carol & Lee Sommerfield
Lucille Werlinich Betsy & Wally Stern

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

John M. & Maxine A. Bendheim

HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

Carol Capobianco Peggy S. Rice

DUAL MEMBERS

Mother Evelyn Walder Bray Andrea Donnelly
Lee May Susan S. Taylor

FRIENDS

Pauline Berger Ann K. Collins Martha Conte
Yolande Elenidis June Farnham Beth Herr
Francesca Jones Mary Lou Morrissy Jeanette Peron
Rita Ré Anita Lousie Reilly Elaine Sanders
George Shakespear Marilynn Steinman
Diane Topkis Gwyn H. Willbanks

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

Jane Geisler Douglas & Pattie Gray
Mary Ann Van Alstyae Betty Wamsley

RETURNING MEMBERS

Margaret Cicchetti Kenneth & Fay Gang
Plantscapes, Inc. - Michael E. Nadeau
Heather Thorp Catherine Wachs

RENEWALS

Carin M. Andresen Katherine Barnard
Jeri D. Barrett Linda M. Beane Brooke M. Beebe
Libby E. Brennesholtz Inge Jensen Brown
Sally S. Cashel Claudia Classon Jan Clough
Marianne K. Collins Toby Crystal Ms. Lydia Dallis
Holly Daly Harriet Delihis Janet Demuth
Christine Detmer Alan Devenish Jane Didona
Alison H. Dunscomb Anne Farrell Gwen Feher
Cathryn M. Flynn Micki Gilbert Gerry Gilmartin
Constance R. Hamilton Peggy Hartman
Clara P. Hendrick Mary Hinrichs Jade Hobson
Eleanor Hoffman Merle Huebner Suzanne T. Isaacs
Mrs. Claudia T. Johnson Nina Jones
Maxine Jewel Kaplan Mary Law Joy Liasson
Marybeth Weston Lobdell Dolly L. Maass
Kathleen McArdle Sue McMahon Leonard Miller
Sandra & William Morrissey Libby Palmer Mossman
Barbara J. Motts Chris Murray
Mrs. Stanley Newhouse Marjorie Nichols
Taylor Pape Mrs. James R. Pierce Marjorie Phillips
Janice Rabinowitz Margaret Robinson
Dr. & Mrs. Seymour Romney Kaaren B. Rousseve
Freda Rubin Cynthia P. Sammis Trish Schroer
Nancy Sessions Gerrie Shapiro Susan Shapiro
Elizabeth C. Sluder Jack Stadler Judyth Stavans
Renee Steinberg Grace M. Stuart, M.D. Louisa Tiné
Betsy Towl Robert L. Tranzillo Vivian Utko
Josephine van der Hoeven Nancy M. Vincent
Sissy Von Ancken Elizabeth H. Wagner
Mrs. Elizabeth S. Wattles Kate Weingarten
Virginia Weinland M.J. Wilson
John and Phyllis Zekauskas

BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS

Creative Habitat Corp. Divney Tung Schwalbe
Neil Gifford - Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission
Gail Robinson - New Canaan Nature Center
Rita Poux - The White Plains Garden Club
Sandpiper Enterprises, Inc. Summer Hill Nursery, Inc.
Larry Weaner - Larry Weaner Landscape Design Associates
Lisa Wickersham - Lewisboro Garden Club

DONATIONS

Doris A. Breit Inge Jensen Brown Ann K. Collins
Holly Daly Kenneth & Fay Gang
Elizabeth C. Sluder Ann & Willy Stern Jean L. Stone

IN MEMORY OF

Anna Kussin



Native Plant Center Newsletter is published by Westchester Community College Foundation, 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

WESTCHESTER AUDUBON SOCIETIES

Bedford Audubon Society

Contact: Jackie Jones, President, 35 Todd Road, Katonah, NY 10536

Phone: (914) 666-2057 www.bedfordaudubon.org

Serving the following communities:

Northeastern Westchester: Amawalk, Armonk, Bedford, Bedford Hills, Crompond, Croton Falls, Cross River, Granite Springs, Goldens Bridge, Jefferson Valley, Katonah, Lincolndale, Mohegan Lake, Mount Kisco, North Salem, Pound Ridge, Purdys, Shenorock, Somers, South Salem, Shrub Oak, Waccabuc and Yorktown Heights. **Eastern Putnam:** Baldwin Place, Brewster, Carmel, Holmes, Hopewell Junction, Mahopac, Mahopac Falls, and Patterson.

Bronx River-Sound Shore Audubon Society

Contact: Dr. John Moyle, President, 18 Mount Joy Avenue, Scarsdale, NY 10583

Phone: (914) 723-4609 www.brssaudubon.org

Serving the following communities:

Bronxville, Eastchester, Edgemont, Hartsdale, Larchmont, Mamaroneck, Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, Pelham, Scarsdale and Tuckahoe.

Central Westchester Audubon Society

Contact: Jeanne Alpert, President, P.O. Box 359, White Plains, NY 10602

Phone: (914) 946-1780 www.centralwestchesteraudubon.org

Serving the following communities:

Elmsford, Harrison, Greenburgh, Purchase, Port Chester, Rye, Rye Brook, and White Plains.

Hudson River Audubon Society

Contact: Michael Bochnik, President, P.O. Box 616, Yonkers, NY 10703

Phone: (914) 237-9331 www.hras.org

Serving the following communities:

Ardley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings-on-Hudson, Irvington and Yonkers.

Saw Mill River Audubon Society

Contact: Anne Swaim, Ed. Dir., 275 Millwood Road, Chappaqua, NY 10514

Phone: (914) 666-6503 www.sawmillriveraudubon.org

Serving the following communities:

Briarcliff Manor, Chappaqua, Croton-on-Hudson, Hawthorne, Ossining, Peekskill, Pleasantville, Tarrytown and Valhalla.

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.