ANNUAL SPRING LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE
FOCUSES ON STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

IZER STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND EROSION CONTROL

The Native Plant Center (NPC) will host the Spring Landscape Conference Designing for Stormwater Management & Erosion Control on Monday, March 12.

The Annual Conference is a full-day, all-inclusive event. Four PDHs/CEUs are available for landscape architects and designers. Speakers include: Donald Ferlow, Gregory Liberman, William Young and Donald Knezick.

Further details and registration forms are included in this newsletter’s insert. A brochure is on the web at www.nativeplantcenter.org. NPC members receive a discount. Membership information is listed on last page of this newsletter.

HIGHLY Sought-After Natives Available at The NPC

The NPC is hosting the 13th Annual Wildflower and Native Plant Sale on Saturday, April 28. Experts will be on-hand to help with selections.

If you are new to the Plant Sale, quite simply, it is held in two parts, Pre-Sale and Regular Sale. Each year there is a new selection of hard-to-find plants available.

The Plant Pre-Sale is held in January. Scheduled pick-up begins April 25 - 28. To view a complete color catalog of plants visit www.nativeplantcenter.org and print an order form. If you do not have access to the internet at home, visit your local library, and use theirs. The plant photos are spectacular and will make your selection process much easier. The Pre-Sale order deadline is Friday, February 17.

USE NATIVE PLANTS FOR YEAR-ROUND INTEREST IN YOUR GARDEN!

by Catherine Ludden, NPC Steering Committee Member

With winter closing in, what better time to start thinking about your garden and the fantastic selection of plants offered in this year’s Wildflower and Native Plant Sale? From the first sweet days of spring until winter starts all over again, there are native plants to enliven every corner of your garden.

For early spring color, try Lindera benzoin (Spicebush). Spicebush covers itself with fragrant yellow flowers in early April before the leaves emerge. A great substitute for forsythia, Lindera is an attractive medium-sized shrub and the preferred larval host for the spectacular spicebush swallowtail butterfly.

ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR TO MARYLAND SCHEDULED FOR MAY 7 - 9

Learn more exciting details of the springtime botanical foray to the Chesapeake Bay region of Maryland on page three of this newsletter.

50 VARIETIES OF WILDFLOWERS & NATIVE PLANTS

GET YOUR FREE COPY OF THE 2012 PLANT PRE-SALE LIST AT
WWW.NATIVEPLANTCENTER.ORG OR PHONE (914) 606-7876.
Continued from page 1

Then later in spring, *Magnolia virginiana* (Sweetbay Magnolia) is sure to delight. A small, multi-stemmed tree, Sweetbay Magnolia offers creamy cup-shaped flowers, about four to six inches wide, with an unbelievable heady perfume. The flowers open a few at a time for months, so you’ll have those intoxicating flowers well into summer.

Late spring is also the bloom time for one of our favorite native grasses: *Deschampsia cespitosa* ‘Goldtau’ (Golden Tufted Hairgrass). *Deschampsia* really is a 4-season star, but the show starts in the spring as green clumps of fine-stemmed grass send up tiny flowers on 2 to 3-foot stems. ‘Goldtau’ is a little shorter than the species and the delicate narrow leaves are bright green until fall when they turn golden brown underneath the ethereal seed heads that replace the flowers in late summer.

Mid-summer bloom comes from *Ceanothus americanus* (New Jersey Tea), a small shrub that is a premier nectar plant and larval host for a long list of butterflies, including the spring azure butterfly. Just when it seems that everything else has finished blooming, *Ceanothus* puts out fluffy white flowers on long panicles that are soon attracting every nectar-feeding creature in the area. And don’t forget the ferns! *Adiantum pedatum* (Northern Maidenhair Fern) with its amazing semi-circular fronds looks cool and calm in a shady spot in the mid-summer garden and is surprisingly tough and easy to grow. It also works beautifully in containers with begonias, coleus, and impatiens.

Then it’s time for the late bloomers. For long-lasting color from August to October, nothing beats goldenrod. *Solidago speciosa* (Showy Goldenrod) puts out 12-inch inflorescences covered with hundreds of tiny yellow flowers. A dozen or more inflorescences will be open at the same time, and they just keep coming for weeks.

Finally, when the leaves are down and holiday decorations are up, you’ll be happy to have *Ilex verticillata* ‘Red Sprite’ (Winterberry) brightening the scene. ‘Red Sprite’ is a more compact shrub than the species and has larger berries. Fat red berries cluster tightly along the bare stems and stay there long into winter. You won’t forget the sight of a pair of brilliant Northern cardinals investigating your Winterberry against a snowy backdrop.

**Goldenrod Needs a PR Agent**

by Catherine Ludden, NPC Steering Committee Member

Last summer I made a shocking discovery – I love Goldenrod! I avoided it for decades. I guess I believed the rumors: it makes you sneeze; it spreads everywhere; it’s a bug-infested weed; it’s too big with too little bloom. Well maybe some “mean girls” in the hothouse flower crowd started those rumors, but I don’t believe them anymore.

I experimented with a few plants the season before and they behaved, so this summer I tried *Solidago rugosa* ‘Fireworks’ next to a stone wall bordering my patio. From late August through October, I sat within a few inches of millions of tiny yellow flowers blooming on foot-long inflorescences arching out in all directions quite like exploding fireworks. It was a long and spectacular show with no sneezing, no aphids, no mildew, no flopping, no staking, and no wild spreading (at least not yet). I was absolutely enthralled by the number and variety of pollinators attracted to the goldenrod. It was without doubt the busiest place in my entire garden. How many species of bees and butterflies do we even have in suburban New York City? Countless numbers of these creatures were within inches of our dining area and none of them ever noticed or bothered us because they were totally obsessed with the Goldenrod.

I also planted Goldenrod in a small meadow area with grasses and coneflowers. After the freak snowstorm in October when 10 inches of heavy, wet snow flattened everything else, the Goldenrod remained standing with seed heads still arching gracefully 3 feet off the ground.

I’m sold. I’ll try other varieties of Goldenrod next summer. And I won’t listen to any more of those rumors ...
MARVELOUS MARYLAND
MONDAY, MAY 7 - WEDNESDAY, MAY 9
REGISTER TODAY - SPACE LIMITED!

Take a trip to the beautiful Chesapeake Bay region of Maryland as we visit a wide array of gardens, plantation estates, a classic conservatory, and much more.

Visit the website at www.nativeplantcenter.org for in-depth details and itinerary.

TIPS TO MAKE YOUR PROPERTY MORE SUSTAINABLE
by Cece Fabbro, NPC Steering Committee Member

As I reflect on 2011, I recall a wacky year of erratic weather. Not only was it one of the wettest on record; it was also one of the stormiest - remember all that snow last winter, followed by hurricanes Irene and Lee, and that freak October snowstorm? Although many homeowners suffered from flooding, power outages, and falling trees, I was one of the lucky ones. No tree damage, flooding, erosion, or power outage. Maybe all the steps I have taken towards my goal of sustainability are now paying off.

Several years ago I set a goal of creating a “Landscape for Life” sustainable site on my small plot of land. Fortunately, I was able to start with native soil, several 100+ year old canopy trees, and many native understory trees. In addition, a stream runs through the lower corner of my property.

Probably the most important action I took was to protect and restore my landscape’s vegetation. Since half my property is a woodland with undisturbed native soil, several large canopy trees (Tulip, American beech) and many native understory trees (Pagoda dogwood, Virginia witch hazel, Spicebush) that I wanted to preserve, I took steps to maintain the health and well-being of the trees. I also removed many invasive species, replacing them with appropriate natives. The large trees are important to my landscape as they soak up hundreds of gallons of water per day while the friable soil serves as a sponge, soaking up rainwater, staving off erosion, and replenishing the groundwater on property instead of allowing it to flow off property wastefully.

Rainwater harvesting - One of the earliest actions I took was to set up rain barrels to catch some of my home’s roof runoff. I was surprised to see that just ½ inch of rain from ¼ of my roof completely filled two 60 gallon rain barrels. That’s 120 gallons each ½ inch of rain from only ¼ of my roof! In another area of my property, a second set of gutters and leaders were directed to an installed dry streambed/rain garden. This feature captures rain from another area of my roof, allowing water to collect during and after a storm. Then it slowly and naturally filters into the ground, thereby replenishing the groundwater and keeping the landscaping on that side of my property healthy, happy and robust.

Ensuring that neighboring properties install the proper stormwater control mechanisms on their properties instead of piping stormwater off property - I had an additional problem of surface and other stormwater flowing onto my property from a neighboring property resulting from development on that property. In addition to being illegal, it was creating a significant amount of soil erosion that I had to deal with after most rainstorms. After much monitoring and sleuthing I discovered that the homeowners had not installed the stormwater management control devices that they were required to install during construction. Since the homeowners were uncooperative in taking action to correct this problem, I had to press my town to enforce their stormwater laws. Eventually, the town did so, requiring the homeowners to install the proper control measures (Culvic Units, several large infiltration trenches).

And so it goes - I continue towards a goal of sustainability. It is our hope at The Native Plant Center that more members will make sustainability a goal of theirs. We hope to see you at our Spring Landscape Conference to speak about stormwater regulations and requirements, dealing with stormwater using green infrastructures, like rain gardens, and the native plants best suited for landscaping such sites. As I have found through the years, it pays to be an educated consumer. We hope to see you at the Conference on March 12.

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2011/12 Annual Fund Donors
Our thanks to all who have contributed.

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Welcome New Members
Our deepest thanks go to all our members.

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NATIVE PLANT CENTER STAFF
Nancy Inzinna, Assistant Director
Elizabeth Roach, Special Programs Coordinator

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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 local landscapes.

$45 Friend - All levels receive a Free NPC Lecture
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 - EARLY Entry into Regular Plant Sale in April
- Monthly e-mail of the Wildflowerwire Newsletter from our affiliate the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas
- Invitation to NPC Members Only Field Trips

$125 Supporting Member
Benefits include all of the above plus:
- "Free" Membership to the Lady Bird Johnson Center

$250 Advocate
Benefits include all of 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

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 local landscapes.

Help Save Postage & Paper - Keep Us Updated

MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS ARE APPRECIATED - CONTACT YOUR EMPLOYER FOR DETAILS

NATIVE PLANT CENTER MEMBERSHIP FORM - DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Fax: (914) 606-6143  E-mail: wcc.nativeplant@sunywcc.edu  Phone: (914) 606-7870
Mail to: The NPC - 75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla, NY 10595

SAVE TIME ~ PAY ONLINE: www.mysunywcc.org/donations

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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Make checks payable to The Native Plant Center ~ MC/Visa/Discover # _______ 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 2012 SPRING EDUCATIONAL SERIES

NEED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS?
WE’RE OFFERING 4 PDHs/4 CEUs THIS SPRING!

SPRING LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE
DESIGNING FOR STORMWATER AND
EROSION CONTROL
Monday, March 12 at WCC  8:30 - 3:30 p.m.
(Snow Date - Thursday, March 15)

With extreme weather events occurring more frequently, national, state, and local governments, as well as homeowners, are wrestling with ways to manage and control stormwater to avoid the costly consequences of such events: flooding, severe soil erosion, and degradation of water quality. These issues will be addressed by reviewing up-to-date regulations for best stormwater management practices and erosion control, and discussing completed works that incorporate stormwater management and water quality improvements in commercial, institutional and residential projects. Planting strategies presented will focus on native plants best suited for the sites discussed. 4 PDHs/4 CEUs

TOPICS AND SPEAKERS:
Stormwater Management and Green Infrastructure Planning, Construction and Compliance – Part I and II
Donald Ferlow and Gregory Liberman
I Never Met a Rain Garden I Didn’t Like
William Young
Practical Hints for Successful Soil Bio-engineering Projects
Donald Knezick

GO NATIVE U CERTIFICATE PROGRAM
Sustainable Gardening with Northeast Flora

Sustainable gardens are beautiful and are part of the larger interdependent whole of our local environment. Learning about the beauty, importance and benefits of our regional flora will enhance your gardening experience and help support your community landscape.

Courses are designed to benefit business owners, as well as garden enthusiasts. If you are a landscaper, landscape architect or landscape designer, run a nursery or garden center, love working in your own garden, or seek to improve your home and community environment, this program is for you.

CORE CLASSES:
Northeastern Native Plants in Our Landscapes
3 Thurs., Feb. 2-16, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Summers
Native Plant Communities
Tues., Feb. 7, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, Katoni
Native Herbaceous Plants: Part II
Sat., Feb. 25, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, Fischer
Plant Identification in the Field
Sat., May 12, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, Summers.

ELECTIVE CLASSES:
Principles of Sustainable Landscape Design
Sat., Jan. 21, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Johnsen
Ecological Design
Mar. 6, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, Katoni
Composting for the Gardener, Homeowner, and Environmentally Concerned Citizen
Sat., Mar. 24, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 pm, Wilson
Northeastern Native Ferns for Your Gardens
Thurs., May 3, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., Stewart

The Go Native U Certificate Program is a collaborative effort between The Native Plant Center and Westchester Community College. A percentage of tuition fees will be donated to The NPC.

For a complete description of the Certificate Program, classes, and to enroll contact Continuing Ed: (914) 606-6830 - press 1 or e-mail: communitieservices@sunywcc.edu or visit the website at www.sunywcc.edu/ce in drop down box, select Home and Garden.
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT & EROSION CONTROL - CONFERENCE SPEAKER PROFILES

Donald Ferlow FASLA is a Landscape Architect and Wetlands Specialist. He has over 40 years of professional experience involving a broad scope of site and environmental planning, including designing natural functioning stormwater management and water quality renovation systems and establishing long term ecosystem management standards for developments in his work for GHD. In addition, he is an Adjunct Instructor in Landscape Architecture at SUNY ESF in Syracuse.

Gregory Liberman GHD is a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control and has a BS in Landscape Architecture from UMass Amherst. He has extensive experience in planning and permitting of large-scale municipal infrastructure construction projects. He has 10 years of consulting experience and specializes in environmental planning, stormwater management design, and environmental quality review.

William E. Young RLA PWS of Young Environmental, LLC is a professional wetlands scientist and long-time practitioner of ecological restoration and environmental landscaping. Bill has been involved in projects in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area for over 20 years. He has headed the New Jersey Native Plant Society and helped write the RainGarden Manual which was issued in 2005 by the Native Plant Society of New Jersey.

Donald Knezick is President of Pinelands Nursery & Supply in Columbus NJ and Gloversville, NY. He is a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment control, a Partner in R&D Soil Testing and Engineering, Member of the NJ State Soil Conservation Committee, Supervisor, Burlington County Soil Conservation District, and Past Member of New Jersey Invasive Species Council.

GO NATIVE U INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT
Phone (914) 606-6830, press option # 1, or visit www.sunywcc.edu/ce

NATIVE PLANT CENTER 2012 REGISTRATION FORM

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

___ Landscape Conference: Stormwater/Erosion
Amount Name ____________________________
Fee for PDHs/CEUs: $127 non-member $100 NPC member
$100 NPC member
Fee without professional credits: $95 non-member $75 NPC member
Above fees include lunch, and breaks $________
LUNCH CHOICE: ___ BEEF ___ TURKEY ___ TUNA ___ VEGETARIAN
________ A Natural History of Wildflowers
Fee: $25 non-member, $22 member (Gracie) $________

___ Field Trip - Destination & Date TBA
NPC members - Free $ N/A
Member Registration Required (# of members) ______
Non-NPC member/member’s guest $________
Non-NPC member or member’s guest Field Trip Fee: $10 p.p.
Join as a Member - Attend for Free - Form on Last Page

___ May 7 - 9 - Maryland Garden Tour - Send me detailed information of the trip
Total Amount Enclosed $________

Send or fax registration to:
The Native Plant Center
75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla, NY 10595
Fax: (914) 606-6143 Phone: (914) 606-7870
www.nativeplantcenter.org
SAVE TIME - PAY ONLINE:
www.mysunywcc.org/store

Additional Registrants’ Name(s) ____________________________
E-mail ____________________________
Address(s) ____________________________