10TH ANNIVERSARY FOUNDERS' DINNER

by Nancy Dexter

The Native Plant Center was founded ten years ago by three local residents who initiated a plan to develop a Northeastern affiliate of Lady Bird Johnson’s own Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas. These visionary women, Marybeth Weston Lobdell, Marie Smith Schwartz and Betsy May Stern, were all members of the Board of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in 1998. It occurred to them native plants could be promoted and preserved most effectively by a local center. Now there are twenty-two national affiliates.

To celebrate this 10th Anniversary, a Founders’ Dinner and Awards Reception will be held on Saturday, September 27, at the Bedford Golf and Tennis Club, starting with a cocktail reception at 7 p.m. Both of Lady Bird Johnson’s daughters, Lynda Johnson Robb and Luci Baines Johnson, agreed to be Honorary Chairs for this event.

Awards will be presented during the dinner. Dr. Douglas W. Tallamy, Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, will receive the Lady Bird Johnson Environmental Award for his environmental advocacy and the long-range impact of his recent book, Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens.

Katona resident Martha Stewart, Founder, Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, will be present to accept the NPC’s new Acorn Award, which is designed to honor an individual or group that inspires people to learn about native plants and to grow them in their own gardens. Ms. Stewart, an enthusiastic gardener, has developed an extensive woodland garden at her Katonah home.

Co-Chairs of this 10th Anniversary celebration are Jan Blaire of Irvington, Laura Blau of Bedford and Phillis Warden of Bedford Hills. Phillis Warden has been involved with The Native Plant Center since its inception, generously supporting and helping to plan such events as the Visions of Nature Art Show along with former Bedford resident, Mary Berol; the 2007 outing at French Farm in Greenwich; the Spring Wildflower and Native Plant Sale; and even offering tours of her own fabulous garden to benefit The NPC.

Both Laura Blau and Jan Blaire have joined the effort more recently, and are lending their expertise in event planning and fundraising as members of The NPC’s Steering Committee. “We consider the Founders’ Dinner a valuable way to help us grow. No donation is too small,” said Ms. Blau. “Even if you can’t attend, any contribution will enrich our educational mission, and help develop programs for schoolchildren.”

For further information about this 10th Anniversary celebration, please contact The Native Plant Center at (914) 606-7870, or visit the website at www.nativeplantcenter.org.

NPC DIRECTOR ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Brooke Beebe, NPC director, will be retiring in October. Brooke has spent the last ten years nurturing this non-profit organization. With the help of devoted volunteers and staff, The Center has become a leading authority on native plants in the area.

Although it will be difficult to replace her, please visit page three for a posting of her position and Brooke’s final thoughts for Native Plant Center supporters.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

DOUGLAS TALLAMY APPEARING AT THE NPC

Gardening in this crowded world carries both moral and ecological responsibilities that we can no longer ignore. Dr. Tallamy’s last sold-out talk in this area brought the audience to its feet in appreciation of his insights and vision for the future. His message: the home garden and home gardener are important! Learn how to create a garden beneficial to our ecosystem.

FREE TO NPC’S MEMBERS - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ($10 ADMISSION FEE)
1 P.M. AT WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAMPUS
CONTINUOUS SUPPORTERS
Our deepest thanks go to our previous members who continue to support our mission: educating people about the environmental necessity, economic value, and natural beauty of native plants in the Northeast.

HERITAGE CIRCLE
Phillis Warden*

CONSERVATORS
Patricia H. Keesee*

ADVOCATE
Barbara Abeles* Nancy Ross*

RETURNING MEMBERS
Janet Beal Alan Devenish John Fava
Cathryn Flynn Darcy Hadjipetsters*
Sharon Herndstadt Anita Malpica Peter Murosky
Mary Ellen Pirozzoli Dorothy Sebesta
Caroline & David Silverstone

UPGRADED RENEWALS
Marilyn Brown* Janet Seus Helen Beekman*
Jan Blaire* Maria Harris* Angela Morris* Chris Murray*
Heather Sandifer* Sarah & Seth Glickenhaus*

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP
Anne Megaro

RENEWALS
Diane C. Alden Barbara Anderson-Greenfield
Lois M. Barker Alison Beall
Susan Bender Marcia Case Barbara Clapman
Ann K. Clark Virginia Clark Lisa Cohen
Patricia Cohen Dr. Iris Cook Marion Cowles
Lena Chandall* Claire C. Crasto Bobbie D’Andrea
Harriet Delias* Gracecmarie Dell’Angelo*
Bob Del Toro & Dottic Hilton
Marie A. DeNosis Kimberly Eierman
Cece Fabbro* Gwen Feher Patricia L. Fine
Barbara Fischer* Robert P. Fisher, Jr.
Eleanor Fitzpatrick Dr. Kathleen A. Gaffney
Jenny Geer Mark Gilliland* Gert Gilmartin*
Kathleen Golden Suzanne Graham
Carol S. Greenwald Susan Henry Beth Herr
Jean Heyl Penelope Hofmann Gary Hohenstein
Nancy Hough Elizabeth Hunter* Cathy Jarosz
Marilyn Brown Janet Seus Helen Beekman*
Janet Beal Alan Devenish John Fava
Cathryn Flynn Darcy Hadjipetsters*
Sharon Herndstadt Anita Malpica Peter Murosky
Mary Ellen Pirozzoli Dorothy Sebesta
Caroline & David Silverstone

HUNDREDS OF GARDENERS IN THE TRI-STATE AREA INCORPORATE THE USE OF NATIVES TO LANDSCAPE PROPERTY

Desire and dedication lead to over 4,000 wildflowers and natives plants being sold this past Spring by The Native Plant Center at the 9th Annual Plant Sale. The desire, as well as the dedication to educate the community about why using native plants in a garden enhances the landscape and helps the environment, made this year’s Plant Sale the most successful yet.

No sooner did the 2007 Plant Sale end, the planning for the 2008 Sale began. Through careful orchestration by the Plant Sale Chair, Carolyn Summers, and NPC staff members, Brooke Beebe, Beth Roach and Nancy Inzunza, the process resumed. In December, the jolly man in the red suit was not the only one checking lists, so were we! Supplier lists, pre-sale lists, volunteer lists, customer lists ... the results were phenomenal. By May 3, over eighty varieties of native plants were on their way to a new home, ultimately to sustain area wildlife, conserve resources, and beautify the northeast.

If you are interested in participating in the 2009 Plant Sale, there are many volunteer opportunities available. Contact The NPC Volunteer Coordinator, Beth Roach at (914) 606-7876 for further details. Non-NPC members: phone for your free Pre-Sale list.

RAIN GARDENS - SLOW, CAPTURE & INFILTRATE RAIN CREATE ONE TODAY & MAKE A DIFFERENCE
by Jan Blaire
NPC Steering Committee Member

A rain garden can be created from a shallow depression in the ground that can be natural or man-made. A rain garden may be used to collect rain water that might normally go into the street and down a storm drain. The rain water that is initially collected contains the highest concentration of pollutants washed off of impervious surfaces such as roofs, roads, and parking lots. The stored water slowly dissipates into the ground and is naturally filtered by the stones, soil and plant roots. Rain gardens can be small areas located on a lawn or as large as a bioretention system in a parking lot. The reason for creating them is to purify and keep water where it falls and not send it out filled with pollutants into our lakes, rivers and oceans.

Rain gardens are usually planted with perennial native plants, and designed to slow, capture, and infiltrate rain. Native plants are an excellent choice for planting because they are drought-resistant, are best adapted to soil and temperature conditions in a particular area, and attract butterflies and birds.

RAIN GARDENS ARE BENEFICIAL BECAUSE THEY:

- Recharge local groundwater
- Conserve water
- Improve water quality
- Remove standing water in a yard
- Reduce mosquito breeding
- Reduce potential for flooding

In addition to creating a rain garden, you may also choose to buy or make a rain barrel. Rain barrels are containers that collect rain water from your roof. This water can be used later to water plants inside or outside your home.

It is becoming more apparent that there is a need for water conservation across the entire country. Keeping rain water where it falls is a natural solution. By creating a rain garden, you will have a lovely garden plus you will be helping to protect our rivers, streams, and lakes from pollution caused by dirty water from heavy storms, i.e., stormwater runoff.

Plant Natives!
One plant makes a difference.

Dedicated volunteers answered questions about native plants at this year’s Sale.
In June, NPC members embarked on a visit to Swindler Cove Park, a project of the New York Restoration Project (NYRP). Amy Gavaris, executive vice president of the NYRP, and Chris Vanterpool, director of horticulture, led us on a very informative tour through the wilds of upper Manhattan. Starting at the education center, where boats are built by students based on historical models, we moved along the shoreline of Sherman Creek to the Harlem River and Swindler Cove Park itself.

Amy was able to give us special access to the Peter Jay Sharpe boathouse, a floating structure in the Harlem River. We saw some of the boats built by students, and where the shells for various crews were stored. Children from the neighborhood – in fact, all over New York – are encouraged to come there and learn how to row. The NYRP’s plan is to train students in this sport – especially girls – to help them become eligible for college sports scholarships around the country.

The weather was fine, the tour fascinating, and the NPC members delightful – a perfect day!
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 the above, plus:
- An invitation to the Director's Tour of our Demonstration Gardens

$1,000-$2,999 Conservator
Benefits include all the above, plus:
- Gift book about wildflowers

$3,000+ Heritage Circle
Assume a leadership role in The Native Plant Center
Benefits include all 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 ____________

ZIP ____________ Phone ____________ Fax ____________ E-Mail __________________

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 __________________
Street __________________ City __________________ State __________________ Zip ____________ Phone ____________

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