FULL DAY PLANNED FOR AUTUMN FUND-RAISER

Authors William Cullina and Carolyn Summers begin the day with an Autumn Landscape Conference. Cullina will be presented with the Lady Bird Johnson Environmental Award at an Evening Award Benefit in Bedford.

On Friday, September 24, The Native Plant Center will host the Autumn Landscape Conference, Gateway to Sustainable Gardening, where authors Carolyn Summers and William Cullina will share their professional knowledge and expertise. Professionals and homeowners alike will want to attend. Professional Development Hours are available to attendees.

An Award Benefit Reception will be held that evening in Bedford where Cullina will receive the prestigious Lady Bird Johnson Environmental Award. Invitations are scheduled to be mailed in August. We hope you’ll come and enjoy these exciting events - it’s sure to be an insightful day.

Further conference details and registration form are included in this newsletter’s insert. Join as a member of The NPC member and help support future programming. Membership info on last page of newsletter.

GO NATIVE U CLASSES SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER

As many of you may know, The Native Plant Center’s mission is to educate our community about the environmental necessity, economic value and natural beauty of native plants. Nearly twelve years ago, The NPC became the first national affiliate of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas. As an affineiate, we turn to the Wildflower Center in Texas for ideas and guidance to promote our mission.

This September, in collaboration with Westchester Community College’s Continuing Education, The NPC will offer a similar selection of courses modeled after the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center’s program, Go Native U. Go Native U is a Certificate Program in sustainable gardening with northeast flora. The courses are designed to benefit business owners as well as garden enthusiasts. Those seeking to improve their home and community environment are encouraged to attend. The certificate consists of 50 contact hours over the period of the year.

Core classes include: Northeastern Native Plants in Our Landscapes which will be instructed by author Carolyn Summers; Native Woody Plants by Brad Roeller of The New York Botanical Garden; and Herbaceous Native Plants by Master Gardener, Barbara Fischer. Elective classes include: Gardening with Storm Water by Jay Archer of John Jay Landscape Development; Designing with Nature: Residential Landscape Design will be instructed by Landscape Designer Christine Darnell; and Using Computers for Gardening and Designing with Native Plants by Landscape Designer and Information Technology Instructor, Eleanor Hoffman.

Those interested in the subject matter or earning a Certificate should contact WCC Continuing Education at (914) 606-6830 press option #1; e-mail communityservices@sunywcc.edu; visit the website at www.sunywcc.edu/ce, this newsletter insert has more details.

The NPC will receive a portion of the fee to further its mission. See insert page for additional NPC lectures and the Autumn Landscape Conference.

COMMITTEE FORMED TO PROMOTE USE OF NATIVE PLANTS

This past spring, Barbara Fischer and Kim Eierman spearheaded a committee in an effort to assist nurseries in promoting the use and sale of native plants. Two plants were chosen for 2010 – the Native Perennial of the Year is Dicentra eximia, and Woody Plant of the Year is Kalania latifolia. Posters available on the website at www.nativeplantcenter.org – please print one out to share with your local nursery.
**2010 Plant Sale Participants**

Our thanks to all who contributed.

**Plant Sale Volunteers**

John Ahern  
Keith Austin  
Carby Badio  

Brooke Beebe  
Jan Blaire  
Laura Blau  
Frank Clemens  

Lisa Cohen  
Mary Collins  
Claire Cornish  

Lena Cran dall  
Bob DelTorto  
Lisa Dorfman  
Cecce Fabbro  
June Farnham  

Barbara Fischer  
Alexander Frias  
Carol Greenwald  

Cheryl Harper  
Maria Harris  
Bernard Harris  

Michele Hertz  
Dottie Hilton  
Pat Keesee  

Andrea Jacobson  
Cathy Jarosz  
Andrea Klein  

Louis Kroll  
Mary Law  
Linda Lefkowitz  

Patti Leo  
Bob MacGregor  
Pat MacGregor  

Daniel Masseo  
Ann McDuffie  
Pru Montgomery  

Carolyn Summers  
Brendan Tacon  
Pru Montgomery  

Brendan Tacon  
Susan Thorsen  

Kimberly Pryslak  
Ann McDuffie  
Pru Montgomery  

Wendy Murp hy  
Helen Oja  
Anne Owen  

Guy Parede  
Andie Payne  
Marianne Pei  

Kim Eierman  
Cece Fabbro  
June Farnham  

June Farnham  
June Farnham  

Gina Ann Carmody  
Kathleen Conlon  
Amy Cooper  

Daniel Masseo  
Ann McDuffie  
Pru Montgomery  

Carolyn A. Webber & Gerald E. Thomson*  

**2010/2011 Native Plant Center Members**

**Steering Committee Members**

Co-Chairs

Laura Blau, Bedford  
Cecce Fabbro, Scarsdale  

Brooke Beebe, Briarcliff Manor  
Jan Blair, Irvington  

Glynne Brennan, Katonah  
Myles Brown, Bedford  

Robert DeTorto, Harrison  
Kim Eierman, Bronxville  

Barbara Fischer, Armonk  
Leslie Henshaw, Bedford  

Patricia Keesee, Mount Kisco  
Ursula LaMotte, Bedford  

Guy Pardee, Croton-On-Hudson  
Brad Koehler, Bronx  

Heather Sandifer, Greenwich, CT  
Denise C.R. Santomero, Bedford  

Betsy Stern, Scarsdale  
Carolyn Summers, Hastings-On-Hudson  

Phillis Warden, Bedford Hills  
Wax myrtle (*Morella cerifera*) cousin to bayberry – ours is a variety called ‘Wintergreen’ that is rated as evergreen to minus 16 F; and needle palm (*Rhaphidophyllum hystrix*) a trunkless palm (yes, a palm!) said to withstand temperatures down to minus 20F. We invite you to visit our gardens to have a look at these new additions and will keep you posted as to their condition.

A recent report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration states that the combined global land and ocean surface temperature for the period from January–April was the warmest on record. Moreover, April’s average ocean surface temperature was the warmest for any April, and the global land surface temperature was the third warmest since recording began. If this warming trend continues it is predicted that our climate zones on the East Coast will shift northward faster than species can migrate, potentially leading to massive extinctions. We may well find ourselves in a situation where entire ecosystems will have to be artificially transplanted to save myriad species of flora and fauna – a frightening prospect!

Climate model predictions also indicate that future Northeastern winters, albeit warmer overall, may experience wild shifts into frigid temperatures. Sadly, we are already experiencing this phenomenon. With this in mind, we have planted a group of specimens in The Native Plant Center demonstration gardens that are native to the Southeastern United States but are also very cold-tolerant. How can plants native to Southern climes withstand extremely low temperatures? The most popular explanation is that certain species once ranged much further north but glaciation during the Pleistocene Epoch (the most recent Ice Age) reduced their range and initiated adaptation for cold tolerance. Many of these survivors barely hung on in isolated enclaves and have not migrated very far afield since the glaciers retreated. When one adds in the impact of human development we end up with a group of plants that are largely classified as rare and endangered.

Plants from this group that are being trialed in The Native Plant Center demonstration gardens are broadleafed evergreens that are also rated as deer-resistant – two desirable qualities here in the Northeast. They include: Southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) with handsome glossy leaves and waxy, highly fragrant summer flowers – we have two varieties: ‘Apex’ which is upright in form, and ‘Brackens Brown Beauty’ that has chocolate-colored, felt-like indumentum under its leaves; *Florida illicium* (*Illicium floridanum*) a shrub with curious red flowers shaped like little sea anemones – there is also a white-flowered form which we’d like to try; wax myrtle (*Morella cerifera*) cucumber to bayberry – ours is a variety called ‘Wintergreen’ that is rated as evergreen to minus 16 F; and needle palm (*Rhaphidophyllum hystrix*) a trunkless palm (yes, a palm!) said to withstand temperatures down to minus 20F. We invite you to visit our gardens to have a look at these new additions and will keep you posted as to their condition.

A few weeks ago I noticed that we have a mockingbird (a traditionally Southern avian species that is naturally migrating northward) nesting and raising chicks in one of our Southern magnolias. Dare I say: “If you plant it they will come?”
**FALL FIELD TRIP**

**Bylane Farm Nature Sanctuary**
- Free to NPC Members
- Non-NPC Members $10

Enjoy a tranquil morning at the Bylane Farm nature sanctuary in Katonah, the headquarters of Bedford Audubon Society. Our group will meet at the at the farmhouse dating back to 1720 that is set in a pastoral landscape of rolling fields, wetlands and woods. Executive Director Jim Nordgren will lead a tour of the house, outbuildings, grounds and demonstration gardens and talk about the Society’s environmental education program that embraces ornithology, entomology and botany.

For more information about Bylane Farm and Bedford Audubon Society visit their website at www.bedfordaudubon.org.

To register phone Beth at (914) 606-7876 no later than Monday, September 27.

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**NATIVE NOTES**

Darrin Duling

As usual, we have had a busy and exciting spring season here at The Center. The Annual Native Plant Sale saw activity on par with last year’s record-breaking totals. Kudos to our Plant Sale Chair, Carolyn Summers, and our loyal volunteers for helping make this event a success.

Our Spring Landscape Conference, *Turning Gray to Green*, saw 126 attendees. On a related side note, remember that NPC members receive a discounted rate on all conferences and lectures. This year over 30 members have attended a free lecture as an added membership perk.

At the Spring Members Field Trip, 30 people spent a lovely morning in Angle Fly Preserve in Somers. Private tours were led by Bob and Pat MacGregor. Visitors all agreed that they felt privileged to have been introduced to a hidden gem in Westchester County and applauded the efforts that are being put forth to protect it.

Perennial Gardens in Bedford, held a Native Plant Appreciation Weekend in honor of The NPC. A percentage of that weekend’s sales were donated to us. Big thanks to Perennial Gardens for its support!

On the morning of May 3, in a gushing downpour, 21 intrepid garden aficionados boarded a coach bound for Washington DC. Fortunately by the time we arrived the skies had cleared and we enjoyed four days of glorious weather. We visited five beautiful gardens, each magnificent in its own right. All agreed that we are very proud to have such a gracious and beautiful capital city for our country. On the silly side, *The Little Shop of Horrors* presentation at Ford’s Theater generated lots of smiles and laughter and reminded us that we need to be cautious when inviting unknown exotic plants into our gardens! On the way home we stopped at Mt. Cuba Center in Delaware. The innovative vision of the estate’s founders has spawned a dazzling garden devoted to native flora of the Piedmont region.

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The NPC welcomes the addition of the Green Thumbs garden group which was established nearly 20 years ago by WCC staff and faculty who began creating small pocket gardens on campus. Unification of the Green Thumbs and The Center opens up possibilities to increase native plant diversity on campus and allows people outside the campus community to join in the fun. Generous donations from Rusticus Garden Club and one of our Steering Committee members, Lucille Werlinich, will be used to purchase plants and supplies. If you are interested in joining the GTs, please contact Beth at (914) 606-7876.

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Help Save Resources - send new e-mail addresses to wcc.nativeplant@sunywcc.edu

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**2009/10 ANNUAL FUND DONORS**

Our thanks to all who contributed ~ additional contributions were received in January from:

- Brooke M. Breebe
- John L. Furth
- Cynthia Samsis
- Mr. and Mrs. Camillo M. Santomero III
- Gerrie Shapiro
- Sarah M. Stern

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**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Our deepest thanks go to all our members.

**CONSERVATORS**
- Patricia H. Keesee*
- Catherine A. Ludden*
- Phillips a John Warden*

**ADVOCATE**
- Suzanne Clary*

**SUPPORTING MEMBERS**
- Maureen Empfield*
- Margaret Falk*
- Joy Susan Goudie*

**HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**
- Cesar Tello

**FRIENDS**
- Ivan Alter
- Ingrid Arrindell
- Mary Ann Bajyor
- Beryl Barber
- David Bedell
- Melinda Bingham
- Robert Burg
- Lorraine Burton
- Mary J. Chasie
- Marion Cooke
- Elizabeth Corkery
- Janis Cottritt
- Elizabeth C. Cryer
- Lisa D’Amico
- Susan A. Fields
- Jacqueline Fowler
- Laura Gabrele
- Joanna C. Galdonne
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- Emelie Scarpelli
- Barbara Volk Shorter
- Elizabeth Giseline Stein
- Sheila Stein
- Kathy Sullivan
- John P. Sulpy, Jr.
- Hope Johnson Surphis*
- Kim Tamura
- Donna Quigley
- Cindy Valk-Danish
- Marlam Weinberger
- Karen Wells
- Mirtzi Weissman

**GIFT MEMBERSHIPS**
- Karen Thomson

**BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS**
- Bedford Audubon Society
- Briarcliff Manor Garden Club
- Garden Club of Dobbs Ferry
- Garden Club of Irvington
- Garden Club of Yorktown
- Munz Associates - Landscape Architecture
- Rye Garden Club
- Rye Nature Center
- The Little Garden Club of Rye
- Westchester Fairfield Horticultural Society
- Verdant Landscapes
- White Plains Garden Club

**DONATIONS**
- Bedford Garden Club
- Alan Devenish
- Bernard Haley
- Joseph & Sophia Abeles Foundation, Inc.
- Phillipstown Garden Club*

**MEMBERSHIP RAFFLE RECIPIENTS**
- Roslyn Miranda
- Robert Ohlerking
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
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

$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:
- A leadership role in The Native Plant Center

$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.

NEW WAY TO PAY – GO ONLINE: https://mysunywcc.yourmembership.com/donations

MEMBER DONATIONS CONTRIBUTE 22% OF THE NPC OPERATING BUDGET - JOIN TODAY!
THE NATIVE PLANT CENTER’S 2010 FALL EDUCATIONAL SERIES

AUTUMN LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE
GATEWAY TO SUSTAINABLE GARDENING
Friday, September 24 at WCC
9:15 - 2 p.m.
3 PDHs

Designing Your Garden with Northeastern Flora: A Personal View
Carolyn Summers

Author and landscape designer Carolyn Summers will present an informative review of current research that reveals the many ways in which indigenous (native) plants form the basis of the food web and support a healthy landscape. She will then offer a selection of striking design alternatives using native plants in place of more commonly used exotics in a variety of traditional styles. Copies of Carolyn’s newly released book, Designing Gardens with Flora of the American East, will be on sale at the conference.

Carolyn Summers is an adjunct professor for Continuing Ed. at Westchester Comm. College and a technical assistant to The Native Plant Center. She holds a Landscape Architecture degree from City College of New York and works with government and non-government organizations on environmental/landscape projects.

Unraveling and Re-raveling the Web of Life
William Cullina

It is natural to think of time in terms of human life span, and if we contemplate living things that survive over longer intervals, then a belief in permanence may understandably arise. A Douglas fir that has lived 1,000 years is incomprehensibly old to us but in geological time 1,000 years is roughly equivalent to 10 minutes in our own lives. What perspective can a geological view bring when we are planning and planting a sustainable landscape that goes beyond our life span? The presenter will discuss the thorny issue of identifying plants as being “native” and explore how this may be addressed while considering future impacts from land development and climate change. Copies of Bill’s newest release, Native Ferns, Moss, and Grasses will be on sale at the conference.

William Cullina is the director of Horticulture/Plant Curator for the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens. He is a well-known author and a recognized authority on native plants and their ecology.

Go Native U
Certificate Program
Beginning in September in collaboration with The NPC & WCC Continuing Education Department
PDHs Available

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. Go Native U at Westchester Community College offers a schedule of courses that are designed to be of benefit to business owners, as well as garden enthusiasts. If you are a landscape architect/designer or landscaper, 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. Upon completion, participants will gain an understanding of regional ecology and sustainable practices that will serve to guide gardening, landscape design, land and grounds management, selection, sales, and marketing decisions. The certificate consists of 50 contact hours offered over the period of the year. Some classes will have LA CES approved credit hours.

Additional information on reverse side of insert.

DEALING WITH DEER
Brad Roeller
Wed., October 20 at WCC  12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
2 PDHs

Discover the latest information available on deer repellents and other proven methods of discouraging deer browsing. Learn about environmental and biological factors which influence deer and their choice of food that will assist homeowners and professionals in developing a strategy for “deer-proofing” their landscape. The instructor will also review methods for deterring damage from other types of wildlife.

Brad Roeller is the manager of Outdoor Gardens at the New York Botanical Garden and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Conservation from Cornell University.
Core Classes:
Northeastern Native Plants in Our Landscapes
For design professionals, master gardeners and gardening enthusiasts, this 6-hour course provides a comprehensive foundation for garden design using regionally native plants. Issues covered include wildlife benefits, harmful invasives and sustainable design. Students will learn to apply basic ecological and design principles in their own and clients’ gardens. Topics include: Why Natives, The Garden as Wildlife Habitat, Principles of Safe Sex in the Garden, Showy Native Substitutes for Popular Plants, Basic Design Concepts and Styles, and Shopping for Native Plants.

2 Wed., 7:00-9:00 pm, Oct. 20-Nov. 10 (skip 11/3). C Summers

Native Woody Plants
Landscaping with native plants is a growing national movement whose time has come. Learn the best-of-the-best woody native plants for our area along with the latest techniques for establishing them in the landscape.

2 Tues., Oct. 19 & 26, 10:00 am-12:00 noon. B Roeller

Herbaceous Native Plants - Part I
Autumn is a good time to plant natives for the spring and summer. Learn what is in bloom now, the importance of native plants to wildlife in the fall, winter and spring, and what to plant in your garden now to enjoy next Spring.

1 Sat., TBA. B Fischer

Elective Classes:
Gardening with Stormwater
Realize the potential benefits of conserving, preserving and protecting nature’s greatest resources by using creative design techniques to achieve beautiful sustainable landscape systems. The course will include the design of rain gardens, rain water systems and vegetated riparian buffers.

1 Wed., Nov. 3, 6:30-9:30 pm. J Archer

Designing with Nature: Residential Landscape Design
Geared toward beginners who want to learn the basic aspects of landscape design. Sessions will focus on design methods using site analysis techniques, conceptual and schematic design tools. There will be special emphasis on using native plants in the residential landscape, including discussions on plant communities, plant choices and placement in the landscape.

2 Thurs., Oct. 21 & 28, 6:30-8:30 pm. C Darnell

Using Computers for Gardening and Designing with Native Plants
An introduction into using computer graphics and data-input that will enhance garden design skills and record-keeping. The course will include overviews of Photoshop, AutoCAD, Excel, Adobe Photoshop and other programs that will assist in creating images and recording plant information, enabling visualization of design components and recording content and growth over time. No previous experience with computer graphics is necessary. Experience with Microsoft Windows, especially file management, is highly recommended.

2 Wed., Dec. 1 & 8, 7:30-9:30 pm. E Hoffman

Continuing Ed: 914-606-6830 - press 1 or email: communityservices@sunywcc.edu or visit the website at www.sunywcc.edu/ce