**The Native Plant Center**

**Newsletter**

**Number 22**

Upcoming Events

**February 23:**

- **Plant Pre-Sale Order Deadline**
  Catalogs at [www.nativeplantcenter.org](http://www.nativeplantcenter.org)
  Plant pick-up held week of April 20

**February 23:**

- **Jay Archer**
  Storm Water Management

**March 7:**

- **Evelyn D. Fetridge**
  Wild Bee Diversity in Westchester Residential Gardens

**March 16:**

- **Annual Spring Landscape Conference**
  Investing in Ecology: Native Gardens and Natural Processes - see insert page

**April 16:**

- **Field Trip & Lunch - Members Free**
  Fee Applicable for Non-NPC Members
  Garden Education Center of Greenwich
  Read article on page 3 for further details

**April 25:**

- **Wildflower & Native Plant Sale**
  10:30 A.M. - Early Admission for Members Join as a Member, form on last page of newsletter
  11 A.M. - Sale Opens to General Public Sale ends at 1 P.M.

**July 19:**

- **Garden Conservancy Open Day Tours**
  Free guided tours 12 noon - 4 p.m.
  Join as a Member Receive Many Member Perks
  Advance Reservation & Fee Required for Some Events Listed Above
  [www.nativeplantcenter.org](http://www.nativeplantcenter.org) Phone (914) 606-7870 For Details

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**Native Plant Center Hires New Director**

**Exciting New Programs Scheduled - Details Within**

by John Fellas, WCC Foundation Director of Operations

Darrin W. Duling of Greenwich, Connecticut has been chosen as the new director of The Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College in Valhalla.

An internationally-known horticultural consultant, speaker, and design planner, Mr. Duling brings a wealth of experience to his new position.

**10th Annual Wildflower and Native Plant Sale**

by Nancy Inzinna, Editor

The NPC Annual Wildflower and Native Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, April 25. The Sale is located at scenic Westchester Community College in Valhalla, NY near parking lot # 1.

New This Year: NPC Members will gain early admission into the Sale. Members enter at 10:30 a.m. The general public enter at 11 a.m. Native Plant Center Membership information and form on last page of newsletter.

Interested in ordering plants early? Visit [www.nativeplantcenter.org](http://www.nativeplantcenter.org) to get a free copy of the Plant Pre-Sale Catalog. Membership is not required to order. However, members do receive a discount on Pre-Sale orders over $90.

Pre-Sale order deadline: Monday, February 23. Fifty-seven varieties are available in the Pre-Sale. Many more varieties will also be sold on Sale Day. Related story on page 3

**6th Annual Spring Landscape Conference - March 16**

On Monday, March 16, The NPC will host the 6th Annual Spring Landscape Conference at Westchester Community College with co-sponsor New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL). This year’s theme will be Investing in Ecology: Native Gardens and Natural Processes with speakers John Anderson, executive director of Aton Forest, Jonathan Kays of the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension, and Larry Weaner, president of Larry Weaner Landscape Design Associates. Although planned for landscape architects, planners, designers and other professionals, it will be of interest to anyone interested in ecological landscaping. Continuing education units (CEUs) will be available for Landscape Architects and designers.

**57 Varieties of Native Plants**

LARGEST SELECTION OF NATIVE PLANTS IN THE TRI-STATE AREA

NOT AN NPC MEMBER?

GET YOUR FREE COPY OF THE 2009 PLANT PRE-SALE LIST AT [WWW.NATIVEPLANTCENTER.ORG](http://WWW.NATIVEPLANTCENTER.ORG) OR PHONE (914) 606-7870.

**Pre-Sale Order Deadline: February 23**
Executive Director Hired

Crete. He has conducted field research and surveys on local flora and ecosystems, rain forests, coastal dunes and monsoon forests, and consulted on plant rescue missions in natural habitats that were slated for development. He is the author of numerous articles in horticultural journals and newsletters and is affiliated with more than a dozen professional societies.

His career brought him back to the United States in 1998, and the following year he was named Director of Horticulture for the American Orchid Society in Del Ray Beach, Florida. He also served as Curator of Glasshouse Collections for The New York Botanical Garden until 2005, when he started his own garden consulting company, Duling Designs, in Greenwich.

As Director of The Native Plant Center, Mr. Duling is responsible for creating and planning educational programs, managing the demonstration gardens on campus, ensuring the organization’s financial stability, and to promote The Native Plant Center in many venues throughout the area.

New Rain Garden Installed at the Stone Cottage

by Carolyn Swenson

On October 18th Native Plant Center members and volunteers gathered to celebrate The NPC’s 10th Anniversary with a visit to the newly created rain garden adjacent to the Stone Cottage Garden.

The designer of the garden, Jay Archer of John Jay Landscape Development, enthusiastically outlined the installation process and described how rain gardens hold the potential to build healthier living environments. He explained that rain gardens are designed to intercept, reduce, and filter storm-water runoff in order to decrease ground-water pollution before it enters our waterways. Rain gardens slow soil erosion and alleviate flooding while providing optimal habitat for regional wildlife.

The rain garden is a wide streambed lined with gravel and round river stones. This streambed carries storm water runoff from the roof and downsputs of the cottage, channeling it into a twin series of depressions, or infiltration trenches, connected by an additional streambed. Trenches are lined with filter (scrubber) fabric and filled with a soil mixture composed of equal parts soil, sand, gravel, and compost.
SPRING FIELD TRIP

Take A Walk on the Wild Side at the Garden Education Center of Greenwich

Join Darrin Duling, NPC director and Lisa Beebe, GEC director of horticulture on an exclusive guided tour of the historic Montgomery Pinetum and antique sunken conservatory, followed by a woodland walk along a wildflower trail. We will have lunch in the "lost" lakeside garden of Ernest Seton which was recently "re-discovered" and revealed. The day will conclude with an opportunity to shop at the Garden Ed Center Gift Shop and greenhouses.  

Register by April 3, form on back of insert page.

NATIVE NOTES

It is with great pleasure that I write my first Native Notes column as Director of The Native Plant Center. I imagine that most of you are wondering: “Who is this fellow?” Without launching into a lengthy bio, let me tell you that my passion for plants and Nature began at a very early age; I was practically climbing trees before I could walk and regarded the forest as my favorite playground. My woodland explorations have continued throughout my life and what was once childhood dreams has become a greatly-expanded reality. I am privileged to enjoy a career that has taken me to far-flung spots all over the world where I have encountered amazingly diverse flora and fauna in their natural settings. It has been a very special journey and I never waste an opportunity to share my experiences with anyone who wants to listen. I always underscore my tales with the critical need to protect and conserve these places – they are a great gift that we cannot afford to squander.

On that note, I look forward to carrying forth the work and vision of Brooke Beebe and so many others who, over the past ten years, have made The NPC a thriving and noteworthy institution. Our affiliation with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center offers a vital resource and a greatly-valued friendship for us and I intend to increase collaboration with staff there. Additionally there is a multitude of like-minded individuals and organizations that we have been, and will be, partnering with to carry out our mission to encourage the love and protection of our environment and native plants.

Our Steering Committee has recently reviewed a completed Museum Assessment Program Institutional Assessment Report (MAP) that was developed with the assistance of Claire Sawyers, director of Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College. This document will serve as a template for further development of our organization and its partnership with the Westchester Community College Foundation. While it is a bit premature to divulge the particular details of the MAP Report right now, a clear message came forth: our location on the campus of Westchester Community College is ideal for The NPC and there is great opportunity to work with the College to develop a plan for large-scale enhancement of the existing landscape utilizing native plants. We also are poised to further strengthen our relationship with the faculty and the student body through environmentally-based interactive projects and programs.

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New findings from Scott C. Williams of Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station indicate wild populations of the invasive Japanese barberry (Berberis thunbergii) tend to provide perfect habitat for ticks!

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Our annual native plant sale will take place on Saturday, April 25. An even greater selection of well-grown, choice, rarities and old favorites will be offered. As in the past we are presenting a pre-sale option for convenience, as well as to enable members to secure specimens that may be only available in limited quantities.

Because there is such high demand for the fantastic plants in our spring sale, this year we are going to offer an additional pre-sale option for plants to be picked up in the autumn. Due to restrictions on the number of fund-raising events we are allowed to hold, this will be a pre-sale only, not an onsite sale day. We will focus on plants that are noteworthy for autumn and winter interest, along with “good-doers” that are available. The pre-sale plant list for autumn delivery will be made available shortly before, and during, the spring sale.

Apologies to seasoned gardeners out there but for the sake of a plants well-being I want to remind everyone that just because a species is native to the region that you are gardening in, it does not mean that you can just stick it in the ground and forget about it. Yes, they may be suitably adapted to your conditions and climate, but even the toughest specimens may need a bit of TLC for the first year or so in order to become successfully established. Many natives will indeed settle in rapidly and spread with abandon with little care, however others may be much more demanding, if not exasperatingly impossible, to grow, no matter how much time and attention you lavish on them (think pink lady slipper and painted trillium).

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These past few weeks have been a busy time for me; meeting dozens of people whose names I promptly forget, moving into my office in the Stone Cottage (now sporting a beautiful new office floor), and poring over tons of files and manuscripts whose contents are just now starting to coalesce in what passes for my Mind these days.

It has been my personal experience that life often presents “interesting” messages, and my initiation into The NPC hasn’t disappointed; on the first day of moving into the Stone Cottage, I found an old Post-it note that reads: “Squirrels in the attic and office. Hornets too! Bunny in the window well. Chipmunk in the commode. Nancy Locked In.” I have to admit that I was momentarily disquieted by this rather alarming memo but after careful investigation I am happy to report that the cottage presently appears to be devoid of fauna…except for one fairly idealistic plantsman…and Nancy is enjoying her liberation with door key in hand.

Please call or visit and introduce yourself – I’m looking forward meeting you!
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 - Early Admission on Plant Sale Day
- 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 Householder 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

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.
The Native Plant Center’s 2009 Spring Lecture Series

Storm Water Management
Space Limited - Register Early

Jay Archer of John Jay Landscape Development
Monday, February 23
10 – 12 noon at WCC

Learn how to design and construct rain gardens used to retain and infiltrate storm water on your property. Understand how rain gardens and other bio-engineering techniques can be an economical way to mitigate the impacts of storm water run off and meet state and local water infiltration requirements. Come see for yourself why these beautiful plant based systems are becoming widely accepted green alternatives to conventional engineering solutions.

Read Rain Garden article on adjacent page. Get a better understanding of how a rain garden can work for you on your property.

Wild Bee Diversity in Westchester Residential Gardens

Evelyn D. Fetriddle of The Louis Calder Center
Saturday, March 7
10 – 12 noon at WCC

Colony collapse disorder and other diseases plaguing honeybees have increased interest in the conservation of wild, native pollinating bees. Because they are highly mobile and can utilize cultivated flowering plants for food, bees are somewhat compatible with human landscape development. Fetriddle will present the findings of a 3 year survey of the bee species using suburban residential gardens in Westchester County. With a total of 110 species, these gardens hosted a bee community that was almost as diverse as that found in Black Rock Forest, a large, undeveloped research preserve in nearby Orange County. Join as a member & save.

2009 Spring Landscape Conference
Investing in Ecology: Native Gardens and Natural Processes

CEUs Available for Landscape Architects & Designers

Monday, March 16th 2009
8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Co-Sponsored by The Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College and New Directions in the American Landscape

A true natural garden is more than a collection of native plants. Never static, its rich palette is continuously influenced by unseen processes and highly evolved interactions. In this session we will examine the unfolding patterns of our woodlands and open fields, and illustrate how landscape practitioners and property owners can cost-effectively improve the ecological value, reduce maintenance requirements, and enhance the visual impact of their designed gardens.

Meadows, Oldfields and Shrublands - John Anderson

The late and brilliant ecologist Frank E. Egler spent over 50 years studying, planting, and manipulating the open fields of his family estate in Norfolk, Connecticut. While the intricate mosaic of native meadows and shrub lands that currently exist seem to have occurred naturally, they are actually the direct result of Egler’s selective manipulations of ecological processes. In this presentation, John Anderson, heir to Egler’s innovative work, will use archival and contemporary images to show how this beautiful and fascinating landscape was achieved.

Woodlands - Jonathan Kays

Why does a forest of Tuliptrees turn into a Beech-Maple woodland and what happens to the ground layer ferns and wildflowers in the process? Is a gap in the canopy an opportunity for renewal, or a dangerous and destabilizing occurrence? How do different stages of forest development affect the presence of wildlife? In this presentation, forest expert Jonathan Kays will analyze the interrelated patterns and evolving compositions that define the eastern hardwood forest.

The Evolving Garden - Larry Weaner

Want to turn that lawn into a diverse native meadow; or turn that invasive choked woodland into a multilayered composition of native shrubs, herbs and understory trees? Ease of maintenance is a must of course. Yes it can be done, but not through traditional horticultural practice. In this presentation we will show how areas large and small, formal and wild, can be more effectively designed by embracing ecological patterns and processes.
### NPC Lecture Series Speaker Bios

**Jay Archer** is a product of the New York Botanical Garden School of Professional Horticulture. He has studied at Rutgers University Center for Urban Ecology and has worked as an interpretative naturalist for The Nature Conservancy and Audubon. Jay has lectured extensively on stormwater management, wetland restoration and ecological landscape design and management. Instructor at NYBG and erosion & sediment control professional.

**Evelyn D. Fettridge** is a Westchester native, she was born in Bronxville, NY, and attended middle school and high school there. She received her Bachelor's degree from Columbia University, and her Master's degree from Fordham University. Her Master's research examined the factors influencing bee diversity in suburban residential gardens. She is now pursuing her Ph.D. at Fordham, studying microbial evolution.

### Investing in Ecology - Conference Speaker Profiles

**John Anderson** has been the executive director of Aton Forest since 2001. He began working as Frank Egler's Research Associate at Aton Forest in 1981 and co-authored several papers with him. In 1992, he was named the Aton Forest Fellow, a position supported by a trust established by Dr. Egler to ensure that research and conservation activities continued at Aton Forest. He has served on the Norfolk Conservation and Inland Wetlands Agency, the town's Open Space Committee and the Norfolk GIS work group, and serves on the boards of the Connecticut Conservation Association and the Connecticut Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation.

**Jonathan Kays** has been a Natural Resources Extension Specialist with the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension for twenty years. He has responsibility for development of extension programs in the areas of forest stewardship, backyard woodlot management, wildlife damage management, natural resource income opportunities, and waste management systems using forest crops. Jonathan has authored numerous publications which can be found on this website at: www.naturalresources.umd.edu.

**Larry Weaner** is recognized nationally for his work in integrating the ecological sciences with the creation of fine garden art. He has been president of Larry Weaner Landscape Associates since 1982 and has created gardens throughout the Eastern U.S. Larry's projects have been featured in national and international publications and he is a past board member, environmental committee chair, and landscape award winner of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers. He also developed the New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL) educational series in 1990.

### Native Plant Center 2009 Lecture Registration Form

**Save postage & paper - include your e-mail address to receive your confirmation**

**Join as a member and save - membership form on last page of newsletter**

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<td>Field Trip to Garden Education Center of Greenwich</td>
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**Non-NPC Members or Guests** ($20 - Join as a Member - attend trip for free, form on last page)

Lunch $15.50 (optional) $4

| Lectures/Lunch Sub-Total | $________ |
| Subtract Applicable Discount | $________ |
| Total Amount Enclosed | $________ |

Send or fax registration to:
The Native Plant Center at WCC - Library
75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla, NY 10595
Fax: (914) 606-6143 Phone: (914) 606-7870

**Special discounts on lecture fees for senior citizens and WCC staff members/students. Phone for details.**