Wildflowers, butterfly host plants, and hummingbird favorites are among the hundreds of perennials, shrubs, and trees that will be available at The Native Plant Center’s 14th Annual Native Plant Sale on Saturday, April 27, at Westchester Community College, across from Parking Lot No. 1.

This year hours have been extended for greater shopping enjoyment and will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Members of The Native Plant Center can enter at 9:30 a.m. Admission is free.

Native plant specialists will be on hand to answer questions and assist gardeners in selecting great options for their sites. Those with limited space or who want to brighten up entryways and patios can get advice on native plant combinations suitable for containers.

As in past years, McCue Gardens of Wethersfield, Connecticut, will be present to offer a unique selection of delicate woodland plants and spring ephemerals.

For further information about the sale or to volunteer, please call or send an e-mail to The Native Plant Center.

NYBG Opens New Native Plant Garden

The New York Botanical Garden will open its new native plant garden with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 3 and accompanying festivities May 4–5. The garden was created to inspire and teach people about the beauty of native flora throughout the seasons and to illustrate how native plants can be used in attractive garden designs.

A promenade of boardwalks and intimate paths in the 3.5-acre garden lead visitors through a range of settings—shaded woodland, open meadow, lush wetlands—and past 100,000 plants. The centerpiece is a 250-foot pool with water cascading over stone weirs.

“This is an exciting project that will serve as a showcase of the region’s native flora and as an important teaching facility,” said Todd Forrest, Arthur Ross Vice President for Horticulture and Living Collections at NYBG and the most recent recipient of The Native Plant Center’s Lady Bird Johnson Environmental Award. “Native plants are a beautiful addition to any garden.”

Visit The Native Plant Center’s table and join in the activities at NYBG during the opening weekend celebration. NPC is planning a special members tour of the new garden in June. Details to come. Call or e-mail us.
FROM THE DIRECTOR

A Candy Store for Native Plant Lovers

My interest in gardening for birds led me to The Native Plant Center—and its Native Plant Sale—in its early days. I’ve been a fan ever since, excited to be among incredible plant selections and kindred native plant lovers, and to take home treasures for my garden and its feathered visitors.

A kid in a candy store couldn’t have it better.

The event is more than a plant sale: It is part education, demonstration, conservation—and community. You learn about how the plants grow and the wildlife they attract through informative signs and by talking to knowledgeable staff and volunteers. You see the plants in real life and can visually picture them in your garden. When you plant and grow them, you help the environment by adding habitat, decreasing lawn areas, and in many other ways. You share stories and favorite plants with other like-minded gardeners. And your purchases support The Native Plant Center throughout the year.

Please come to the sale, bring a friend, and seek me out to say hello.

Another eagerly anticipated event this spring is the opening of the native plant garden at The New York Botanical Garden. This magnificent spotlight on indigenous species by a venerable organization such as NYBG will teach new audiences about the benefits of native plants. The project is sponsored by the Leon Levy Foundation, which recently awarded a grant to The Native Plant Center, for which we are grateful. We look forward to the opening celebration and to a tour of the new garden with our members.

—Carol Capobianco

Volunteer Spotlight: Carolyn Summers

If ever you have called The Native Plant Center with a question about a native plant, chances are you were directed to Carolyn Summers for the answer.

Carolyn is an authority on native plants who has dedicated thousands of hours in educating and impassioning others on behalf of The Native Plant Center. She has been a leader of NPC for nearly a decade as a member of the Steering Committee, is recognized unofficially as the “dean” of Go Native U, through which she also teaches, and is known to thousands of grateful native plant lovers as the chief coordinator of NPC’s Native Plant Sale, a role she has held for several years.

“Native plants form the basis of the food web for what’s left of wild nature,” says Carolyn. “I’m trying to help people make the connections between the plants in their gardens and the role they play in the environment.”

Carolyn, a landscape architect, developed her expertise working for non-profit and government agencies. She is author of Designing Gardens with Flora of the American East.

To volunteer, please contact us.

Welcome New Staff Members

Jennifer Beaugrand, Horticulturist/Educator

Jenn is a landscape designer and master gardener with experience in community driven horticulture. In her new role at The Native Plant Center, she will oversee the demonstration gardens, organize the annual plant sale, coordinate volunteer projects, and provide educational outreach.

Susan E. Palmer, Administrative Assistant/Events Coordinator

Susan has experience in campaign and fund development, donor cultivation, and public affairs and marketing. She will provide integral program support to The Native Plant Center, handling day-to-day operations, managing membership and donor records, and organizing events.
And the Winners Are…

For the past few years, The Native Plant Center has declared a “Woody Plant of the Year” and a “Perennial of the Year” to promote the use of native plants by home gardeners, nurseries, garden centers, landscapers, and municipalities.

This year’s selections were chosen by balloting of members and friends of The Native Plant Center. The winners will be available at the Plant Sale on April 27.

NATIVE WOODY PLANT OF THE YEAR

**Amelanchier laevis**

**COMMON NAME:** Allegheny Serviceberry

**HARDINESS:** Zones 4–8

**LIGHT:** Light shade to sun

**SOIL:** Average to moist

**SIZE:** 15’–30’ tall x 8’–20’ wide

**FOLIAGE:** Emerging new foliage is purple and turns dark green. Fall color is yellow to red. Deciduous.

**FLOWERS:** Delicate clusters of white flowers emerge just before or concurrently with the leaves.

**BLOOM TIME IN TRI-STATE AREA:** Late April

**WILDLIFE VALUE:** Flowers provide early season nectar and pollen for insects, followed by delicious pinkish-purple fruits in June for birds and small mammals. Larval host for several butterfly species.

**ABOUT:** *Amelanchier laevis* is one of the earliest small trees to bloom in spring, and its early summer fruits are favored by many bird species. It is easy to grow in many garden situations, but will be more vigorous in moist soils and will flower and fruit most prolifically in full sun.

NATIVE PERENNIAL OF THE YEAR

**Pycnanthemum muticum**

**COMMON NAME:** Broad-leaved Mountain Mint

**HARDINESS:** Zones 3–9

**LIGHT:** Sun to light shade

**SOIL:** Moist is preferable

**SIZE:** 2’–3’ tall x 1 1/2’–3’ wide

**FOLIAGE:** Deep-green, oval, pointed leaves

**FLOWERS:** Showy, silvery bracts with small button-shaped centers showcasing white flowers tinged with magenta

**BLOOM TIME IN TRI-STATE AREA:** Mid to late summer

**WILDLIFE VALUE:** Nectar for a wide variety of pollinators, including butterflies and other beneficial insects

**ABOUT:** *Pycnanthemum muticum* is a superior nectar plant that is covered with an amazing variety of insects when in bloom. It is quite aromatic and highly resistant to deer. It spreads by rhizomes and will ramble, but is less aggressive than traditional culinary mints such as spearmint.

Upcoming Go Native U Classes

**Nativelicious: Gardening with Edible Native Plants**

Add beauty to your garden while growing edible fruits, nuts, and berries that improve your backyard ecosystem.

Wed., Apr. 17, 10 a.m.–1 p.m., $70. K. Eierman.

**Plant Identification in the Field**

Move outside the classroom to learn how to identify plants using a taxonomic identification key.

Sat., May 4, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., $45. J. Schuler.

**Gardening to Attract Beneficial Insects**

Learn to identify important insects and provide them with the habitat they need at various stages of their life cycles.

Wed., May 22, 10 a.m.–1 p.m., $70. K. Eierman.

**Field ID of the Common Weeds of Westchester**

Learn how to use a dichotomous key to identify common weeds and successfully manage weed eradication in your garden. The class goes outdoors for field identification and the creation of a herbarium.

2 Weds, May 29 & June 5, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., $90. M. Fabel.

**Gardening for Beekeepers**

Find out about the foraging needs of bees, the principles of bee garden design, and the best plant choices timed to flower throughout the growing season.

Sun., June 2, 1–3 p.m., $45. K. Eierman.

**Meadowscaping at Home: How to Make a Native Meadow**

Transform your lifeless, boring lawn into a beautiful, low maintenance, and ecologically beneficial area by creating a native meadow.


**Common Wild Violets of the Northeast**

Learn how to identify common violets in the field using a dichotomous key and hand lens. Study the ecological role of violets and understand the characteristics that make this dainty flower unique.

Wed., June 12, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., $45. M. Fabel.

To register, call 914-606-6830 and press 1, or register online at www.sunywcc.edu/ce.

A percentage of the tuition to Go Native U supports the work of The Native Plant Center.
Save These Dates

**July 28**
Guided Tours
at The Native Plant Center
Visit our gardens in their summer glory
during this Garden Conservancy Open
Days event.

**September 7–8**
Native Plant Weekend
at Rosedale Nurseries
Find native trees, shrubs, and more with
help from our knowledgeable personal
shoppers at this sale that benefits The
Native Plant Center.

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**Support The Native Plant Center—Please Join Today!**

I'd like to become a Member of The Native Plant Center
(For details about membership benefits, please visit our website.)

$45 Friend • $80 Household and Garden Clubs/Organizations • $125 Supporting
$250 Advocate • $500–$999 Sustaining • $1,000–$2,999 Conservator • $3,000+ Heritage Circle

Membership Level $________
Additional LBJ Wildflower Center Membership $30 Yes/No
(Membership to the LBJ Wildflower Center is included in Supporting level and above.)
I am enclosing an additional donation of $________
I'd like to purchase a gift membership in the amount of $________
Total due $________

Matching contributions are appreciated; contact your employer for details.

Member's Name ________________________________ E-Mail ________________________________
Address ________________________________________ Phone ________________________________

Gift-giver Name (if applicable) ______________________ E-Mail ________________________________
Address ________________________________________ Phone ________________________________

Make checks payable to: The Native Plant Center, 75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla, NY 10595
MC, Visa, or Discover # ________________________ Exp. Date ________________________
Total amount to charge account $ ____________ Name of Cardholder ______________________

Mail • Fax: 914-606-6143 • E-mail: wcc.nativeplant@sunywcc.edu • OR Pay online: www.mysunywcc.org/donations