

# THE NATIVE PLANT CENTER

—AT WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE—

## NEWSLETTER

No. 42 • Spring 2019

### Native Plant Sale Celebrates 20th Year

**T**HE NATIVE PLANT CENTER celebrates its 20th annual Native Plant Sale on Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The sale was launched in 1999, a year after The Native Plant Center was established. Since then tens of thousands of native plants have found homes in area gardens and landscapes, supporting wildlife and providing ecological benefits to the community. The sale is distin-

#### COME TO THE SALE

**Saturday, April 27, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.**

Westchester Community College  
Across from Parking Lot No. 1

guished in that it offers native plants exclusively, attracting people from the tri-state region.

The Center is also marking the 10th



The first species chosen as Plants of the Year, in 2010, were mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), left, and wild bleeding heart (*Dicentra eximia*). For this year's winners, see page 3.



Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center: Stephanie Brundage, left, and W.D. and Dolphia Bransford

year of its Plant of the Year initiative, through which a native woody plant (tree, shrub, or vine) and a native perennial are selected annually as representative species to promote the use of native plants.

In honor of this milestone, all 20 species that have been recognized as Plant of the Year will be available for sale. (For the 2019 winners, see page 3; for a list of past winners, visit our website.)

Also for sale will be other enduring garden favorites such as phlox (*Phlox* spp.), coralbells (*Heuchera* spp.), asters (*Symphyotrichum* spp.), and blueberries (*Vaccinium* spp.) as well as beautiful grasses and ferns. Pollinator magnets, monarch butterfly host plants, and hummingbird- and songbird-friendly species will be available as well.

In total, more than 100 plant species and varieties and more than 4,000 plants will be available, including a few surprises not easily found elsewhere. Native plant specialists will be on hand to answer questions and assist gardeners in choosing great options for their sites.

Admission is free. Members of The Native Plant Center can enter at 9 a.m. this year—earlier than in the past. Consider bringing your own cart to shop for plants as we have a limited number of wagons.

For further information about the sale or to volunteer, please call or email The Native Plant Center.

### County Reissues Native Plant Order

Westchester County Executive George Latimer has revised an executive order to protect the county's natural ecosystems and environmental health.

Executive Order 10 calls for native plants to be used exclusively in county parks, public areas, gardens, roadsides, and other county properties and facilities. Installation of plant species that are noted to be invasive are prohibited.

The Native Plant Center was instrumental in the creation of the initial executive order regarding native plants in 2001 and worked with Latimer's office to update and reissue the order. He made the announcement at our 20th anniversary dinner in September.

"It is my hope that this Executive Order will promote public awareness and education, and serve as a catalyst for the



County Executive George Latimer presents Carol Capobianco, Director of The Native Plant Center, the new Executive Order.

general public to use our native plants in private and commercial landscaping," Latimer said in a press release.

To view the full executive order, visit The Native Plant Center's website.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

## People, Plants, Past, Present



Joseph Squillante

**T***o everything there is a season.* I was reminded of this in recent months as the cycle of life clearly presented itself. We lost two leaders who seeded and nurtured The Native Plant Center 20 years ago, while we greeted others who are taking us to flower, fruit, and back to seed once again.

Dr. Joseph Hankin, former president of Westchester Community College for 42 years, passed away in January. Dr. Hankin's support and vision enabled the creation of The Native Plant Center at the college. Among the memorials is the planting of an oak tree—a fitting honor for his monumental contributions.

Patricia H. Keesee, whom we profiled in the last newsletter, passed away in February. Pat was a trailblazer in the use of native plants and was co-chair of The Native Plant Center's Steering Committee in its early days. Her legacy continues as she directed gifts in lieu of flowers be sent to The Native Plant Center.

Jeanne Lapsker is our new part-time Garden Curator/Educator. She groomed her horticulture skills as a volunteer at The New York Botanical Garden, where she earned a horticulture certificate in sustainable garden design and serves on the advisory board for the School of Professional Horticulture.

Eric Lieberman has volunteered to be the new coordinator of Go Native U, taking the reins from Missy Fabel, who adeptly led the program for several years. Eric is manager (and an alumnus) of the School of Professional Horticulture. His training and experience in landscaping will inform the sustainable gardening curriculum.

With much excitement, student Paul Presendieu has taken the lead in creating an Environmental Science Club at the college. The Native Plant Center will be an advisor to the club. Though Paul will transfer to a four-year school in fall, he is planting the seed here to nurture a new generation of leaders.

*And the seasons go round and round.—Carol Capobianco*



## TWO WORKSHOPS

## Climate Change, Part 2

Find out how climate change is transforming farms, forests, and front yards in *Confronting Climate Change: Its Impacts on New York's Agriculture, Forests, and Neighborhood Landscapes*, on June 6, 8 a.m.–1:30 p.m., at Westchester County Center, White Plains. This workshop is Part 2 of the popular series launched in December.

The Native Plant Center is a partner in the event, led by Westchester County. The fee of \$25 includes continental breakfast and refreshments. Professional credits for landscape architects will be available. For more information and to download a registration form, visit [westchestergov.com/soilwater](http://westchestergov.com/soilwater).

## Design with Roy Diblik

Immerse yourself in garden design and gain inspiration for your own landscape in a workshop with renowned native plant expert Roy Diblik on August 20, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at Westchester Community College.

Diblik, co-owner of Northwind Perennial Farm in Wisconsin and author of *The Know Maintenance Perennial Garden*, specializes in aesthetic, sustainable plant communities for all seasons and reducing maintenance through design.

The Native Plant Center is hosting the event in partnership with the Ecological Landscape Alliance. The workshop is limited to 50 participants. More information, cost, and registration will be available at [ecolandscaping.org](http://ecolandscaping.org).

## THE NATIVE PLANT CENTER at Westchester Community College

## STEERING COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs Angel Morris • Ken Uhle

Brooke Beebe, Jacquelyn Bergonzi, Jan Blaire, Bob DeTorto, Nancy Dexter, Kim Eierman, Melissa Fabel, Barbara Fischer, Karalyn Lamb, Ursula LaMotte, Catherine Ludden, Guy Pardee, Heather Sandifer, Denise C.R. Santomero, Jessica A. Schuler, Carolyn Summers, Phillis Warden, Elizabeth S. Wattles, Lucille Werlinich, Anthony Zaino

## FOUNDERS

Marybeth Weston Lobdell • Marie Smith Schwartz • Betsy May Stern

## STAFF

Carol Capobianco, *Director*

Jeanne Lapsker, *Garden Curator/Educator*

Susan E. Palmer, *Administrative and Events Coordinator*

## ABOUT

The Native Plant Center is a program of the Westchester Community College Foundation and the first affiliate of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

## OUR MISSION

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

## CONTACT

The Native Plant Center  
Westchester Community College  
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[nativeplantcenter.org](http://nativeplantcenter.org) • 914-606-7870  
[wcc.nativeplant@sunywcc.edu](mailto:wcc.nativeplant@sunywcc.edu)



## 2019 PLANTS OF THE YEAR

# And the 10th Annual Winners Are...

It's been a decade since The Native Plant Center began selecting a woody and perennial plant of the year to promote the use of native plants. This year's choices selected by our members are reliable, hardworking species. Both winners, along with the winners from all past years, will be available for purchase at our Native Plant Sale on April 27.

### NATIVE WOODY PLANT OF THE YEAR

#### *Ilex glabra*

**COMMON NAME** Inkberry

**HARDINESS** Zones 4–9

**LIGHT** Sun to part shade

**SOIL** Average to wet

**SIZE** 4–8' tall

**FOLIAGE** Glossy, leathery, evergreen

**FLOWERS** Inconspicuous, greenish-white

**FRUIT** Black berries on females

**BLOOM TIME** Spring to early summer

**WILDLIFE VALUE** Attracts birds. Honeybees produce highly prized gallberry honey. **ABOUT** Broadleaf, mound-shaped, evergreen shrub in the holly family provides a year-round presence. Female plants need male inkberry nearby to produce black berries, which are consumed by birds. Excellent as a hedge or foundation planting and as an alternative to the ubiquitous boxwood.



Sally and Andy Wasowski,  
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

### NATIVE PERENNIAL OF THE YEAR

#### *Veronicastrum virginicum*

**COMMON NAME** Culver's root

**HARDINESS** Zones 3–8

**LIGHT** Sun

**SOIL** Moist to average

**SIZE** 4–6' tall

**FOLIAGE** Dark green, lance-shaped; in whorls

**FLOWERS** Spikes of white clusters

**BLOOM TIME** Summer

**WILDLIFE VALUE** Of special value to native bees; attracts butterflies

**ABOUT** Dramatic spikes of white flowers rise above whorled foliage in July and August. Striking vertical architecture provides back-of-the-border drama. Useful in rain gardens. Threatened in New York.



George H. Bruso,  
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

## Go Native U Classes

### Great Native Plants for Containers

Wed., May 1, 10 am–1 pm, \$80.

### Introduction to Insect Identification

Mon., May 6, 7–9:30 pm, \$65.

### Plant Identification in the Field

Tues., May 7, 10 am–12 pm, \$55.

### Advanced Insect Identification

W/Th/F, May 8–10, 7–9 pm, \$130.

### Advanced Plant Identification in the Field

Tues., May 14, 10 am–12 pm, \$55.

For more information, visit [nativeplantcenter.org](http://nativeplantcenter.org). To register, call 914-606-6830 and press 1.

## Free Field Walks

Join The Native Plant Center on field walks this spring with guides Missy Fabel and Dawn Orza to learn about native plants on location at these partnering organizations. Heavy rain cancels the event. Registration is necessary only if noted.

**WALK** Pruyn Sanctuary, Saw Mill River Audubon

**WHEN** Saturday, May 11, 9–10 a.m.

**WHAT** Explore the woodlands waking up to spring. Discover native ephemerals, unfurling ferns, skunk cabbage, swamp azalea, and many other plant species.

**WHERE** Meet in the parking lot of Pruyn Sanctuary, 275 Millwood Road (Route 133), Chappaqua, NY. To register, email [MissyFabel@yahoo.com](mailto:MissyFabel@yahoo.com).

**WALK** Rockefeller State Park Preserve

**WHEN** Saturday, May 18, 9–10 a.m.

**WHAT** Explore the meadow and woodlands surrounding Swan Lake. Learn about native plants and invasive species.

**WHERE** Meet at the Welcome Center, Rockefeller Preserve, 125 Phelps Way, Pleasantville, NY. Parking fee, \$6.

**WALK** John Jay Homestead

**WHEN** Saturday, June 1, 9–10 a.m.

**WHAT** Explore the gardens around the house, the meadow, and woodlands.

**WHERE** Meet in the main parking lot at the John Jay Homestead, 400 Jay Street (Route 22), Katonah, NY.



# THE NATIVE PLANT CENTER

AT WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

75 GRASSLANDS ROAD, VALHALLA, NY 10595

## Save the Date

**SEPTEMBER 7–8, 2019**

### **10th Annual Native Plant Weekend at Rosedale Nurseries**

Find native trees, shrubs, perennials, and more with help from our native-knowledgeable personal shoppers at this sale that benefits The Native Plant Center. Free workshops each day.

## 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.)

**\$50 Friend • \$100 Household and Garden Clubs/Organizations • \$150 Supporting  
\$250 Advocate • \$500 Sustaining • \$1,000 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 \_\_\_\_\_ CVV code \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount to charge account \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Cardholder \_\_\_\_\_

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