Be Inspired By Nature at Plant Sale

LOVERS OF birds, butterflies, and other pollinators will find a feast for nature—hundreds of perennials, shrubs, and trees favored by wildlife—at The Native Plant Center’s 17th annual Native Plant Sale on Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Native plants inherently provide sustenance and shelter of high value for local fauna. At the sale you’ll find plants that support these creatures with berries, seeds, or nectar such as serviceberry (Amelanchier canadensis) and gray dogwood (Cornus racemosa), coastal plain Joe-pye weed (Eutrochium dubium) and grasses (Panicum spp. and others), trumpet honeysuckle (Lonicera sempervirens) and wild columbine (Aquilegia canadensis). These are just a handful of the more than 100 species and varieties of plants that will be available.

As always, the Native Plant Sale will offer enduring garden favorites like phlox (Phlox spp.) and coralbells (Heuchera spp.) as well as milkweed (Asclepias spp.), an important host plant for the imperiled monarch butterfly.

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 9:30 a.m.

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

COME TO THE SALE
Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
Westchester Community College
Across from Parking Lot No. 1

SPECIAL OFFER
Enjoy 20% Savings On NYBG Visit

In celebration of The New York Botanical Garden’s 125th anniversary, Native Plant Center members and friends can save 20% on All-Garden Passes through September 11, 2016. NYBG’s Native Plant Garden, at left, is among the many beautiful gardens to enjoy.

To take advantage of the offer, use code “Spring” online at nybg.org. Orders are limited to six tickets; restrictions apply.
FROM THE DIRECTOR

Insider’s Guide to the Native Plant Sale

OUR ANNUAL PLANT SALE is a festive, communal event of hundreds of passionate gardeners perusing plants, learning about new species, and sharing their experiences growing natives. Whether you have been attending the sale for years or are planning to come for the first time, these tips will make your shopping even more enjoyable.

ARRIVE EARLY The sale opens to the public at 10 a.m., but Native Plant Center members can enter at 9:30, getting the first choices. You can join at any time during the year, but that day as well, beginning at 9 a.m. The membership table is located along the path from the parking lot.

KNOW THE LAYOUT The 100+ plant species are organized alphabetically within categories: perennials, grasses/ferns, vines/shrubs/trees. Perennials ring the inside of the fence beginning to the right of the entrance and are followed by grasses and ferns. Woody plants are grouped in a floating “L” just beyond the entrance. Special plants—those few in quantity or of a delicate nature—are located at a circle of tables within the center of the sale area. New plants are moved to this table throughout the day as species are bought up and numbers dwindle, so check regularly.

FIND HELP Descriptions and photos of the plants are posted on signs in front of each species. You can also get personalized information about the plants and your landscape needs from the knowledgeable Ask Me volunteers throughout the sale. If you need an extra hand while making your selections, place your plants in the holding area so that you can continue making choices unencumbered.

FOLLOW THE CHECKOUT PROCESS When you have finished shopping, find a salesperson (volunteers wearing white aprons), who will count your plants and write up a sales slip with your name and information. Take two copies of the sales slip into the tent, where your order will be tallied. Then proceed to the cashiers for payment. You may be asked to round up your order by a dollar or two (as a donation). This is optional, but please be kind.

CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING Dozens of volunteers are needed to make the plant sale a success. Beginning the Monday before the sale and throughout the week, these volunteers unload thousands of plants from delivery trucks, set up the sale area, tag each plant with a price marker, pull pre-sale orders, water the plants, and then, on sale day, take on one of several jobs to make sure the day goes smoothly. If you’d like to be among this dedicated group, please call or e-mail us today.

I’ll see you at the sale!

—Carol Capobianco

Volunteer Spotlight: Phillis Warden

Phillis Warden has been a member and volunteer of The Native Plant Center for so long she’s forgotten how she first became involved. “When I started out, I didn’t know a native plant from anything else—they were a different part of the plant world than I was used to. But they sounded interesting, and I began to read and learn about them.”

A “heart and soul” gardener who loves plants, Phillis fell for natives in a big way. She began incorporating hundreds of native plants into her cultivated beds and woodlands. Her passion is apparent to visitors to her gardens on seven acres in Bedford Hills—she hosts three Garden Conservancy Open Days tours each year.

A member of The Native Plant Center’s Steering Committee since its early days, Phillis came up with the idea of holding a plant sale, recognizing the growing interest in natives. What started as a small undertaking 17 years ago has grown to what has been called “one of the best plant sales around.” Last year 9,000 native plants were sold.

Phillis is a generous donor to the Center and also brings her work crew to assist with the plant sale. There’s one other special gift Phillis offers: She can pull poison ivy without getting a rash! To volunteer, please contact us.
2016 Winners: Bird-Friendly Plants

The Native Plant Center annually selects a woody and perennial plant of the year to promote the use of native plants by home gardeners, nurseries, garden centers, landscapers, and municipalities. This year's choices were selected by our members from among other native species. Both winners are relished by wildlife—most especially songbirds and hummingbirds—and will be available for purchase at the Native Plant Sale on April 30.

**NATIVE WOODY PLANT OF THE YEAR**

*Ilex verticillata*

**COMMON NAME** Winterberry  
**HARDINESS** Zones 3–9  
**LIGHT** Sun to part shade  
**SOIL** Average to moist, acidic  
**SIZE** 6–10’ tall  
**FOLIAGE** Deciduous, dark-green, toothed, ovate to elliptical  
**FLOWERS** Greenish-white, inconspicuous  
**FRUIT** Red berries (on females)  
**BLOOM TIME** Late spring  
**WILDLIFE VALUE** Birds use for nesting and late winter food source; nectar source for bees; larval host to Henry’s elfin butterfly  
**ABOUT** The bright-red berries of this deciduous shrub persist after the leaves have fallen, providing stunning winter color. As with all *Ilex* species, the females of this holly produce fruit only if a male is growing nearby. It tolerates wet, clay soil as well as average soil. A late winter food source for many birds, plant near the house for up-close viewing.

**NATIVE PERENNIAL OF THE YEAR**

*Monarda didyma*

**COMMON NAME** Beebalm  
**HARDINESS** Zones 4–9  
**LIGHT** Sun to part shade  
**SOIL** Average to moist  
**SIZE** 2–4’ tall  
**FOLIAGE** Aromatic, dark-green  
**FLOWERS** Clusters of red tubular flowers  
**BLOOM TIME** Summer to early fall  
**WILDLIFE VALUE** Nectar source for birds, butterflies, and bees; deer resistant  
**ABOUT** Clusters of bright-red tubular flowers liven up the garden from summer through early fall and attract an abundance of hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees. As a member of the mint family, it has fragrant foliage and is an excellent cut flower. Spreads by rhizomes as well as by seed. Needs good air circulation.
Save These Dates

**JULY 24, 2016**
**Open Days Guided Tours**
**at The Native Plant Center**
Visit our gardens in their summer glory.

**SEPTEMBER 10–11, 2016**
**Native Plant Weekend**
**at Rosedale Nurseries**
Our personal shoppers will help you find great species at this event that benefits The Native Plant Center.

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