Larry Weaner to Receive Lady Bird Award

The Native Plant Center will honor meadow specialist Larry Weaner with its Lady Bird Johnson Environmental Award on Thursday, October 13, 6–8:30 p.m., in the Gateway Center at Westchester Community College. The award recognizes an individual or a group for environmental advocacy and leadership, particularly involving native plants.

Larry, principle of Larry Weaner Landscape Associates, has been creating native landscapes for nearly 40 years. His national reputation for combining ecological restoration with traditional garden design has earned him widespread acclaim.

Locally, Larry is admired for his stunning work on both privately owned and public landscapes, including creation of a native meadow at the Greenburgh Nature Center and at Stamford’s Kosciuszko Park, and his detailed meadow restoration plan for the capped landfill at Croton Point Park.

At the awards event, Larry will talk about some of his projects, share practical advice on planting and “brains over brawn” low-maintenance gardening, and introduce innovative concepts from his new book, Garden Revolution: How Our Landscapes Can Be a Source of Environmental Change.

Join us for this special program, reception, and booksigning.

For more information, please contact The Native Plant Center.

Expand Your Native Plant Palette

Discover a new palette of plants to use in your garden as well as how to identify native species in the wild at Go Native U’s Learn Your Native Plants on Friday, September 30, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Westchester Community College.

The day begins with a look at the many herbaceous native plants that bloom in late summer and fall. Instructor Barbara Fischer will also reveal which ones provide food and shelter for native bees, butterflies, birds, and other wildlife.

In the afternoon, Michael Hagen, curator of the native plant garden at The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG), will introduce students to native grasses and sedges that can add beauty, depth, and texture to the landscape. Learn how to use these cold-hardy, low-maintenance plants in a wide variety of settings.

Move outdoors for the final class led by Jessica Schuler, director of the forest at NYBG, to find out how to identify plants using a taxonomic key. Try your skills in the field by exploring the gardens and grounds of the campus.

Back-to-School Event
September 30
10AM–12PM Native Perennials: Summer/Fall
12–12:45PM Lunch (on your own)
12:45–2:45PM Gardening with Native Grasses
2:45–3PM Break
3–5PM Plant Identification in the Field

Newcomb’s Wildflower Guide is required. Students may enroll in individual classes or all three. Each course is $55 and approved for two LA-CES credits.

To register, call 914-606-6830, press 1.
FROM THE DIRECTOR

Reaching the Community

It’s September, a time when thoughts turn to learning. As part of Westchester Community College, The Native Plant Center is ideally positioned as a leader in nature education.

In recent months: We attracted a sold-out audience of landscape architects, designers, and ecologically minded gardeners to our annual conference on designing with native plants. We addressed planning and zoning board members at the Westchester Municipal Planning Federation’s Land Use Training Institute. We presented at the National Audubon Society’s New York Council meeting of 27 chapters as the organization encourages the creation of bird-friendly communities with native plants.

Also, through periodic volunteer workdays in our gardens, we draw individuals and professionals who want to learn through hands-on experiences.

People are getting the message: They bought more than 11,000 plants—55 percent more than just two years ago—at our 17th annual Native Plant Sale.

We are making a difference.

What’s Ahead and How You Can Help

• For our 20th anniversary in 2018, work is under way to renovate the Stone Cottage garden and showcase native plants in a more formal setting and to restore diversity to the meadow in the Lady Bird Johnson Demonstration Garden. We hope you will support these projects. Laura Blau is leading our efforts (see story at right).

• We are honoring meadow specialist Larry Weaner at our fall fundraiser on October 13 (see cover story). Please attend to hear Larry’s talk and to help us grow.

• This season’s Go Native U schedule features many outdoor components (see page 3). Register for a class.

PASSING THE TORCH We thank Jessica Schuler for her leadership as co-chair of the Steering Committee and her commitment to educational outreach. New co-chair Jacquelyn Bergonzi (right) is a longtime volunteer of the Center who advocates the use of native plants through her garden club and has a horticulture certificate in Sustainable Garden Design from The New York Botanical Garden. —Carol Capobianco

Teaching About Native Plants in Spanish

The Native Plant Center is developing a Spanish-language pilot program that will teach the benefits of native plants and sustainable practices to landscape maintenance workers who care for area gardens. If you know of potential students, please contact us.

Volunteer Spotlight: Laura Blau

When The Native Plant Center was planning its 10th anniversary celebration in 2008, it wanted to host a gala that would recognize its founders as well as build a strong financial foundation from which to grow. Steering Committee member Phillis Warden asked her longtime friend Laura Blau to help chair the anniversary committee. The event was a stunning success, raising well beyond the expected goal and increasing the Center’s endowment by 40 percent. Laura eventually became co-chair of the Steering Committee, 2010–2013, and now will chair The Native Plant Center’s 20th Anniversary Committee.

How will the Center mark its 20th?

The Center will enhance its teaching gardens on campus to increase learning opportunities for students, home gardeners, and industry professionals while making the gardens more valuable as wildlife habitat and cultivating additional beauty on campus, adding interpretive signage, and providing for ever important maintenance.

How can members and others help?

Contributions to the campaign, large or small, will support the Center’s educational goals and its essential work of sustaining a healthy environment.

For more information, please contact The Native Plant Center.
Get Outdoors with Go Native U

Five New Go Native U classes this season will get students engaged in the field. Some of the classes have an indoor instructional element and others will be taught fully outdoors. Register today for these first-rate opportunities.

Garden Photography
Using the basic controls of aperture, shutter speed, and focus, learn to create more compelling pictures in the garden and increase your awareness of light. Class will move outdoors. Bring a camera (no smartphones), and an extra charged battery and memory card or film. A polarizing filter and tripod are recommended.
Sat., Oct. 1, 9 a.m.–12 p.m., $80.
Joseph Squillante.

Insects in the Field: Meadow and Forest Walks
Discover a variety of insects in their habitats. Dress for the weather and a walk in nature. Class meets on location, Oct. 1: Burke Fields faculty/staff parking lot, Hastings-on-Hudson (if there is a game that day, park on the street); Oct. 8: Hillside Park tennis court lot, Hastings-on-Hudson. 2 Sat., Oct. 1 & 8 (rain dates Oct. 2 & 9), 1–3 p.m., $60. Lawrence Forcella.

Field Walk: Leon Levy Nature Preserve
The 383-acre Leon Levy Preserve in South Salem features wetlands rich in wildlife, 80-foot cliffs, and a diverse hardwood forest. Tour the Native Plant Garden at the preserve and then take a guided trail walk to learn about the natural habitats and ongoing restoration work. Dress appropriately. Class meets at the Preserve.

Native Herbals: Their History and Uses
Learn the history and medicinal uses of our native flora, including goldenrod, spicebush, black birch, and boneset. Students will make their own remedy to take home.
Meet at the Lady Bird Johnson Demonstration Garden on campus.
Thurs., Oct. 6, 6–8 p.m., $55. Clare Pierson.

Forest and Shrubland Ecology in the Field
Find out on location about forest edges and shrublands and how these plant communities relate to one another. Learn to identify native tree and shrub species, including some uncommon ones good for the garden. Dress appropriately, including proper footwear for light hiking. Class meets at Muscoot Farm in Somers.
Sun., Oct. 16, 1–4 p.m., $80. Tate Bushell.

Additional Go Native U Classes

Core Classes
Native Perennials: Summer/Fall
See cover story for description.

Plant Identification in the Field
See cover story for description.

Introduction to Native Plants and Landscapes
Gain a comprehensive foundation for garden design using native plants. Learn about the importance of native plants, their benefit to wildlife, showy substitutes for non-native plants, and sustainable concepts. Recommended as a first class to the other courses.
Fri., Oct. 14, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. (1-hour lunch break), $130. Carolyn Summers.

Elective Classes
NEW! Gardening with Native Grasses
See cover story for description.

NEW! Designing Native Plant Gardens
Learn how to assess and analyze an existing site, and how to develop a beautiful, beneficial design plan that encourages birds and pollinators and incorporates sustainable principles.
2 Sat., Oct. 22 & 29, 10 a.m. –12 p.m., $90. Lynn Becker.

Introduction to Insect Identification
Learn the basics of invertebrate taxonomy and how to distinguish insects from other arthropods. Examine their habits, life cycles, and habitats.
Mon., Nov. 7, 7–9:30 p.m., $65.
Lawrence Forcella.

Advanced Insect Identification
Move on to a more in-depth discussion of native insects of the Northeast, particularly those found in hardwood forests. Pre-requisite: Introduction to Insect Identification.
Mon./Tues., Nov. 14/15, 7–9:30 pm, $90. Lawrence Forcella.

For course descriptions, visit our website. Most classes approved for LA-CES credits. To register, call 914-606-6830 and press 1.

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

**March 13, 2017**
The Native Plant Center
Spring Landscape Conference

**April 29, 2017**
18th Annual Native Plant Sale
at Westchester Community College

_SCHOOL SPIRIT_ We have redesigned the garden at the electronic sign island inside the East Grasslands Gate with native plants in the school colors of blue and gold.

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 ____________

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Mail • Fax: 914-606-6143 • E-mail: wcc.nativeplant@sunywcc.edu • OR Pay online: www.mysunywcc.org/donations
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The Native Plant Center is grateful to all its donors and members whose generous contributions have supported our work to educate people about the value of native plants, August 1, 2015–July 31, 2016.
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