UPCOMING EVENTS

September 17 & 18:
Native Plant Appreciation Weekend
Rosendale Nurseries, Inc. located in Hawthorne, New York - (914) 769-1300

September 23:
Lewandowski, Staso, Payne & Beck
Autumn Landscape Conference
Native Culture: Developing Plant Diversity for Sustainable Design 3.75 PDHS

October 15:
Field Trip - Members Free
Fee Applicable for Non-NPC Members
Pruyr Sanctuary — near Chappaqua

October 18:
Tour the Forgotten Nature Trail at WCC

November 2:
Annual Autumn Fund-Raiser
Wine Reception & Photo Presentations
Forever Spring ~ Wildflowers Around the World
Dr. Bob Gibbons & Carol Gracie

November 12:
Lecture
Native Grasslands: Protecting and Rebuilding the Original Green 1.5 PDHS (See box on pg. 2)

SPRING 2012:
January: Annual Native Plant Pre-Sale
February: Spring Lecture Series begins
March: Annual Spring Landscape Conf.
April 23: Wildflower & Native Plant Sale
May/June: Annual Garden Tour and Field Trip - Dates & Destinations TBA

JOIN AS AN NPC MEMBER TODAY!
RECEIVE MANY MEMBER PERKS
ADVANCE RESERVATIONS & FEE MAY BE REQUIRED
WWW.NATIVEPLANTCENTER.ORG
PHONE (914) 606-7870 FOR DETAILS


WADING THROUGH WILDFLOWERS WITH DR. BOB GIBBONS
by Brooke Beebe, NPC Steering Committee

Last April, I was fortunate enough to be part of a wildflower discovery tour on Italy’s Gargano peninsula led by Dr. Bob Gibbons, proprietor and main tour leader of Natural History Travel based in Dorset, England. Bob is one of Britain’s best naturalists, as was quickly evident to all participants on the trip. Most had traveled with him before, and knew the routine: out all day moving to different locations that had been previously scouted for their abundance of wildflowers, then a pre-dinner wrap-up of species identified. In just one week our group identified over 43 species of wild orchids, along with hundreds of other wildflowers, insects and birds.

Bob obviously delights in the natural world and shares his pleasure freely and generously. The breadth and range of his knowledge is astonishing, and his guided wildflower trips are so popular that they are sold out almost as soon as the descriptions appear online.

I do not doubt that he knows the best flowery places in the world, and I hope you will take the opportunity to meet him and enjoy his lecture at The Native Plant Center on November 2.

FOREVER SPRING ~ WILDFLOWERS AROUND THE WORLD
SPECTACULAR PHOTOS BY GIBBONS SURE TO ENTICE ALL

The Autumn Fund-Raiser promises to please the most discerning audience members. All your senses will be enticed as Dr. Bob Gibbons presents his recently released book Wildflower Wonders: The 50 Best Wildflower Sites in the World. Carol Gracie will introduce Bob on November 2. Benefit invitations will be mailed soon.

Festivities include wine and heavy hors d’oeuvres before you embark on a visual tour of our magnificent planet. Bob will showcase his spectacular photos and experiences of his world-wide travels. Although winter may be biting at your heels, you will imagine yourself in a more vibrant place, at least for a few hours. Join us on this journey around the world of floral landscapes! Proceeds from this benefit will help further the mission of The NPC.

Books available for purchase and signing

$45,000 GRANT RECEIVED FOR COLLEGE CAMPUS TRAIL PROJECT
by Darrin Duling, Director

The Native Plant Center has been awarded a grant through the Zoos, Botanical Garden and Arboretum Program (ZBGA) administered by The New York State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The grant amount of $45,000 will be disbursed over a three-year period, and applied toward the mapping, survey and initial stabilization of an old nature trail located on the Westchester Community College Campus. The NPC is working in conjunction with the Westchester County Department of Planning and local nature-based organizations to develop a plan of action that will bring this hidden gem back online as a campus and community resource.

Want to find out more about this exciting project? A preliminary behind-the-scenes tour of part of the trail will take place on Tuesday, October 18 from 1:30-3:00. There will be no charge. All are welcome.

ANNUAL AUTUMN LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE - SEPTEMBER 23

NATIVE CULTURE: DEVELOPING PLANT DIVERSITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

The Annual Autumn Landscape Conference Native Culture: Developing Plant Diversity for Sustainable Design will be held on Friday, September 23.

Professional Development Hours (3.75 PDHs) are available from LA CES for landscape architects and designers.

Speakers include: Rick J. Lewandowski of Mt. Cuba Center, Kevin Staso from North Creek Nurseries, Jody Payne and Travis Beck of the New York Botanical Garden.

Details and brochure available on the web at www.nativeplantcenter.org or pay online at www.mysunywcc.org/store

Related story below
When I arrived on the Westchester Community College (WCC) Campus as an instructor in the Biology Department in 1974, a nature trail was just a few steps from our offices and laboratories. “Take only photographs, leave only footprints” read the redwood-stained sign at the entry.

The creation of the trail resulted from the vision and efforts of Professor Carlton Van Patten who taught biology and ecology at WCC from the 1960’s until his retirement in 1995. At that time the trail primarily followed the path of a stream as it meandered through the campus and adjacent land to eventually join the Bronx River. Carl used this area for field ecology and aquatic laboratories for his students and at the same time established the student Ecology Club, a vibrant group of students and staff that existed on campus until the 1990’s. By 1972, he had convinced the new college president, Joseph Hankin, the college Board of Trustees and the County of Westchester to dedicate approximately 35 acres of college property as a nature sanctuary “to be used for ecological study” with the land and watercourses to “remain undisturbed except for those physical changes… that make the area more acceptable to proper and convenient observation of the natural environment.”

In addition to its role as an outdoor laboratory, the trail was used extensively in its early years for walking, jogging, bird watching, fishing in the pond, picnicking or cooling off in one of the many deep pools in the stream. By the mid-1970’s, along with another retired colleague, I agreed to be the Ecology Club faculty advisor. The Club maintained the trail and built bridges and walkways with hand tools after classes and on weekends. The students took pride in their extra-curricular efforts and learned by literally getting their hands dirty and feet muddy in service to the college. Their efforts produced a magnificent trail with an upper portion threading through a series of rolling hills along a gentle ridge and a lower portion, following along a millpond and stream populated with gigantic specimen trees and terminating with a rock-walled gorge.

Those were indeed ‘the good old days.” Currently large sections of the trail, particularly within the lower portion, are difficult to walk after years of neglect and disuse. The Ecology Club exists only on paper, students don’t have the time to spend on campus activities as the prior generation did and service often does not involve physical labor. I still bring my Environmental Science lab students along the upper trail to witness deciduous forest, riverine and wetland habitats (including a vernal pond) to observe terrestrial and aquatic succession and to record the varied influences of human activity on nature.

The recent award of a NYS Parks and Recreation grant to our Native Plant Center that will help fund the trail’s restoration promises a bright future for an area of the campus that so few know first-hand. A functional trail system would add a necessary dimension to other environmental activities currently happening...

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**PARTICIPATE IN ONE OF OUR MANY EVENTS THIS AUTUMN**

**SEPTEMBER 17 & 18:**
**Native Plant Appreciation Weekend**

**SEPTEMBER 23:**
**Autumn Landscape Conference (3.75 PDHs)**

**OCTOBER 15:**
**Autumn Field Trip to Pruyn Sanctuary**

**OCTOBER 18:**
**Tour of the Forgotten Nature Trail**

**NOVEMBER 2:**
**Annual Autumn Fund-Raiser**

- Register & Pay Online at www.mysunywcc.org/store
- Forms & Info on the Website at www.nativeplantcenter.org
- Phone (914) 606-7870 - Fax (914) 606-6143

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**NOVEMBER 12:**
**Lecture**

Native Grasslands: Protecting and Rebuilding the Original Green Long Island’s Hempstead Plains, once the largest native grassland prairie on the east coast at 60,000 acres, is now reduced to 60 acres. This rare remnant is now protected and a LEED-certified visitor center project is under development. Cece Haydock a landscape architect, who is part of the project team, will give us an overview of the history of this area and discuss the issues and challenges involved with this unique project. Using this grasslands ecosystem as a model, she will show us ways in which we can convert traditional turf areas into natural meadow habitat in our landscapes. 1.5 PDHs

Cece Haydock (ASLA) is the SITES (Sustainable Sites Initiative) project manager for Hempstead Plains. She is a landscape architect who has worked in the New York City Parks system and on public and private sector projects. Cece is a member of, and an educator for, the United States Green Building Council.
AUTUMN FIELD TRIP

Saturday, October 15: 10 - 12 noon
Members Free - Join Now - Member Form Last Page
Registration Requested – Phone (914)-606-7870

PRUYN SANCTUARY
Free to NPC Members
Non-NPC Members $10

Pruyn Sanctuary is a 92-acre site that is the headquarters of the Saw Mill River Audubon, located at 275 Millwood Road (Rt. 133), 1.5 miles east of Millwood, near Chappaqua, New York. Our morning guided tour will take us through a butterfly garden, native plant arboretum, small wildflower meadow, woodland trails and a swamp boardwalk.

Walking is easy to moderate. Tour will be held rain or shine. Weather appropriate clothing and shoes are highly recommended.

For more information call: (914) 666-6503 or visit: www.sawmillriveraudubon.org

NATIVE NOTES
Darrin Duling

The Native Plant Center continues to grow! As of May, The Center occupies the former campus security gatehouse at the upper Grasslands Gate entrance to the WCC Campus. This new NPC Administration Building houses the offices of the Assistant Director, Nancy Inzenna and Special Programs Coordinator, Beth Roach. The location within The Lady Bird Johnson Demonstration Garden is ideal and solidifies our presence here. Our beloved Stone Cottage will continue to be used as the Director’s office, however potential visions include constructing a building addition on the new site that will house a meeting room and an office for the director, giving us an all-inclusive headquarters facility. Under this scheme the Stone Cottage would be re-tooled as a NPC-managed visitor center outpost for the WCC Native Plant Arboretum and an information center for other nature-based organizations in Westchester County and beyond. The NPC extends its heartfelt thanks to Westchester Community College and the Westchester Community College Foundation for their generosity in making this possible.

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Attention intrepid native plant shoppers, mark your calendars for a special opportunity to find rare and choice natives! On Saturday, September 17 and Sunday, September 18, Rosedale Nurseries, located at 51 Saw Mill River Road in Hawthorne, is holding its second Annual Native Plant Center Benefit Weekend with a percentage of sales of all goods being donated to The NPC. Last year’s Benefit was a huge success with a lot of happy people taking home an array of carefully-chosen native woody and herbaceous plants. This year’s event promises to be even bigger and better, with a larger inventory of plants. Staff at Rosedale will assist you in making selections and the garden shop invites you to peruse its marvelous selection of books, gardening supplies and ornaments that will help you select, design and maintain your native plantings. Native plant enthusiasts from The NPC will be present both days to share their expertise and answer questions. Look on our website for a list of plants that will be available. We look forward to seeing you there!

Visit www.rosedalenursery.com or call (914) 769-1300 for further information.

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Did you know that hummingbirds balance their voracious diet of sugary nectar with insects for protein? Their “bug buffet” includes large quantities of pesky mosquitoes, midges, aphids, gnats and whiteflies - what a tremendous combination of beauty and utility! A few of the regional native plants that will attract these charming little workhorses to our gardens include: trumpet vine, coral honeysuckle, bee balm, cardinal flower, blueberry, swamp hibiscus, garden phlox, Virginia bluebells, wild bergamot, spotted jewelweed, Indian pink, columbine, chokecherry, Canada lily, red buckeye and rosebay rhododendron.

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2010/11 ANNUAL FUND DONORS
Our thanks to all who contributed — additional contributions were received in January from:
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Blaustein  Julie Boucher-Horwitz
Ralph Crosby  Harriet Delhis  Darrin Duling
Jacqueline Fowler  Jen Geer  Leslie Henshaw
Lauretta Jones  Catherine Ludden
Robert & Patricia MacGregor  Barbara E. Marks
Ann McDuffie  Michelle & Charles McNally
Angela Morris  Robert Ohlekeing  Anne L. Owen
Clare Pierson  Dorrie Rosen  Cynthia P. Sammis
Elizabeth Sluder  Sarah Stern  Kathleen Turner
Ken Uble  Mary V. Watson

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
Our deepest thanks go to all our members.

CONSERVATOR
Patricia H. Keese*  Phyllis Warden*

SUPPORTING
Chris Kreussling*

HOUSEHOLD
Dorrie & Shel Asen  Linda Coven
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Perennial Gardens, Inc.  Rosedale Nurseries, Inc.
Rusticus Garden Club  Summerhill Nursery, Inc.
The White Plains Garden Club
Town of East Fishkill

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Maria Harris*  Lois Kroll  Ann & Charles McDuffie
Anne L. Owen  Clare Pierson  John Tweddle

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*Supporter of the Lady Bird Johnson Center in Texas

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Member Donations Contribute 22% of The NPC's 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 local landscapes.

$45 Friend - All levels receive a Free NPC Lecture
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 Entry into Regular Plant Sale in April
- Monthly e-mail of the Wildflowerwire Newsletter from our affiliate the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas
- Invitation to NPC Members Only Field Trips

$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 of the above, plus:
- Gift book about wildflowers

$3,000 + Heritage Circle
Assume a leadership role in The Native Plant Center
Benefits include all of the above, plus:
- Teak garden bench at West. Comm. College with inscribed brass plaque

Native Plant Center Membership Form - Donations Are Tax Deductible
Fax: (914) 606-6143 E-mail: wcc.nativeplant@sunywcc.edu Phone: (914) 606-7870
Mail to: The NPC - 75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla, NY 10595

SAVE TIME ~ PAY ONLINE: www.mysunywcc.org/donations

Membership Level $ ____________ Additional LBJ $30 ____________ Yes / No ____________ TOTAL AMT. DUE $ ____________

And/Or I am enclosing a donation of $ ____________ *Gift membership in the amount of $ ____________

MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS ARE APPRECIATED - CONTACT YOUR EMPLOYER FOR DETAILS

Member Name ____________________________
(Print name of member as you wish it to appear in publications.)

Street ____________________________ City ____________________________ State ____________________________
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Make checks payable to The Native Plant Center ~ MC/Visa/Discover #__________ Exp. Date ______

Name of Cardholder ____________________________ Name of Gift Giver ____________________________
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Educating people about the environmental necessity, economic value, and natural beauty of native plants in the Northeast.