15th Native Plant Sale Celebrates Birds, Audubon

This year, The Native Plant Center’s annual Native Plant Sale falls on the birthday of wildlife artist John James Audubon (1785–1851), for whom the venerable bird conservation organization was named.

To honor this occasion—and to bring community-wide attention to the role gardens can play as habitat—the sale will offer a large selection of plants especially beneficial to birds. *Amelanchier canadensis* (shadbush), *Photinia melanocarpa* (black chokeberry), *Lonicera sempervirens* (trumpet honeysuckle vine), *Aquilegia canadensis* (wild columbine), and *Monarda didyma* (beebalm) are among the dozens of species recommended by local Audubon chapters that will be available for sale.

Hummingbird favorites, butterfly host plants, and other species loved by native pollinators also will be among the hundreds of perennials, shrubs, and trees for sale. As in past years, McCue Gardens of Wethersfield, Connecticut, will be present to offer a unique selection of delicate woodland plants and spring ephemerals. Native plant specialists and bird-knowledgeable volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and assist gardeners in choosing great options for their sites.

The day kicks off at 8:15 a.m. with a guided bird walk on campus led by Bedford Audubon’s naturalist (bring your binoculars!). Other bird-themed activities include information about local birds, the sale of garden accessories such as bird baths, houses, and feeders by the Wild Bird Center, and other celebratory treats.

So come wish a “Happy Bird-day” to Audubon and plant a native species in his honor. Admission is free. Members of The Native Plant Center can enter the sale 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.
FROM THE DIRECTOR

Make a Difference: Garden for Birds

ONE DAY my neighbor sheepishly said to me that if I saw him looking into my yard with binoculars it wasn’t because he was snooping but because I attracted so many more interesting birds.

I told him the secret: I plant native trees, shrubs, and flowers birds especially like. By providing basic needs—food, water, and shelter—they flock to my yard. I discovered this passion about 20 years ago after coming upon a book by Dr. Stephen Kress of Audubon. (He spoke at our conference in March.)

When I see a bird eating from a shrub or flower I have planted, I am gratified and overjoyed. Hummingbirds drink from the cardinal flowers, beebalm, and red-trumpet honeysuckle vine. Finches pick through coneflower and grass seed heads. Mockingbirds and catbirds eat the fruit of the shad-bush and blueberry bushes. Woodpeckers and nuthatches forage in the old flowering dogwood. Chickadees, titmice, wrens, and a host of other species seek out insects to feed nestlings. Even in my small urban lot I’ve had a veery, a hermit thrush, an eastern towhee, and even an “eared” owl—species usually found in woodlands.

Backyards—and you—can make a difference. That’s why I am happy to be partnering on our special-themed Plant Sale with our kindred spirits at local Audubon chapters to raise awareness of what individuals can do to create wildlife habitats.

Dr. Kress has written: “Improving the quality of land for wildlife is the single most constructive step that anyone can take to assist wild bird populations.”

The populations of many bird species are in decline. If you already are a gardener, change your plant palette to include species that have the most benefit to wildlife. Come to our sale and take home native plants to feed the birds. You’ll be rewarded.

—Carol Capobianco

10 Ways to Attract Songbirds to Your Property

From Dr. Stephen Kress, author of several books on creating bird-friendly habitats.

1. Create a border of native trees and shrubs.
2. Plant long-lived native trees such as oaks and maples.
3. Create a brush pile.
4. Remove invasive plants.
5. Rake leaves under shrubs to create natural feeding areas.
6. Reduce the size of your lawn.
7. Clean out nest boxes in early spring.
8. Create a bathing and drinking site.
9. Clean feeders with a 10% non-chlorine bleach solution.
10. Keep your cat indoors.

Volunteer Spotlight: Lucille Werlinich

Each year at the Plant Sale customers see a familiar face as they make their purchases. Donning a baseball cap and proudly wearing a Native Plant Center T-shirt, Lucille Werlinich—along with her volunteer teammate Don Weigand—leaves shoppers with a smile and a good feeling knowing they benefited nature.

Lucille brings her expertise in banking and fundraising to help the Center in other important ways as well, including in developing its annual budget, co-chairing benefits, and providing generous support where needed. But she is just as likely to be seen at community outreach events, coaxing passersby to stop and learn about native plants.

“I find it gratifying to encourage people to plant natives,” says Lucille. “And it’s rewarding to help the Center manage its revenues in a productive way.”

She became a member of the Center’s Steering Committee and the Board of the Westchester Community College Foundation in 2001. She has chaired the Foundation’s Scholarship Committee for the past 12 years and continues her family’s long history with the college in assisting students, faculty, and programs on campus.

To volunteer, please contact us.

The Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College

STEERING COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs: Bob DelTorto • Catherine Ludden
Brooke Beebe, Jan Blaire, Nancy Dexter, Kim Eierman, Barbara Fischer, Patricia H. Keesee, Ursula LaMotte, Guy Pardee, Heather Sandifer, Denise C.R. Santomero, Jessica A. Schuler, Carolyn Summers, Phillis Warden, Elizabeth S. Wattles, Lucille Werlinich, Anthony Zaino

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STAFF

Carol Capobianco, Director
Jennifer Beauprand, Horticulturist/Educator
Susan E. Palmer, Administrative Assistant/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
75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla, NY 10595
nativeplantcenter.org • 914-606-7870
wcc.nativeplant@sunywcc.edu
**Go Native U**

**Spring/Summer Classes:**

**Register Today!**

NEW! Native Gardening for Bees in Crisis
Wed., Apr. 23, 10 a.m.–1 p.m., $80. Kim Eierman.

Common Wild Violets of the Northeast
Wed., Apr. 30, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., $55. Missy Fabel.

Field ID of the Common Weeds of Westchester
2 Thurs., May 1 & 8, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., $90. Missy Fabel.

Plant Identification in the Field
Sat., May 3, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., $55. Jessica Schuler.

Advanced Plant Identification in the Field
Sat., May 3, 12:30–2:30 p.m., $55. Jessica Schuler.

NEW! Great Native Plants for Containers
Mon., June 2, 10 a.m.–1 p.m., $80. Kim Eierman.

NEW! Native Grass and Sedge Identification
Mon., June 9, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., $55. Missy Fabel.

NEW! Xeric Native Gardening
Wed., June 11, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. $80. Kim Eierman.

For course descriptions and instructor bios, visit our website.

**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.

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**Winners Attract Hummers, Monarchs**

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 are especially loved by hummingbirds and monarch butterflies.

*Both winners will be available for purchase at the Plant Sale on April 26.*

### NATIVE WOODY PLANT OF THE YEAR

*Lonicera sempervirens*

**COMMON NAME:** Trumpet honeysuckle  
**HARDINESS:** Zones 6–9  
**LIGHT:** Sun to part-sun  
**SOIL:** Average to moist  
**SIZE:** 6–20’ tall  
**FOLIAGE:** Semi-evergreen ovate leaves  
**FLOWERS:** Clusters of red and yellow  
**FRUIT:** Red berries  
**BLOOM TIME:** Late spring to frost  
**WILDLIFE VALUE:** Hummingbirds, other birds, butterflies, small mammals  
**ABOUT:** One of the longest blooming northeastern natives. Tubular red flowers with yellow throats grace this twining vine from late spring until frost. The nectar draws hummingbirds, and the red berries feed other birds and small mammals. Needs light, good drainage, and adequate air circulation.

![Trumpet Honeysuckle](image)

### NATIVE PERENNIAL OF THE YEAR

*Asclepias tuberosa*

**COMMON NAME:** Butterflyweed  
**HARDINESS:** Zones 3–9  
**LIGHT:** Sun  
**SOIL:** Dry  
**SIZE:** 18–24” tall  
**FOLIAGE:** Lance-shaped  
**FLOWERS:** Flat-topped clusters of bright orange  
**BLOOM TIME:** Summer  
**WILDLIFE VALUE:** Nectar source for butterflies and hummingbirds. Larval host for monarch, queen, and gray hairstreak butterflies. Of special value to native bees. Deer resistant.  
**ABOUT:** A favorite of butterfly lovers, this orange milkweed is a larval host for several species and provides nectar as well. Slow to emerge in spring, it is long lived and brightens the summer garden. The clump-forming plant is tap-rooted, so leave once established; it does not spread readily.

![Butterflyweed](image)

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**Landscape Maintenance Conference, May 30**

Learn about sustainable practices in a half-day conference, *Maintaining Environmentally Sound Landscapes,* on Friday, May 30, at Westchester County Center in White Plains. The Native Plant Center is once again partnering with Westchester County to present this follow-up to last December’s design conference.

The notable speakers are: Larry Weaner, Larry Weaner Associates; Mike Dietz, University of Connecticut; Kurt Morrell, The New York Botanical Garden; Sven Hoeger, Creative Habitat Corp.; and CeCe Haydock, landscape architect.

Registration fee is $20. Professional credits were pending at press time.

Details will be posted at westchestergov.com/soilwater.
Save These Dates

July 27
Guided Tours
at The Native Plant Center
Visit our gardens in their summer glory
during this Garden Conservancy Open
Days event.

September 6–7
Native Plant Weekend
at Rosedale Nurseries
Find native trees, shrubs, and more with
help from our native-knowledgeable
personal shoppers at this sale 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 ______________________________
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