With an average annual rainfall of more than 45 inches, water is abundant in this region and often taken for granted. Yet water is essential to all life. Learn to view water as an ally at Go Native U’s, Working with Water: In Wetlands and Back Yards, on Friday, September 25, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at Westchester Community College.

Explore the benefits of wetlands and rain gardens—including the best native plants to use in their design and the role you can play in enhancing the environment—in two companion classes taught by the husband and wife team of Kyle and Lisa Turoczy. The couple are proprietors of Earth Tones Native Plant Nursery and Landscapes, and have been designers for more than 20 years.

Discover the critical role of wetlands and how state and municipal laws in New York affect projects in and around wetlands in Kyle’s popular class, New York Wetlands: Balancing Ecology, Laws, and Aesthetics. Kyle, a soil scientist and wetlands ecologist, will also discuss native plants common to wetlands and how to control invasive species.

The afternoon session features a new class, Designing Rain Gardens, by Lisa, who specializes in rain garden installation. These critical gardens collect runoff from roofs, driveways, and elsewhere; filter the water; and allow the water to percolate into the ground rather than run polluted into area streams. Understand the mechanics of a rain garden and the appropriate native plants to use in its design. Find out how you can assist nature while adding color to the landscape and providing habitat for wildlife.

Students may enroll in either or both classes. The courses are approved for LA-CES credits. For more information, visit The Native Plant Center’s website. To register, call 914-606-6830 and press 1.
FROM THE DIRECTOR

Following Our Plants Into the Field

This growing season I made a point of getting out of the office to visit some of the more than 9,000 native plants that found new homes through our plant sale this year.

I saw glorious private gardens, including that of Phillis Warden, whose idea launched the plant sale 15 years ago.

I toured the 43 acres of woodlands and wetlands at Maryknoll Sisters in Ossining now protected under a Westchester Land Trust conservation easement. The sisters are incorporating plants from our sale into the beds around their campus, too.

And I had the great pleasure of exploring some of the 300+ acres of Flying Trillium, a native plant preserve in the Catskills owned and created over 18 years by Carolyn Summers, who assists with plant selection for our annual sale. Carolyn is author of Designing Gardens with Flora of the American East and a member of The Native Plant Center’s Steering Committee. The preserve includes cultivated gardens as well as meadow, forest, and aquatic plant communities that showcase native plants in their natural settings. A dwarf conifer collection (over 75 species), a (healthy) hemlock ravine, and fields of lupine and milkweed are among the diverse environments to enjoy.

A unique experience was a bare-footed walk through the rare kettle hole bog. The soothing feel of the spongy sphagnum moss and cool water escorted me toward up-close looks at pitcher plants, sundews, and other natives specific to that habitat.

Flying Trillium recently opened to the public for tours by appointment; for details see flyingtrillium.com. Carolyn’s hope is that this oasis will inspire visitors to enhance their own gardens with native plants.

Passing the torch: We thank Cathy Ludden, a great supporter and advocate of native plants, for her leadership as co-chair of the Steering Committee. New co-chair Guy Pardee (right) is an arborist with Care of Trees whose commitment to native woodlands includes heading volunteer invasive removal events.

—Carol Capobianco

Inauguration of College’s New President

Westchester Community College this year welcomed Dr. Belinda Miles as its first new president in over 40 years, after the retirement of Dr. Joseph Hankin. Meet and greet Dr. Miles at her Inauguration Ceremony and Reception on October 2, from 2 to 5 p.m.

To RSVP for this free event, visit sunywcc.edu.

Remembering a Founder: Marybeth Lobdell

By Brooke M. Beebe, former director, The Native Plant Center

I met Marybeth Weston Lobdell (1927–2015) in 1997, when I joined a committee at Westchester Community College that was exploring the possibility of bringing the ideas of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Texas to the Northeast. She co-led this committee with Betsy Stern and Marie Smith Schwartz—all three were members of the Wildflower Center Board and became the founders of its first national affiliate, The Native Plant Center. I was chosen to direct this new entity.

Marybeth’s charm and enthusiasm—and not least, her writing skills—paved the way for The Native Plant Center to become a respected member of the environmental community.

She became a treasured friend. We discovered we had both been guest editors at Mademoiselle Magazine. She moved to Florida, but would always try to get together with me and her other native plant friends when she visited New York. She was so very proud of the Center and its accomplishments.

In appreciation, The Native Plant Center will dedicate a grove of dogwood trees in the Lady Bird Johnson Demonstration Garden to the three founders.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to The Native Plant Center has been requested.

The Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College

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Brooke Beebe, Jacquelyn Bergonzi, Jan Blaire, Bob DeTorto, Nancy Dexter, Kim Eierman, Barbara Fischer, Patricia H. Keese, Ursula LaMorte, Catherine Ludden, Heather Sandifer, Denise C.R. Santomero, Carolyn Summers, Phillis Warden, Elizabeth S. Wartles, Lucille Werlinich, Anthony Zaino

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Marybeth Weston Lobdell • Marie Smith Schwartz • Betsy May Stern

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Carol Capobianco, Director
Jennifer Beagrand, 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
Diversifying Our Teaching Gardens

Work is under way to enhance The Native Plant Center’s teaching gardens to make them more valuable as wildlife habitat; to increase learning opportunities for students, home gardeners, and industry professionals; and simply to cultivate additional beauty. As part of the Westchester Community College campus, the gardens are open to the public year-round free of charge.

If you would like to support or volunteer for these projects, please call or email us.

Lady Bird Johnson Garden

The 16-year-old meadow has become overgrown with native Canada goldenrod and non-native invasive species. To restore biodiversity and with the guidance of meadow specialist Larry Weaner, a plan was devised that tests three methods of mechanically removing undesired plants: a mowing regimen, selective cutting to create a height differential between wanted and unwanted plants, and garden-type weeding. The aim is to limit the goldenrod and invasives, allow existing natives to regain a foothold, and then add new plants to increase the mix of native species. Volunteers assist on periodic work days (below).

Stone Cottage Garden

At The Native Plant Center’s headquarters, the themed beds dedicated in 2005 are being redesigned to create a single, cohesive garden that can be replicated by gardeners and landscapers. The project, The New American Cottage Garden, will feature familiar elements of a home garden such as a formal perennial bed, a shrub border, and seating areas. The lawn will be replaced with shrubs and groundcovers to further illustrate sustainable gardening principles. The new design (above), created pro-bono by landscape architect Ken Uhle, will appeal to homeowners seeking to integrate native plants in a more structured setting. The garden’s location at a central hub of the campus provides an ideal educational opportunity to highlight the ornamental and environmental benefits of native plants.

The Native Plant Center is raising funds to install the garden before its 20th anniversary in 2018. The campaign committee is headed by Laura Blau, former co-chair of the Steering Committee.

Hartford Hall Garden

To honor the arrival of the college’s new president, The Native Plant Center rejuvenated the front border it maintains at Hartford Hall, which houses the offices of Dr. Belinda Miles as well as the Westchester Community College Foundation. Carolyn Summers, an authority on native plants, donated her services to augment the existing bed with new plantings. She considered the sensibilities of the 1920s architecture and the prominence of its occupants in her choice of plants, maintaining a sophisticated color scheme.

Go Native U Fall Classes: Register Today!

Core Classes:

Native Perennials: Summer/Fall
Sat., Oct. 3, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., $55.
Barbara Fischer.

Introduction to Native Plants and Landscapes
Carolyn Summers.

Native Trees and Shrubs
2 Wed., Nov. 18 & Dec. 2, 6–8 p.m., $90.
Carolyn Summers.

Elective Classes:

Wetlands Field Study
Sun., Oct. 4, 12–3 p.m., $80. Kyle Tu roczi.
NEW! Landscaping for Higher Ecosystem Function
Learn how to conduct soil and site analyses, identify local ecosystems, and select native plants for your site.
3 Wed., Oct. 7–21, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., $130.
Kim Eierman.

Goldenrod Field Study
Fri., Oct. 16, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., $55.
Missy Fabel.

Aster Field Study
Sat., Oct. 17, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., $55.
Missy Fabel.

Introduction to Insect Identification
Mon., Nov. 2, 7–9 p.m., $55.
Lawrence Forcella.

Advanced Insect Identification
Mon./Tues., Nov. 9 & 10, 7–9 p.m., $90.
Lawrence Forcella.

Ecological Design
Thurs., Nov. 5, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., $55.
Eti Katoni.

NEW! Landscape for Life
Explore the roles soil, water, plants, and landscape materials play in sustainable garden design. Assess your own site and build a design plan. Based on the principles of the Sustainable Sites Initiative.
3 Sat., Nov. 7–21, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., $225.
Missy Fabel.

NEW! Native Plant Communities of New York and Connecticut
Mimic native plant communities in developing your own landscape plan. Pre-requisite: Intro to Native Plant Communities.
2 Wed., Nov. 11 & 18, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., $90.
Kim Eierman.

NEW! Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants
Design with native ornamental plants as substitutes for overused and regulated exotic plants and invasive species.
Thurs., Nov. 12, 6–8 p.m., $55.
Carolyn Summers.

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

**March 14, 2016**
The Native Plant Center  
Spring Landscape Conference

**April 29, 2016**
17th Annual Native Plant Sale  
at Westchester Community College

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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 $ ______________

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Matching contributions are appreciated; contact your employer for details.

Member’s Name ___________________________ E-mail ___________________________
Address ________________________________________ Phone ___________________________

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In Honor of J. Michael Divney
In Honor of Cathy Ludden and Eric Rothenberg
In Honor of Betty M. Stern
In Memory of Mary Berol
Brooke Beebe
Nancy Dexter
In Memory of Ethel Bethune and Sigrid Coleman
Parkway Gardens Parkway Homes Garden Club of
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In Memory of Marybeth
Wesley Lobdell
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