The Native Plant Center will honor Bill Cary, garden writer for The Journal News, with its Acorn Award on Sunday, October 20, 3–5 p.m., in the Gateway Center at Westchester Community College. The award recognizes an individual or a group that inspires people to learn about native plants and to grow them in their own gardens.

Bill’s many articles and blog posts over the past 10 years about the importance of native plants and their benefit to the environment have reached and educated a wide audience. His coverage of The Native Plant Center and other like-minded organizations and individuals and his feature stories about nature continue to kindle an interest in native plants.

“I’m honored to be recognized with this award,” Bill says. “I’ve always admired The Native Plant Center’s advocacy of a very specific cause, one that has enormous impact on the ecology of the whole Hudson Valley.”

Bill grew up in Louisville, Ky., in a family of gardeners. He earned a BA in history from Duke University and an MS in journalism from Columbia University.

He lives in Manhattan and escapes to his eight-acre former chicken farm in Ulster County for a weekend of, as he puts it, “various overly ambitious gardening chores.” There he recognizes first-hand the benefits of natives.

“I’ve come to love native plants for their toughness, their ability to survive and thrive no matter the weather,” he says. “As I keep adding more natives to my garden, I notice more bees, more butterflies, and new species of birds.”

Join us for this special day. For more information and reservations, please call or send an e-mail to The Native Plant Center.

SPECIAL BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENT: OCTOBER 4

Jump-Start Your Knowledge of Natives

Go Native U at Westchester Community College is offering a special series of three classes on a single day, Friday, October 4, to make it easy for home gardeners and professionals alike to jump-start a certificate if they wish—or simply learn about native plants. Landscape architects can also earn up to six hours of LA-CES-approved credits.

Enroll in one, two, or three sessions:

10 a.m.–12 p.m.:
Native Plant Communities

12:45–2:45 p.m.:
Native Perennials: Summer/Fall

3–5 p.m.:
Native Conifers

For more information, visit The Native Plant Center’s website. To register, call 914-606-6830 and press 1.
FROM THE DIRECTOR

Fall for Learning

There’s something about fall that excites me. The crisp weather, the change in light, nature’s earthy palette, school back in session. Here, the campus comes alive with the bustle of students and the glow of goldenrod in the meadow.

I invite you to take part in this autumnal rite by enrolling in Go Native U. We offer a variety of courses—even one on goldenrods (see insert)![1] A good way to quick-start a certificate is with our special event, An Introduction to Native Plants, which presents three important classes in one day, October 4.

On October 20 we honor long-time Native Plant Center friend and Journal News/LoHud writer Bill Cary with our Acorn Award. Bill personifies the award’s intent, and his features and blogs educate us. Come and toast him for all you have learned in reading his stories.

September would not be complete without reporting what we did on summer vacation. As you can see from the text and photos in this issue, we were busy on many projects. We also created a new brochure to promote Go Native U, with the help of Janet Marinelli, former editor of the popular Brooklyn Botanic Garden book series Guides for a Greener Planet.

As we look ahead, I’d like to thank Laura Blau (top right) for her hard work and support during three years as co-chair of The Native Plant Center’s Steering Committee. She has taken on the new role of Development Chair, working to build revenue that will sustain the Center into the future. Cathy Ludden (bottom right) has assumed the role of co-chair along with Bob DelTorto, who is in his third year. Cathy is a passionate advocate for the use of native plants and will help us become an even stronger voice for the environment.

—Carol Capobianco

New Environmental Degrees at WCC

In September Westchester Community College will launch two new Associate in Science (AS) degrees: Environmental Science and Environmental Studies. Curricula for both are designed for transfer to a four-year school. Coursework will give students a thorough understanding of concepts associated with sustainability, global climate change, ecosystem protection, natural resource management, and environmental policy and protection.

For more information, contact Professor Michael Priano, Michael.Priano@sunywcc.edu, 914-606-6588.

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

Volunteer Spotlight: Barbara Fischer

Barbara Fischer is the Derek Jeter of The Native Plant Center: When help is needed, she steps up to the plate and delivers. The requests are varied—speaking engagements, plant rescues, invasive vine removals—but the results are the same. Barbara appears and is ready to assist.

She also takes on big long-term tasks such as co-founding and serving as administrative “dean” of Go Native U, through which she also teaches. She has coordinated volunteers for the annual plant sale and has been a leader of The Native Plant Center since 2002 as a Steering Committee member. And, her home garden is comprised almost exclusively of native plants.

“Native plants just make so much sense,” says Barbara. “These plants are not only lovely, but important to the whole ecology of this area—multi-tasking gardening!”

Barbara, a retired sustainability consultant to corporations, is a Master Gardener and certified horticultural therapist.

To volunteer, please contact us.

The Native Plant Center

The Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College

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Joseph Smailtine

Joseph Smailtine
Native Planting Projects Transform the WCC Campus

The Native Plant Center has been working with many partners, including Westchester Community College’s Physical Plant Department, to bring native plants to areas of the Valhalla campus beyond the Center’s demonstration gardens.

The next time you visit, explore these sites.

Gateway Gardens

ABOVE A new native plant garden was installed at the entrance to the Gateway Center in May by a team from the Divney Tung Schwalbe planning, engineering, and landscape architecture firm. These volunteers designed and planted the garden, an anonymous WCC Foundation Board member donated the plants, the College’s Physical Plant staff helped with site preparation and planting, and Gateway staff kept the plants watered for this project coordinated by The Native Plant Center.

Jerry Schwalbe (pictured above left), an alumnus of the college, said the undertaking was a labor of love. “It was very special for me to be able to give something back to the institution that provided the educational foundation for my career.”

College staff have already seen signs of wildlife among the native plants: butterflies and bees, a fawn, and a hawk capturing a chipmunk.

Meadow Border

BELOW LEFT Under the leadership of Steering Committee Co-Chair Bob DelTorto, a dozen youth ages 14–18 from the Greening Project, a summer employment program of the White Plains Youth Bureau, enhanced the perimeter of the Lady Bird Johnson Demonstration Garden. They worked several days in July clearing invasive species, planting trees and perennials, and watering the new plants during a hot spell. To add to their outdoor educational experience, Native Plant Center staff taught them about the importance of native plants, and Professor Michael Priano introduced them to the College’s new Associate Degree programs in Environmental Science and Environmental Studies.

Nature Trail

Over the years, a trailway through a wooded section of the campus used by students in the 1970s became overgrown, washed-out, and unrecognizable. Work on this “forgotten” nature trail is now under way with a state ZBGA grant. The firm of WSP USA Corp. is creating a site plan, inventory, and specifications for trailway improvements. Steering Committee member Anthony Zaino and the College’s Physical Plant staff have been helping to guide the process.

Hartford Hall Pool

The Native Plant Center assisted the Physical Plant staff in selecting native plants for the reconstruction of this long-neglected area, located between NPC’s headquarters and Parking Lot 2.

Help Us Spruce Up

ABOVE Volunteer Nelson Staley has been regularly weeding and watering the demonstration gardens to keep them looking their best. Paul DiRoma also helps with watering, and he plants the containers around campus. We are growing a team of volunteer gardeners who can offer TLC to the beds and complement the work of our contracted landscaping crew. If you are interested, please call or e-mail us.
Save the Date

**March 17, 2014**
**The Native Plant Center**
**Spring Landscape Conference**
Dr. Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, will be one of the featured speakers.
Send us an e-mail to stay informed as details unfold.

**New Member Benefit**
Show your card to receive a 20% discount on garden center purchases at Native Landscapes in Pawling.

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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 $ ____________
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Matching contributions are appreciated; contact your employer for details.

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Make checks payable to: The Native Plant Center, 75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla, NY 10595
MC, Visa, or Discover # ____________________ Exp. Date __________________________
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
Friends of The Native Plant Center

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, 2012–July 31, 2013.

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Continued…
Go Native U Fall Classes

Core Classes:

Plant Identification in the Field
Sat., Sept. 21, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., $55. Jessica A. Schuler.

 northeastern Native Plants in Our Landscapes

Native Woody Plants
2 Thu., Oct. 3 & 10, 6–8 p.m., $100. Jessica A. Schuler.

Elective Classes:

Native Plant Alternatives to Turf
2 Mon., Sept. 16 & 23, 1–3 p.m., $100. Kim Eierman.

Goldenrod Field Study
Thu., Sept. 26, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., $55. Melissa Fabel.

NEW! Advanced Plant ID in the Field
Sat., Sept. 28, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., $55. Jessica A. Schuler.

NEW! Aster Field Study
Thu., Oct. 3, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., $55. Melissa Fabel.

Native Plant Communities
Fri., Oct. 4, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., $55. Eti Katoni.

Native Perennials: Summer/Fall
Fri., Oct. 4, 12:45–2:45 p.m., $55. Barbara Fischer.

Native Conifers
Fri., Oct. 4, 3–5 p.m., $55. Carolyn Summers.

Ecological Design
Thu., Oct. 10, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., $55. Eti Katoni.

NEW! NY Wetlands: Balancing Ecology, Laws, and Aesthetics
2 Wed., Oct. 23 & 30, 6–7:30 p.m., $80 (+ $5 materials fee, payable to instructor). Kyle Turcoci.

NEW! Native Bugs in Your Garden
2 Mon., Nov. 4 & 11, 7–8:30 p.m., $80. Lawrence Forcella.