Lady Bird Johnson had a passion to preserve and protect the country’s native plants and natural landscapes. The Native Plant Center was founded 20 years ago as the first affiliate of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Texas. Originally a project of the Westchester Community College Foundation, The Native Plant Center today is a vital program on the campus of Westchester Community College in Valhalla, New York.

Since 1998, with the generous help of supporters, The Native Plant Center has continued its mission to educate people about the environmental necessity, economic value, and natural beauty of native plants.

In tribute to the visionary former First Lady, the Lady Bird Johnson Demonstration Garden was dedicated in 1999 with a ceremony attended by Mrs. Johnson and her daughters. The Native Plant Center also bestows the Lady Bird Johnson Environmental Award to recognize environmental advocacy and leadership.

“The environment after all is where we all meet; where we all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing all of us share.”

— Lady Bird Johnson

Photo credits
Before left panel: Mark Vergari, left. Inside middle panel: Joseph Squillante, bottom right.
Inside right panel: Joseph Squillante, left. Elizabeth Sue—Photography, bottom right.
Back: Joseph Squillante
The Native Plant Center: Teaching and inspiring for 20 years!

Native plants matter. They provide food and shelter for wildlife, protect water quality, and define local identity. The Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College:

- Offers rich programming, conferences, and classes about native plants, serving a wide audience of home gardeners, industry professionals, and environmental groups
- Maintains a diversity of teaching gardens that interpret native plants and provide wildlife habitat—open to the public free of charge
- Educates and inspires people to understand and to plant natives through community outreach and partnerships
- Hosts one of the largest and most respected annual native plant sales in the region. These plants add increasing value to state and municipal parks, community gardens, and backyards.

A champion of native plants

New American Cottage Garden: This beautiful new installation teaches how to incorporate native plants in a home garden with elements such as a formal perennial bed, shrub borders, and water feature that illustrate sustainable gardening principles.

Lady Bird Johnson Demonstration Garden Restoration and Expansion: With the help of volunteers, the diversity in the meadow is increasing along with its value as wildlife habitat. The clearing of invasive plants, redesign of pathways, installation of benches, and plantings of native communities will enhance the site’s educational role.

Relevant, Compelling Instruction: As a leader in nature education, The Native Plant Center continues to provide a wide variety of courses on sustainable gardening through its popular landscape conferences and Go Native U certificate program and continuing education classes.

Partnerships: The Native Plant Center continues to grow and expand its relationships with other organizations, government agencies, and businesses.

We need your support...

Now is the time to celebrate the accomplishments of The Native Plant Center and strengthen its future.

Your tax-deductible donation will uphold the legacy and achievements of The Native Plant Center’s past 20 years.

A contribution is an excellent way to ensure our ability to continue this important work.

Please fill out the information on the enclosed envelope and give as generously as you can.

Thank you!