Take Home Our Garden at Annual Native Plant Sale

The Native Plant Center’s 19th annual Native Plant Sale will offer a special twist.

Among the selections will be several of the 60 species used in our New American Cottage Garden. Replicate this wonderful new installation to beautify and benefit your own landscape. The mix of perennials, grasses, ferns, vines, shrubs, and trees attract wildlife—and people, who find peace and a sense of place within the natural-design setting.

Trees and shrubs such as river birch, inkberry, and summersweet add structure to your setting. The flowers of golden alexander, orange butterflyweed, and purple coneflower pop with color. Other perennials such as wild geranium, moss phlox, and wild pink serve as ideal groundcovers. The adored trumpet honeysuckle vine draws hummingbirds. Switchgrass, purple lovegrass, and Christmas fern bring year-round interest. Also available will be some wet-loving plants found in our water feature but able to grow in moist garden soils such as marsh marigold and blue flag iris.

Other enduring favorites will also be available at the sale, including species not easily found elsewhere.

Native plant specialists will be on hand to answer questions and assist gardeners in choosing great options for their sites. Admission is free. Members of The Native Plant Center can enter at 9:30 a.m.

For further information or to volunteer, please call or send an e-mail to The Native Plant Center.

COMING TO THE SALE
Saturday, April 28, 10 a.m.—1 p.m.
Westchester Community College
Across from Parking Lot No. 1

20TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT
New Garden Dedication

Join us to officially open our New American Cottage Garden on Sunday, June 3, beginning at 3 p.m. The ribbon cutting will be followed by a light reception; both are open to members and the public free of charge.

The new garden uses native plants in familiar elements of a home setting. The design was created by landscape architect Ken Uhle and includes more than 800 plants representing 60 species and cultivars. The garden is located behind the headquarters of The Native Plant Center.

To RSVP, please call 914-606-7870.

Manitoga Discount

In celebration of The Native Plant Center’s 20th anniversary, Manitoga is offering a discount to our members. The home and woodland garden of designer Russel Wright in Garrison, NY, is on 75 acres that include stream-crossed woodlands with wildflowers, ferns, mosses, trees, and shrubs of the region. Tickets to Manitoga’s House, Studio, and Landscape tour for Native Plant Center members is $15, May 18–November 12.

Advance ticket purchase is required at BrownPaperTickets.com. For more information, call 845-424-3812.
FROM THE DIRECTOR

Champion of Native Plants for 20 Years

THE YEAR WAS 1998. We lost Frank Sinatra, learned how to Google, and paid just over a dollar for gasoline. Meanwhile, a new venture was commencing at Westchester Community College as its Foundation established The Native Plant Center, the first affiliate of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

Betsy Stern was president of the Foundation at the time and on the Board of Directors of Mrs. Johnson’s organization that promoted and protected native plants and natural landscapes. Betsy took the lead in expanding the First Lady’s vision beyond the borders of Texas to New York with the support of then college president Dr. Joseph Hankin.

In a letter to The Native Plant Center that year, Mrs. Johnson wrote: “What you are endeavoring to do here to educate people about the benefits of using natives in planned landscapes and how to grow and care for them gives me great joy. I hope all who come here will find their pleasure in our living world enlarged and enriched.”

As we celebrate our 20th anniversary, I thank you for helping us continue this mission to educate people about native plants. Your generous support and planting of natives in your own gardens have made our growth possible. Please join us for events this year to mark our milestone, including one on June 3 (see cover story).

Interest in native plants has increased over these two decades and is most apparent at our annual Native Plant Sale, one of the largest and most respected in the region. We started the sale a year after we launched, filling a desperate need for a source for these beloved species. Now the sale attracts hundreds of aficionados from the tri-state area who crave native plants.

To meet the rising demand, keep asking your local nurseries to stock native plants regularly. Perhaps one day our sale will become obsolete. But until then, our event expands, teaches, and carries on Mrs. Johnson’s legacy. I look forward to seeing you on April 28.

Welcome New Staff Member

Brian Bergen, our new Garden Curator/Educator, comes to us with extensive land management experience, including native plant cultivation, invasive species eradication, and native meadow oversight. Brian will manage the demonstration gardens, supervise volunteer projects, coordinate elements of the plant sale, and provide educational outreach. Jennifer Beaugrand will continue to work on the plant sale.

The Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College

STEERING COMMITTEE
Co-Chairs Jacquelyn Bergonzi • Angel Morris
Brooke Beebe, Jan Blaire, Bob DelTorto, Nancy Dexter, Kim Eierman, Melissa Fabel, Barbara Fischer, Patricia H. Keesee, Karalyn Lamb, Ursula LaMotte, Catherine Ludden, Guy Pardee, Heather Sandifer, Denise C.R. Santomero, Jessica A. Schuler, Carolyn Summers, Ken Uhle, Phillis Warden, Elizabeth S. Wattles, Lucille Werlinich, Anthony Zaino

FOUNDERS
Marybeth Weston Lobdell • Marie Smith Schwartz • Betsy May Stern

STAFF
Carol Capobianco, Director
Brian Bergen, Garden Curator/Educator
Susan E. Palmer, Administrative and 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

Free Workshop: Help Conserve Pollinators

Expand your knowledge of pollinators while gathering data for their conservation by taking part in the Empire State Native Pollinator Survey.

The Native Plant Center will host a free training session by the New York Natural Heritage Program to teach you how to make insect observations and participate in the scientific survey. Learn basic pollinator biology, project survey methods, and how to submit data.

The session, which comprises both indoor and outdoor elements, will be held on Saturday, July 14, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Westchester Community College.

The survey seeks to determine the conservation status of an array of native insect pollinators—bees, flies, beetles, butterflies, moths—in nonagricultural habitats, focusing on important at-risk species of the Northeast.

For more information about the program, visit nynhp.org/pollinators.

The workshop is limited to 20 participants; to register visit signup.com/go/yxaxrqQ and click on ESNPS Southern NY Workshop.
2018 WINNERS

Selections From Our New Garden

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 were selected by our members from among species installed in our New American Cottage Garden (see cover story). Both winners will be available for purchase at our Native Plant Sale on April 28.

NATIVE WOODY PLANT OF THE YEAR

Viburnum prunifolium

**COMMON NAME** Blackhaw  
**HARDINESS** Zones 3–9  
**LIGHT** Sun to part shade  
**SOIL** Average to dry  
**SIZE** 12–14’ tall  
**FOLIAGE** Green, finely-toothed; reddish-purple in fall  
**FLOWERS** Creamy white clusters  
**FRUIT** Pinkish-red berries turn blue-black  
**BLOOM TIME** Late spring to early summer  
**WILDLIFE VALUE** Nectar for native bees and other beneficial insects such as syrphid, tachinid, and bee flies. Host plant for the spring azure butterfly and several moth species. Fruit provides food for birds and small mammals.  
**ABOUT** Large flat heads of creamy white, fragrant flowers blanket this upright deciduous shrub in late spring. Berries persist into winter, attracting birds. The fruit is also edible by people and used to make preserves.

NATIVE PERENNIAL OF THE YEAR

Amsonia tabernaemontana

**COMMON NAME** Eastern bluestar  
**HARDINESS** Zones 4–9  
**LIGHT** Sun to part shade  
**SOIL** Moist to average  
**SIZE** 2–3’ tall  
**FOLIAGE** Green, ovate leaves; clump-forming  
**FLOWERS** Five petals, star-shaped, powder-blue  
**BLOOM TIME** Spring  
**WILDLIFE VALUE** Nectar for hummingbirds and various long-tongued pollinators, including some native bees, hummingbird moths, and butterflies. Host plant for the coral hairstreak butterfly. A member of the dogbane family, its characteristic milky sap makes it resistant to deer, rabbits, and groundhogs.  
**ABOUT** The powder-blue flowers set above shrubby foliage brighten the spring garden and serve as a nectar source and host plant for several types of pollinators. In fall, the foliage turns a striking golden-yellow color.

Go Native U Classes

**Great Native Plants for Containers**  
Wed., April 25, 10 am–1 pm, $80.

**Introduction to Insect Identification**  
Mon., April 30, 7–9:30 pm, $65.

**Plant Identification in the Field**  
Tues., May 1, 10 am–12 pm, $55.

**Advanced Insect Identification**  
Mon./Tues., May 7 & 8, 7–9:30 pm, $115.

**Advanced Plant Identification in the Field**  
Tues., May 8, 10 am–12 pm, $55.

For more information, visit nativeplantcenter.org.

To register, call 914-606-6830 and press 1.

Free Field Walks

Join The Native Plant Center on a field walk this spring to learn about native plants on location at these partnering organizations. No pre-registration is necessary. Rain cancels the event.

**WALK** Little Things: Mushrooms, Mosses, and Molds at Saxon Woods  
**WHEN** April 15, 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.  
**WHAT** Look for mosses, lichens, slime molds, and mushrooms at this 700-acre Westchester County park with Taro Ietaka, a parks supervisor with the county. Bring a hand lens or loupe.  
**WHERE** Meet at the trailhead closest to the pool at Saxon Woods Park, 1800 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains, NY

**WALK** Rockefeller State Park Preserve  
**WHEN** May 19, 9:30–10:30 a.m.  
**WHAT** Explore the meadow and woodlands surrounding Swan Lake with Missy Fabel and Dawn Orza. Learn about native plants and invasive species.  
**WHERE** Meet at the Welcome Center, Rockefeller Preserve, 125 Phelps Way, Pleasantville, NY. Parking fee, $6.

**WALK** John Jay Homestead  
**WHEN** June 2, 9–10 a.m.  
**WHAT** Explore the gardens around the house and adjacent meadow and woodlands with Missy Fabel and Dawn Orza.  
**WHERE** Meet in the main parking lot at the John Jay Homestead, 400 Jay Street (Route 22), Katonah, NY.
Save These Dates

**JULY 29, 2018**
**Guided Tours at The Native Plant Center**
Visit our gardens in their summer glory during this Garden Conservancy Open Days event.

**SEPTEMBER 8–9, 2018**
**Native Plant Weekend at Rosedale Nurseries**
Find native trees, shrubs, perennials, and more with help from our native-knowledgeable personal shoppers at this sale that benefits The Native Plant Center.

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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 $ __________
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 __________________
Mail • Fax: 914-606-6143 • E-mail: wcc.nativeplant@sunywcc.edu • OR Pay online: www.mysunywcc.org/donations