T he native plant center will honor two of its venerable leaders at its 20th anniversary celebration on Saturday, September 29, 6:30 p.m., at the Larchmont Yacht Club. Carolyn Summers (top right) will receive the Center’s Lady Bird Johnson Environmental Award, and Lucille Werlinich (bottom right) will receive the Acorn Award.

Carolyn has devoted thousands of hours to educating people about native plants. A dedicated member of The Native Plant Center’s Steering Committee since 2004, she is a co-founder of and instructor in the certificate program Go Native U at Westchester Community College. She is owner and creator of Flying Trillium Gardens & Preserve in the Catskills and author of Designing Gardens with Flora of the American East.

Lucille has been a pillar of The Native Plant Center since becoming a Steering Committee member in 2001. She has been instrumental to the Center by growing its endowment, co-chairing benefits, and providing generous support. She also advocates for native plants through community outreach. Lucille is a member of the Westchester Community College Foundation Board of Directors and chairs the Purchase College Foundation.

The Center’s Lady Bird Johnson Environmental Award recognizes an individual or a group for environmental advocacy and leadership, particularly involving native plants. The Acorn Award recognizes an individual or a group that inspires people to learn about native plants and to grow them in their own gardens.

In addition, special leadership recognition will go to Brooke Beebe, founding director, Barbara Fischer, Patricia H. Keesee, Denise C.R. Santomero, Phillis Warden, and Elizabeth S. Wattles for their many years of service and support as members of the Steering Committee.

Please join us for this celebration. For more information, call or e-mail us.

BACK TO SCHOOL WITH GO NATIVE U

Transform Your Space from Barren to Bountiful

Native plants turn ordinary spaces into beautiful oases with multiple benefits. Discover how to successfully plan, design, and maintain a native plant garden sustainably at Go Native U’s Back-to-School event, Native Plant Gardening Know-How, September 28, 9:30 a.m.—4 p.m., at Westchester Community College.

Explore the concepts of ecology and how to translate them into practical steps to use in your garden in Add Life to Your Landscape, taught by Jessica Schuler, Director of the Thain Family Forest at The New York Botanical Garden.

With the New American Cottage Garden (pictured) as a case study, in Design for Small Spaces learn how to create a welcoming landscape for people and wildlife and tour the garden with the project’s landscape architect, Ken Uhle.

Once you have planned and planted your garden, help it thrive. Author and designer Carolyn Summers will explain how to control weeds and invasive plants and offer other practical methods in Best Practices for Garden Maintenance.

Attend one, two, or all three courses. Earn up to 5.5 LA-CES credits. To register, call 914-606-6830 and press 1.
FROM THE DIRECTOR

A Salute to Our Trailblazers

My admiration and appreciation for The Native Plant Center and its first supporters deepen when I think about the gardening culture of 20 years ago versus today. When we opened our doors in 1998, few people were promoting the use of native plants in designed settings.

Just five years before, Sara Stein shook the standards of traditional home landscaping with Noah’s Garden: Restoring the Ecology of Our Own Backyards. This influential book ushered in a new way of deciding what to plant in our gardens. It became the flag-bearer for native plants.

The founders and early leaders of The Native Plant Center were at the forefront of this movement—daring to take the bold step of establishing educational programs and demonstration areas to teach people about these unfamiliar—but essential—species known as “native” plants. More than a novelty, the initiative has flourished over the years, inspiring increasing numbers of gardeners, and building and strengthening the Center to where it is today.

Many of these trailblazers are guiding us still. That is why, with great regard and many thanks, we will be honoring them at our 20th anniversary dinner on September 29 (see cover story). Their enduring commitment and dedication has cultivated The Native Plant Center for two decades. Please join us for this celebration and help to ensure that our work continues long into the future.

PASSING THE TORCH: We thank Jacqui Bergonzi for her commitment and leadership as co-chair of the Steering Committee. New co-chair Ken Uhle (pictured) has been a landscape architect with Westchester County Parks for 26 years. He designed the New American Cottage Garden for The Native Plant Center and will lead the renovation and expansion of its Lady Bird Johnson Demonstration Garden.

IN MEMORIAM: It is with sadness that we said goodbye this year to three of our early champions. Marie Smith Schwartz, a co-founder of The Native Plant Center, was a friend and biographer of Lady Bird Johnson. Maxine Jewel Kaplan led the Center for many years on the Steering Committee and as an ardent volunteer, especially during plant sales. Betty Ann Wamsley was an enthusiastic supporter and vibrant, longtime Steering Committee member. We remember them fondly and with gratitude for their spirit and contributions.

—Carol Capobianco

Volunteer Spotlight: Patricia H. Keesee

When asked by her friend to join the Steering Committee of a new venture, The Native Plant Center, in the late 1990s, Pat Keesee was easily persuaded. She has a long dossier of environmental leadership: the Bedford conservation commission, The Nature Conservancy, the Garden Club of America, the Federated Conservationists of Westchester County, the Rusticus Garden Club. Recently, Audubon NY recognized her as a pioneer in the field of conservation and land preservation.

“I grew up exploring the wooded banks of the Cumberland River in Tennessee,” Pat says. “That’s where my interest in wildflowers started.”

Soon after becoming co-chair of The Native Plant Center, she joined the board of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Texas, in January 2000, where she often met the First Lady. “She was a warm and gracious person and totally dedicated to promoting native plants,” Pat recollects. Among her most memorable moments was sitting next to Mrs. Johnson at dinner following The Native Plant Center's garden dedication ceremony.

Pat continues her advocacy by encouraging others to get involved: “It’s a natural for anybody who is interested in plants, gardens, and the environment. Plus, you meet such great people.”

The Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College

STEERING COMMITTEE
Co-Chairs Angel Morris • Ken Uhle
Brooke Beebe, Jacqueline Bergonzi, 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, Phyllis Warden, Elizabeth S. Wattles, Lucille Werlinich, Anthony Zaino

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

STAFF
Carol Capobianco, Director
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

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ROCKY HILLS ENVIRONMENTAL LECTURE SERIES

Free Talk: Heroes of Horticulture

Hear about the people who have made a major impact on the American landscape from author Barbara Paul Robinson in a free presentation, *Heroes of Horticulture*, on Thursday, October 25, at 7 p.m., in the Gateway Center at Westchester Community College.

Based on her book of the same title, Robinson will examine the influences of those who have preserved exceptional gardens, restored public parks, set standards for land preservation, and made impressions in other ways. A light reception precedes the lecture; books will be available at a special event discount for signing.

The talk is part of the Rocky Hills Environmental Lecture Series, which honors the legacy of the late Henriette Suhr, whose 13-acre property in Mount Kisco is protected by a conservation easement. The Native Plant Center hosts the evening in partnership with The Garden Conservancy and Westchester Land Trust. No registration is necessary.

Go ‘Jay Walking’ With Us

Join The Native Plant Center on a free field walk at the John Jay Homestead on Saturday, September 22, 9–10 a.m. Explore the gardens around the house as well as the adjacent meadow and woodlands to discover how to incorporate native species into your own back yard.

Meet in the main parking lot at the John Jay Homestead, 400 Jay Street (Route 22), Katonah, NY. No registration is necessary. Heavy rain cancels the event.

NEW! Gardening with Deer

The impact of deer browsing is a chief concern when considering plants for garden design. The recurring question “Do the deer eat it?” is fraught with frustration. Discover a selection of easy-to-grow native plants less favorable to deer that will allow you to enjoy gardening again.

Sat., Nov. 17, 10 am–12 pm, $55.
Michael Hagen.

NEW! Moss Workshop

When birds are in hiding and flowering plants dormant, mosses are there for nature lovers to appreciate. Discover some of the common mosses of the area and how to identify others. Class moves outdoors; dress appropriately for weather.

Sun., Nov. 18, 9:30–11:30 am, $55.
Taro Ietaka.

NEW! Lichen Workshop

More than splotches on rocks and trees, lichens are amazing examples of cross-kingdom collaboration in which a fungus and its partners have conquered the elements and predators for millions of years. Learn about these fascinating organisms and how to recognize the common lichens of the area. Class moves outdoors; dress appropriately for weather.

Sat., Dec. 15, 9:30–11:30 am, $55.
Taro Ietaka.

For all course descriptions and instructor information, visit our website. Most classes approved for LA-CES credits.

To register, call 914-606-6830 and press 1. A percentage of tuition supports the work of The Native Plant Center.

Go Native U

Fall 2018 Classes: Register Today!

Core Classes

**Native Perennials: Summer/Fall**
Sat., Sept. 29, 10 am–12 pm, $55.
Barbara Fischer.

**Introduction to Native Plants and Landscapes**
2 Wed., Oct. 24 & 31, 10 am–1:30 pm (30-minute lunch break), $130.
Carolyn Summers.

**Native Trees and Shrubs**
2 Wed., Nov. 7 & 14, 11 am–1 pm, $90.
Carolyn Summers.

Elective Classes

**Back-to-School: Native Plant Gardening Know-How**
See cover story for description.

**NEW! Native Plant Gardening for Migrating & Overwintering Birds**
Learn how to support migrating birds as they fuel up for their long journey south. Find out what resources to provide for the birds that spend the winter in our landscapes.
Wed., Oct. 3, 10 am–1 pm, $80.
Kim Eierman.

**Goldenrod Field Study**
Fri., Oct. 5, 10 am–12 pm, $55.
Melissa Fabel.

**Salix discolor** (showy goldenrod), R.W. Smith, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

**Designing Native Plant Gardens**
2 Tues., Oct. 16 & 23, 7–9 pm, $90.
Lynn Becker.

**NEW! Mushroom Lifestyle and Identification**
Mushrooms are amazingly varied in appearance and habits. In addition, some are used medicinally, some are edible, and some could be dangerous. Learn how to recognize and identify common mushrooms of the area using field guides. Class moves outdoors; dress appropriately for weather.
Sat., Oct. 20, 9:30–11:30 am, $55.
Taro Ietaka.
Save These Dates

**MARCH 11, 2019**
The Native Plant Center
Spring Landscape Conference

**APRIL 27, 2019**
20th Annual Native Plant Sale
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 $ ____________

**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
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, 2017–July 31, 2018

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