

Rhode Island Wild Plant Society Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Jackie Dawley, Office Manager – (401) 789-7497 or office@riwps.org

RI WILD PLANT SOCIETY'S "GO WILD!" GARDEN TOUR SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2008, 10 am – 4 pm

Do you want to learn how to include native plants in your garden as part of a natural, sustainable landscape? Come to beautiful South County on Saturday, June 21, 2008, 10 am - 4 pm for the RI Wild Plant Society's "Go Wild!" Garden Tour and find out how. The tour includes 10 gardens in Kingston, West Kingston, Wakefield, Saunterstown, Jamestown, North Kingstown and Hopkinton.

This fun event, educates the public on the many good looking native plants that can be incorporated into a perennial or woodland garden, whether there is sun or shade, moist or dry conditions. The tour will give visitors ideas they can use in their own gardens. The emphasis is on the sustainability of native plants, but the gardens are not limited to them only.

South County is a haven for dedicated gardeners. Each of the 10 gardens is special in its own way. Some are whimsical and funky. Others are Zen-like and include huge sweeps of ferns and moss. One is a magnificent property with stonewalls and mature specimen trees; another overlooks a pond and features stone patios and planters. Many contain water features and lovely shade gardens.

Owner/gardeners will be on hand to conduct tours and answer gardening questions. The garden of "The Renaissance Gardener" Louis Raymond will be on the tour. Louis was the Designer of the Boston Flower Show for several years. His garden is exuberant and a riot of color. URI Professor Richard Casagrande's garden is also on the tour. His garden, next to Potter Woods illustrates how you can attempt to deer proof your yard. Recent past-President of RIWPS Karen Asher's garden on Barber's Pond is on the tour. The garden of Martha and Steve Cavanaugh, which includes the headwaters of the Saugatucket River, will be featured. Judy Ireland, the designer of the award-winning RI Wild Plant Society's Garden at the RI Flower & Garden Show in Providence every year, will open her garden especially for the tour. Several other private gardens are also included.

Information and tickets are available on the Rhode Island Wild Plant Society website at www.riwps.org or by calling the office at 789-RIWPS (7497.) or E-mail us at office@riwps.org.

Tickets are \$20.00 for the public or \$15.00 for RIWPS members. Join anytime before the tour and get immediate discounted admission.

All proceeds go directly to RIWPS educational efforts. RIWPS is a non-profit environmental organization, dedicated to the study, conservation, cultivation, and restoration of RI's native flora.

For more information contact Sandra Thompson – Chairwoman, E mail- sandpault@cox.net

Pictures are available upon request.