



WildfloraRI

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What's Happening Outdoors: Breaking Bud by Garry Plunkett

Winter has an icy grip on the northeastern landscape and deciduous plants are in full rest mode—winter dormancy. Last summer's leaves are long gone but trees and shrubs have already prepared for next spring by packing away miniature leaves inside of protective bud scales. Some species, such as Shadblow, even include embryonic flowers within the same leaf buds. This expenditure of resources at the end of the growing season to create buds months ahead of when they will grow into leaves is an interesting adaptation of deciduous plants. The advantage must be that prepackaging the buds gives them a jump start the following spring in the race to get positioned for capturing sunlight.



It is also fascinating how deciduous plants seldom err in the timing of bud break. How do they know that spring has sprung? Warmer temperatures would not be a reliable signal because of the occasional winter periods of unseasonal warmth. Those January thaws may cause humans to prematurely begin gardening but trees are seldom fooled. Nor is daylight period the starting bell. If that were so, trees of the same species in a region would all break bud at the same time, which isn't the case.

Bud break is usually well timed for the same reason that cold stratification works for seed germination. Leaf buds of most northern deciduous plants must have a period of chilling temperatures before they will open. Only after this cumulative cold time has passed will the effects of warm temperatures and photoperiodism stimulate spring bud opening. This adaptation minimizes the risk of frost damage, and it explains why you may not be able to force a shrub to flower in the fall but it works in the spring. This also is why you should not dig up that pretty red maple sapling for your cousin in Georgia. It will not break bud down there.

Seed Starter's West Are Transplanted

The Seed Starters West group has relocated from URI's East Farm Greenhouse to the former Meadowbrook Nursery on Rte 138 in Richmond. URI's plans to refurbish their greenhouses in the coming year has created a need for student greenhouse space and there just wasn't room for us at East Farm this year. We thank Brian Maynard for being such a kind landlord through the years. Luckily, the new owner of Meadowbrook, Jami Ratti offered to rent the group his propagation house. The new space provides much more growing space. The group is expanding their operation now that they have additional space. There will be two groups meeting at this location twice a month on Thursday and Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 12:00. We are actively looking for new participants. The seed starters propagate most of the plants that we sell at our plant sales. They meet bi-weekly to learn about and grow native plants. One of the best things about the groups is the chance to dig in the dirt all through the winter. When there is snow on the ground there is nothing like going to the greenhouse and seeing things growing. Members of the seed starters are knowledgeable and more than willing to share their expertise. The camaraderie is terrific. If you are interested in Thursdays contact Betty Salomon 364-7597 or bemitch@ricconnect.com and Betsy Keiffer at betsyk@peoplepc.com. If you are interested in Saturday mornings contact Rick Enser at (401) 440-6346.

Fireside Reading

While you wait for the snow to melt and the ground to thaw, consider these books to keep your sap flowing as you look forward to spring. *A Blessing of Toads* by Sharon Lovejoy, a collection of Ms. Lovejoy's columns written for *Country Living Gardener* magazine. The book has delightful observations of the natural world in and around the garden, along with her often humorous approach to gardening with simple little drawings that add more fun to the read.

For those who enjoy the scientific basis of healthy gardens, two books published this year are in that category. *Ecology for Gardeners* by Steven Carroll and Steven D. Salt is filled with information about plants and their interaction with their environment, both physical and living. Topics include mineral cycles, soil stewardship, and plant interactions with natural forces.

IPM for Gardeners: A Guide to Integrated Pest Management, By Raymond A. Cloyd, Philip L. Nixon and Nancy R. Pataky is a practical and clearly written guide for the average gardener to understanding pest control strategies for a healthy garden environment. *Excerpted with permission from "Green Thumb" by Cheryl Cadwell, published in the Newport Daily News, Nov. 17, 2004*

CCRI Seeks RIWPS Involvement in Sustainability Project



Most people who drive onto CCRI's Knight Campus in Warwick have no idea that behind the woods lies an historic gentleman's farm circa 1820 complete with outbuildings, impressive stone walls, and pastures. CCRI, along with preservation groups, the

RI Community Farm, URI and alternative energy experts, seeks to preserve and restore this property for educational purposes. The vision for this project combines elements of history, preservation and the principles of sustainability. CCRI is happy to invite RIWPS to be an integral part of this landmark collaboration. Current opportunities include:

Heritage Park. Located directly in front of the new addition to the main building, Heritage Park has benefited from woody plant donations from Roger Williams Park, the RI Tree Council, URI and others. The theme for this landscape is "New England Pastoral" and there is still much to be done, including sustainable design, plant selection, planting and tree and shrub culture. Because of RIWPS' strong vision and commitment to native and sustainable plantings, CCRI feels that the park would benefit from the expertise of RIWPS members.

RI Community Farm. In the spring of 2005, approximately 1-2 acres of former pastures will be used to grow produce for the RI Community Food Bank. Help prepare the ground, plant the gardens, use IPM techniques, harvest the produce and get your hands dirty for a good cause.

Historic Greenhouse/Grounds Restoration. Also on the Knight Farm property is a greenhouse with attached headhouse and cold frames. Currently the facilities are not usable; however CCRI seeks those interested in helping with the overall restoration process. Emphasis will be on maintaining the integrity of the original structure and retrofitting it with alternative energy and sustainable systems wherever possible to make it a "Green" building. The greenhouse will grow seedlings for the RI Community Farm, Heritage Park and other locations within the historic estate and on campus.

Future ideas for long-term project expansion include researching, designing and installing historically accurate gardens around the 1820's estate farmhouse; creating walking paths throughout the property's several hundred acres; expanding plantings around the main college campus and parking lot, and more. Interested members should contact Kris Koch at 401-789-5459 or by email: mrbeebles@cox.net.

Jules Cohen Honored



This past November the Rhode Island Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, sponsored National Philanthropy Day. The purpose of this special event was to collectively recognize the impact that philanthropists have on our community. The Rhode Island Wild Plant Society was pleased to nominate Jules Cohen as our 2004 "Partner in Philanthropy." Jules Cohen was the President of the RI Wild Plant Society from 1997 to 2001. His friendly, yet thoroughly professional manner made new members feel welcome and older members

feel appreciated. He is currently chairman of our Flower Show Committee. Under his guidance our garden at the RI Spring Flower Show has won numerous awards. Through this nomination we honor and show our appreciation for everything Jules has done for RIWPS.

NEWFS NEWS

RIWPS continues to be a leader among state affiliates of the New England Wildflower Society (NEWFS). At the NEWFS annual meeting Francis Underwood, a former RIWPS board member, was presented with the Rhode Island State Award for his "extraordinary contributions to the knowledge, discovery, and recovery of Rhode Island's rare plants through precise observations and keen ecological insight." Many of our members have benefited from Fran's comprehensive knowledge of botanical taxa as well as his utterly pleasant manner in sharing that knowledge on the walks he has led. His botanical "sleuthing" skills and participation with the state NEPCoP task force has resulted in the identification of new rare plant populations and the rediscovery of some "historical" species. *WELL-DONE FRAN!*



The NEWFS plant conservation program continues to be very successful in Rhode Island due largely to a squadron of volunteers bushwhacking across the state, most of whom are RIWPS members. Indeed, Rhode Island had the highest state percentage of assigned plants actually found in 2004. These Plant Conservation Volunteers (PCVs) are given specific plant populations to search for, as requested by our state natural heritage program. NEWFS trains the volunteers and administers the program but we all benefit because monitoring the plants is the first requirement for preserving them.

The habitats searched in 2004 included Lafayette Cedar Swamp, Kingston Pine Barrens, Ell Pond, and Lime Rock. Among the notable finds this year were two populations of Yellow Lady Slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *pubescens*) that were last observed in 1981, and a huge increase in a New England Boneset (*Eupatorium leucolepis* var. *novae-angliae*) population. It now is estimated at 4500 stems, where 40 were seen previously. Some new finds: Woodlily (*Lilium philadelphicum*), Canada Lily (*Lilium canadense*), and Long Beech-fern (*Phegopteris connectilis*). Besides locating and updating the rare plant database, volunteers took advantage of some great field trips that are offered free to PCVs.

Finally, our cooperative effort in the NEWFS Certificate in Native Plant Studies program is a model for New England states. RIWPS co-sponsored courses cover 90% of the minimum requirement for certificate completion. This permits those who want to advance their knowledge of native plants in a structured program to do so with a minimum of commuting to Framingham, MA. (A list of current offerings is in the calendar section.)

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM NATIVE PLANT STUDIES

The following events are offered by RIWPS in conjunction with the New England Wildflower Society (NEWFS) Certificate Program in Native Plant Studies, a program of courses and field studies in plant identification, ecology, and conservation of New England plants and habitats. Completion requirements include core courses, elective topics, and habitat visits. RIWPS members who are not NEWFS members may register for these programs whether or not they are in the certificate program, and member fees will apply for these courses which are cosponsored by RIWPS. Course registration is with NEWFS, phone: (508) 877-7630 Ext. 3303. More information is available on the NEWFS Web site, www.newfs.org, or from RIWPS Cooperative Education Program coordinator, Garry Plunkett, (401) 624-2549.

CORE COURSES

CONSERVATION BIOLOGY BOT5101

Rhode Island College, Providence, RI

Wednesdays, February 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16, 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Fee: \$100 member/\$120 non-member

Naturalists are increasingly concerned with the degradation of natural ecosystems and losses in biodiversity. How can we respond to this crisis to be more effective in promoting preservation of critical habitats and assist with the stewardship of protected lands? This program will provide a background in the principles of conservation biology so you can become a more effective conservation advocate. Topics will include identification and prioritization of targets (species and ecosystems) for preservation; the various mechanisms available to preserve land; management/stewardship of protected lands; and special problems affecting biodiversity, including invasive species and loss of pollinators. A series of article reprints and handouts will be provided along with recommendations for further reading. Students should expect to participate in discussion.

Instructor: Rick Enser, Ecologist, RI Natural Heritage Program

PRINCIPLES OF PLANT ECOLOGY BOT5001

Rhode Island College, Providence, RI

Thursdays, May 5, 12, 19, 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Field Days: Saturdays, May 7, 14 and Sunday, May 22, 2:00–5:00 p.m.

Fee: \$150 member/\$180 non-member

This course will focus on the diversity of plant forms and the many ways in which plants achieve their biological goal to reproduce. We will discuss the forces in ecological communities that influence diversity and the types of plants found within a community. Factors such as resource availability and environmental conditions, as well as competition and symbiosis between plants and other life forms, will be presented and discussed. One class will be devoted to plant reproduction and the relationship of plant growth habits and methods of reproduction to the ecological community. The course will be divided into 3 classroom sessions and 3 field sessions.

Field sessions will be held at different habitat types. The three sessions will include visits to a grassland/early successional shrubland community, a forested upland with adjacent wetland habitat, and a disturbed habitat, showing the introduction of invasive plant species. Field sessions will focus on observing environmental conditions that influence habitat type, succession, and the relative diversity found in contrasting habitats. Instructor: Hope Leeson, Ecologist

NATIVE NEW ENGLAND SHRUBS BOT3303

W. Alton Jones Campus, W. Greenwich, RI

Sunday, June 5, Saturday, June 11, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Fee: \$140 member/\$168 non-member

The many species of native New England shrubs display a wide variation in size, shape, color, and characteristics of their bark, flowers, and fruits. This course will introduce students to about fifty species growing in this region. We will emphasize identification and become familiar with family characteristics and historic uses. Bring a hand lens to each session.

Instructor: Lisa L. Gould, Senior Scientist, Rhode Island Natural History Survey and co-author of *Coastal Plants from Cape Cod to Cape Canaveral*

WILDFLOWERS OF NEW ENGLAND BOT3003

W. Alton Jones Campus, W. Greenwich, RI

Sunday, May 15 and Saturday, May 21, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Fee: \$110 member/\$132 non-member

This course will focus on learning to identify wild plants and getting first-hand experience with New England's diverse flora. Sessions will include classroom instruction on plant identification and family characteristics, and participants will become familiar with the names, growth patterns, habitats, and pollination mechanisms of our native wildflowers. We will also concentrate on in-the-field practice studying plants in their natural habitats. Participants will learn to identify species using *Newcomb's Wildflower Guide*, and will also gain exposure to other field guides and botanical keys. Bring a hand lens and a bag lunch to each class. Required text: *Newcomb's Wildflower Guide*.

Instructor: Lisa L. Gould, Senior Scientist, Rhode Island Natural History Survey and co-author of *Coastal Plants from Cape Cod to Cape Canaveral*

FRAMEWORK TREES OF NEW ENGLAND BOT3200

Garden-in-the-Woods, Framingham, MA

Thursdays, May 19, 26, June 2; 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Sundays, May 22, 29, 12:30–3:30 p.m.

June 5, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Fee: \$165 member/\$198 non-member

Trees are the dominant plant type of New England, with temperate forests covering most of the land area. This survey course will address individual tree species as well as introductory forest ecology. Trees are long-lived plants so understanding today's forests requires a look back in time. The historical effects of land use and natural disturbances, and the changing forested landscape of New England since the ice age will be reviewed. Students will learn to identify native New England trees, their habitats, and to recognize different aged stands - pioneer, second growth, and old growth. They will become familiar with our common forest communities and the natural and human factors that cause them. The final field session will be at the Harvard Forest and Fisher Museum in Petersham, MA.

Instructor: Garry Plunkett, NEWFS certificate graduate and lifelong tree hugger.



CERTIFICATE PROGRAM NATIVE PLANT STUDIES

FIELD IDENTIFICATION TECHNIQUES

BOT2002

University of RI, Kingston, RI

Saturdays July 9, 16, 23, 30; 9:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

Fee: \$150 member/\$180 non-member

This course will equip students with the skills to identify plants in the field. You will see a variety of floral structures, learn to recognize family characteristics, and develop familiarity with botanical terminology. To gain experience and confidence in field identification, you will practice keying plants using *Newcomb's Wildflower Guide*, Seymour's *The Flora of New England*, and Gleason and Cronquist's *Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Canada*. This course is suggested for students who have taken *Wildflowers of New England* or who have previous experience identifying wildflowers. Bring a hand lens and *Newcomb's Wildflower Guide*. Suggested reference: Harris & Harris, *Plant Identification Terminology: An Illustrated Glossary*.

Instructor: Chris Nerone, URI Instructor of Botany

SPECIAL TOPICS

COASTAL HABITATS OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

Narragansett and Conanicut Island, Rhode Island

Thursday, August 11, 2005 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Fee: TBA

Coastal habitats are in their prime in August and we've timed this class for a weekday, to avoid weekend crowds. This class will explore cobble beach, rocky shore, and salt marsh habitats. Students will learn about the ecology of these ecosystems and begin to identify the fascinating array of grasses, sedges, rushes, forbs, and woody plants that grow in and on the edges of such challenging habitats. Bring a hand lens and a bag lunch.

Instructor: Lisa L. Gould, Senior Scientist Rhode Island Natural History Survey, and co-author of *Coastal Plants from Cape Cod to Cape Canaveral*, by Irene H. Stuckey and Lisa L. Gould (2000: University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC).

UNDERSTANDING NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITIES AT GROUND LEVEL

Rhode Island College, Providence, Rhode Island

BOT4020

Sunday, March 20, 12:30—3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$15 member/\$20 non-member

In any given location many variables and dynamics are at play that result in the particular natural community growing there. The character of the local soil, however, is where it begins, i.e., soils beget plants and plants beget animals. This workshop will provide participants with a basic understanding of the geological and organic elements that make up various soil types. It will also explore the connections between different soils and the native plant types that compete well in them. Following a lecture/slide program, participants will get their hands dirty by examining representative soils in the classroom, then going outdoors to analyze core samples in the field.

Instructor: Jim Turenne, USDA Soil Scientist

FERN & FERN ALLIES IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

BOT3416

Nettie Jones Nature Preserve, West Greenwich, RI

Saturday, July 30 9:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Fee: \$32 member/\$39 non-member

With so much wetland habitat in Rhode Island, ferns can be found almost everywhere, along roadsides and in woodlands, in streams and on pond edges, in meadows and pastures, and even on salt marsh margins. These fascinating plants are among our most ancient land plants and are surprisingly simple to learn to identify. In this class you will begin to tackle the identification of ferns and their allies, the clubmosses and horsetails. The course will begin with classroom instruction on the natural history and taxonomy of ferns and fern allies, and will offer guidance on using some of the references available (B. Cobb's *A Field Guide to the Ferns*, Houghton Mifflin Co., is especially recommended). Then you will spend two hours on the Nature Preserve, gaining hands-on experience at fern identification. A large percentage of Rhode Island's ferns and fern allies have been found at the Alton Jones Campus, so there will be plenty of living material to work with! Bring a hand lens to help you see reproductive structures.

Instructor: Lisa L. Gould, Senior Scientist with the Rhode Island Natural History Survey

FIELD TRIPS - HABITAT VISITS

FISHERVILLE BROOK

FDT7018

Exeter, RI

Sunday, March 13, 2:00—4:30 p.m.

Fee: \$20 member/\$23 non-member

Finish off the winter and see what spring has in store by exploring the Audubon Society of Rhode Island's Fisherville Brook Refuge. The Refuge is a great place to explore a variety of plant communities in one location. This 500-acre+ refuge features Red Maple swamp, streams, ponds, oak woodlands, meadows, and pine forests, so there's also an excellent diversity of plant life to hone your winter botany skills. Dress for the weather and bring a hand lens.

Instructor: Lisa L. Gould, Senior Scientist, Rhode Island Natural History Survey

SPRING WAKE-UP IN WEETAMOO WOODS

FDT7011

Tiverton, RI

Sunday April 3, 12:30—3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$20 member/\$23 non-member

With 500 acres of rare coastal oak-holly forest, Weetamoo Woods is at the heart of preservation efforts to safeguard a major tract in one of the only large unbroken upland forested areas along the New England seaboard. Besides a thriving stand of American Holly (*Ilex opaca*, the only broadleaf evergreen tree in the northeast) Weetamoo Woods is home to a "recuperating" Atlantic White Cedar swamp and a rich collection of archeological remains from colonial times. We will analyze the forest ecology, practice winter ID of the woody plants, and see if we can catch that brilliant little snake tongue of a flower on a hazelnut (*Corylus americana*).

Leader: Garry Plunkett, certificate graduate and habitat manager of Weetamoo Woods for the Town of Tiverton.

BOTANICAL EXPLORATION OF GOOSEWING BEACH & QUICKSAND POND

Little Compton, RI

FDT7019

Thursday, August 25, 1:30—4:30 p.m.

Fee: \$23 member/\$26 non-member

Often described as one of the state's most beautiful places, The Nature Conservancy's Quicksand Pond/Goosewing Beach Preserve in Little Compton is a real Rhode Island gem. Join us for a botanical exploration of the Preserve, where we'll learn about dune ecology and identify a variety of coastal and open-area plants, including the rare Seabeach-knotweed. Bird lovers may want to bring binoculars, since this is home to both Piping Plovers and Least Terns. Leader: Naturalist Lisa Gould, Senior Scientist with the Rhode Island Natural History Survey.



The Rhode Island Spring Flower & Garden Show
February 17-20, 2005
RI Convention Center, Providence, RI

Calendar of Events 

Are you longing for bright colors and sweet fragrances? Shake of the winter blahs and head for spring in February. Gorgeous horticultural display gardens will transport you through winter and into a beautiful spring with this year's theme "Gardens of New England. Make sure you stop by the RWPS's display and education booth where we will be celebrating native ferns with a special plant sale, and lots of advice on how you can use ferns in your own backyard. To purchase tickets call (401) 253-0246 or www.flowershow.com

TREE I.D. AT FRANCIS CARTER PRESERVE

Charlestown, RI

February 26, 10:00 a.m.—noon

Fee: \$3 members; \$5 non-members

Winter is a great time to get a grip on the identification of trees and the Francis Carter Memorial Preserve is one of the largest protected properties in the state. It joins several thousand acres of contiguous forest and contributes to an 11-mile corridor of open space running from the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge to the state's Carolina Management Area. Frances Topping, educator and naturalist, will introduce participants to the buds, bark, fruits and other characteristics that will help you distinguish among Rhode Island's trees.

Moderate.

SKUNK CABBAGE WALK AT PARKER WOODLAND

Sunday, March 20, 10:00 a.m.—noon

Fee: \$3 members; \$5 non-members

To find the first spring plant in flower—you have to get out before it feels much like spring at all. Thoreau counsels those who are afflicted with the melancholy of winter to go to the swamps "and see the spears of skunk cabbage buds already advanced." Join Frances Topping for a walk through Parker Woodland, a 860-acre Audubon property with a majestic old forest, brooks tumbling through rocky ravines, boulder fields, and mysterious rock cairns. *Easy-moderate.*



PRESSING FERNS & PLANT CYANOTYPES

RISD/ Roger Williams Park Greenhouse

Saturday, April 2, 10:00-1:00 p.m.

Fee: \$35 member/\$40 non-member

For the 21st century botanist the methods for preserving plants are innumerable. With the help of instructors, Gale Porter and Kris Koch, we will learn the art of pressing and photographing plant specimens. Kris Koch will instruct us in the art of preparing, pressing and then presenting pressed ferns. Gale Porter will teach us how to create cyanotypes or sunprints. Cyanotype, from the Greek word meaning "dark blue impression," is one of the most permanent of all photographic processes. When you place plants on specially coated paper and expose it to the sun's rays. The result is an amazingly accurate outline of the plant in white, a deep "Prussian" blue background, and subtle white and blue tones that reflect the plant's tissue opacity. Two wonderful ways to celebrate the beauty of botany. Fee includes supplies for the two projects.

VERNAL POOL WALK

Carolina Management Area, Richmond, RI

Saturday, April 9, 10:00 a.m.—noon

Fee: \$3 members; \$5 non-members

Explore the flora and fauna of vernal pools, with emphasis on pond-breeding

amphibians and flora associated with seasonally flooded ponds. Led by Dr. Frank Golet, URI, who has been studying wetlands in NE for over 30 years and Dr. Peter Paton, URI, who has studied amphibians in RI for the past five years.

Moderate.

GARDENING WITH NATIVE FERNS

Jamestown Philomenian Library, RI

Sunday, April 17, 1:00—3:00 pm

Fee: FREE!

Ferns have many uses in a garden or natural landscape. They provide dependable greenery and texture throughout the growing season, are easy to grow, and seldom grazed by deer. Their visual effect is calming, evoking a sense of deep, tranquil woodlands. To grow ferns you only need a little patience to get them established and some familiarity with what species are appropriate for different soil and light conditions. This lecture and slide program will show you the special delights of growing native ferns, point out the southern New England species that are available at nursery outlets, and provide guidance for which ferns to choose for your garden setting. Presenter: Garry Plunkett

MILLIE HOUSE MEMORIAL WALK

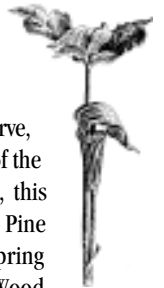
Crawley Preserve, Richmond, RI

Sunday, April 24, 2005, 1:00—4:00 p.m.

Fee: \$3 members; \$5 non-members

This will be RIWPS' first walk at the newly acquired Crawley Preserve, so it's your chance to help participate in an initial inventory of the property. Located in both Richmond and South Kingstown, this 112-acre preserve is home to mixed deciduous forest, White Pine woods, American Beech stands, and Red Maple lowlands. Spring blooms such as Spicebush, Jack-in-the-pulpit, Wild Oats, and Wood Anemone are likely to be found. Led by Lisa Gould, senior scientist with the RI Natural History Survey.

Easy-moderate



OPEN HOUSE AT EAST FARM

URI, Wakefield, RI

Saturday, May 8, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Free & Open to the Public

Come out and support East Farm, URI's 70-acre research facility located in Wakefield, RI. This unique piece of property was acquired in 1928 and is used for horticultural evaluation, fruit culture research, and contains a Pinetum (evergreen arboretum) and a 5-acre deciduous arboretum rarely open to the public. Visit the RIWPS booth, buy some plants, explore the farm, and help preserve the farm's horticultural history.

IRENE STUCKEY MEMORIAL WALK & LUNCHEON

URI W. Alton Jones Nature Preserve, West Greenwich, RI

Thursday, May 12, 9:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Fee: \$30 members; \$35 non-members

followed by lunch at the Whispering Pines Celebrate Rhode Island Wild Plant Week and remember Irene Stuckey with a spring walk and delicious lunch at URI's W. Alton Jones Campus. This 2300-acre property is one of Rhode Island's finest natural areas, but as the university's research campus, it is open only by special invitation. Sugar Maple forest, oak and beech woods, White Pine forest, meadows, streams, swamps, and ponds comprise this lovely property, where we will see many kinds of spring wild flowers. On one May walk, we counted 60



Calendar of Events

species in bloom-join us to see if we can break that record! Led by Lisa Gould, senior scientist with the Rhode Island Natural History Survey.

Moderate.

SPRING AT PARKER WOODLAND

Coventry, RI

Saturday, May 14, 9:00–11:00 a.m.

Fee: \$3 members; \$5 non-members

Our walk through Parker Woodland with URI instructor Chris Nerone will take us through numerous habitats, mysterious rock cairns, along stone walls and cellar holes, and beside the Pine Swamp Brook which splashes down a rocky ravine in a series of falls and pools. We will be looking for spring ephemerals, birds-foot-violet, anemones and admiring the new green canopy. *Moderate.*



WILDFLOWER ID CLASS

Marion Eppley Preserve, West Kingston, RI

Saturday, May 21, 10:00 a.m.–noon

Fee: \$3 members; \$5 non-members

One of the largest refuges owned by Audubon, the Marion Eppley Refuge is not open to the public, but is maintained as an unspoiled and unbroken tract for wildlife habitat and study. Frances Topping, naturalist and educator, will be using the diverse range of New England flora available at this refuge to instruct participants in how to identify species using guides and botanical keys. Come prepared with a hand lens and a copy of Newcomb's Wildflower Guide.

Easy-moderate.

EDIBLE PLANT WALK WITH RUSS COHEN

Blackstone River State Park, Lincoln, RI

Saturday, June 18, 1:00–4:00 p.m.

Fee: \$3 members; \$5 non-members

Join expert forager Russ Cohen on a three-hour, three mile hike through the refuge to learn about at least two-dozen wild edibles. Keys to the identification of each species will be provided, along with information about edible portion(s), season(s) of availability and preparation methods along with guidelines for safe and environmentally responsible foraging.

Easy-moderate.

MOUNTAIN LAURELS & MOUNTAIN TERRAIN WALK

Ell Pond, Hopkinton, RI.

Sunday, June 19, 2005, 1:30–4:30 p.m.

Fee: \$3 members; \$5 non-members

Tangles of Rhododendron and Mountain Laurel amidst tall hemlocks and massive boulders are likely to make you think you're in the Great Smoky Mountains rather than the western edge of Rhode Island. Among the heath thickets are upland oak (including Chestnut Oak) and pine forest, which drop precipitously to ponds where Atlantic White Cedar frames bog mats at the pond's edge. The walk is timed to enjoy the abundant Mountain Laurel in bloom; we'll also likely see Wild Sarsaparilla, Cow-wheat, Whorled Loosestrife, and a variety of other interesting plants in the wet areas. Owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy and Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, this is one of Rhode Island's most lovely natural areas. Led by Lisa Gould, senior scientist with the RI Natural History Survey.

Moderate-strenuous.



SAVE THE DATE

Spring Plant Sale-Kingston

Saturday, June 4, 2005

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. RIWPS Members only

9:00 a.m. - noon Open to General Public

10:30 a.m. Silent Auction

URI Campus, Flagg Road, Kingston, RI

Spring Plant Sale-North

Saturday, June 11, 2005

10:00 - 2:00 p.m. Open to General Public

Borrelli Tree Farm, Brown Ave., Johnston, RI

This will be the second year for our Northern Spring Plant Sale in Johnston, RI. Both sales will offer an excellent selection of native plants, perennials, annuals, and shrubs. We have increased our Seed Starters to include a new group at Roger Williams Park, plus our Northern, East and West groups have already begun starting seeds and potting plants. Just a few of the many unusual and hard-to-find plants we'll have this year:

- Spring woodland flowers, including several varieties of **Trillium** and **Jack-in-the-pulpit**
- Native species of **Azaleas and Mountain Laurels**, grown from seed, as well as several uncommon **evergreen Azaleas**

This is your chance to get valuable advice on selecting and growing native plants from RIWPS seed starters. And as our regulars know, it's wise to come early to avoid disappointment and get the best selection. Pass the dates and directions along to a friend.

Directions to Kingston Sale: At light at intersection of Route 138 and Upper College Road turn right on Upper College Road. When it dead ends at Flagg Road, look for the plant sale tents to the left. Parking is available along Flagg Road and behind the Fine Arts Center.

Directions to Johnston Sale: From 95 North or South take Route 10 connector South (near Dunkin' Donuts center) to State 195 West to 295 North. On ramp, take Exit 6 and at bottom of ramp turn right onto Hartford Avenue (Rt. 6). Head west for approximately 1.5 miles to third light. At light take right onto Brown Avenue. Follow Brown Avenue for approximately 1 mile, look for signs for the RIWPS Plant Sale.



The annual Spring Plant Sale is a tremendous undertaking, and we always need enthusiastic workers. If you would like to help on our Plant sale Committee or as a seed starter give the RIWPS office a call at (401) 453-3777.

COMING THIS SUMMER . . .

**NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP AT
BLITHEWOLD MANSION, GARDENS & ARBORETUM
July, Date TBA**

**RHODODENDRON WALK AT MATUNUCK HILLS WITH
HOPE LEESON
Saturday, July 9, 10:00-noon**

PLEASE READ before filling out registration form on the following Page

WE WELCOME people of all botanical abilities at our events. Beginners or experts, amateurs or professionals, we all come to enjoy and learn about wild plants.

REGISTRATION & FEES: Pre-registration is required for all events with fees (and sometimes for those without fees). Standard event fees are: adult members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

CONFIRMATION: Registered participants will receive directions to the site and more details approximately a week prior to the event preferably by email but also by mail if necessary.

DIFFICULTY: Our walks are rated "easy," "moderate," or "strenuous" for your guidance in selecting events. These levels are for people of average physical ability who are in good health. Our leaders are volunteers and may have no special training in first aid; therefore, participants assume full responsibility for their well being on RIWPS walks.

REFUNDS: If RIWPS cancels the event due to inclement weather or low attendance, refunds are automatically processed through the RIWPS office in the form of a free walk pass. Cash refunds are given when requested by phone through the RIWPS office (401) 453-3777.

WAITING LISTS: If the event is full when your registration is received, you will be contacted and asked if you wish to be on the waiting list. You will be notified by phone if a space becomes available.

CANCELLATION: If it is necessary for you to cancel, please notify the RIWPS office as soon as possible so that we may contact the people on the waiting list. Please leave a message on the answering machine if no one is there. If you cancel within 24 hours of an event, or on a weekend, call the coordinator listed on the event confirmation form so that someone on the waiting list can be called.

INCLEMENT WEATHER: Most events are held regardless of the weather. **CALL THE RIWPS OFFICE (401) 453-3777 THE DAY OF THE EVENT TO CONFIRM THE EVENT IS TAKING PLACE. YOU WILL NOT BE NOTIFIED BY PHONE, IF THE EVENT IS CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER, A MESSAGE WILL BE LEFT ON THE RIWPS OFFICE VOICE MAIL (after 8 a.m.).**

DRESS AND EQUIPMENT FOR OUTDOOR EVENTS: Dress appropriately. This means, in almost all locations, long pants and sturdy shoes and socks (for protection from poison ivy, briars, and ticks). Other options, depending on the season, weather, and subject, might include insect repellent, hat, rubber boots, field guides, hand lens, small notebook, hiking stick. **PLEASE HELP US PROTECT OUR NATURAL AREAS:** No smoking, collecting, or pets at our events.

TO REGISTER, Please cut out this form and mail with your payment to: RIWPS, P.O. Box 2488, Providence, RI 02906. FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY RIWPS 7 DAYS BEFORE THE EVENT. For late registration please call the office, (401) 453-3777.

| Date | Event | Members | | Nonmembers | | Total Fee |
|--------------|--|---------|-----|------------|-----|-----------|
| | | Fee | No. | Fee | No. | |
| 02/26/05 | TREE I.D. AT FRANCIS CARTER PRESERVE | 3.00 | | 5.00 | | |
| 03/12/05 | MARCH ANNUAL MEETING | free | | free | | |
| 03/20/05 | SKUNK CABBAGE WALK AT PARKER WOODLAND | 3.00 | | 5.00 | | |
| 04/02/05 | PRESSING FERNS & PLANT CYANOTYPES | 25.00 | | 30.00 | | |
| 04/09/05 | VERNAL POOL WALK | 3.00 | | 5.00 | | |
| 04/17/05 | GARDENING WITH NATIVE FERNS | free | | free | | |
| 04/24/05 | MILLIE HOUSE MEMORIAL WALK | 3.00 | | 5.00 | | |
| 05/12/05 | IRENE STUCKEY MEMORIAL WALK & LUNCHEON | 30.00 | | 35.00 | | |
| 05/14/05 | SPRING AT PARKER WOODLAND | 3.00 | | 5.00 | | |
| 05/21/05 | WILDFLOWER ID CLASS | 3.00 | | 5.00 | | |
| 06/18/05 | EDIBLE PLANT WALK WITH RUSS COHEN | free | | free | | |
| 06/19/05 | MOUNTAIN LAURELS & MOUNTAIN TERRAIN WALK | 3.00 | | 5.00 | | |
| Total | | | | | | |

VISA MC Card # : _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail address: _____

“Where Have All The Wild Flowers Gone? — Reflections on New England Flora and Land Use History”

A lecture by Dr. Henry Art, Director, Center for Environmental Studies, Williams College

RIWPS’s ANNUAL MEETING, Saturday, March 12th

Business Meeting: 12:00—1:30 p.m., Fellowship: 1:30 —2:00 p.m., Speaker: 2:00—3:30 p.m.

Free & Open to the Public, Weaver Auditorium, Coastal Institute, Kingston, RI

The New England landscape has undergone repeated transformations since European settlement in the early 17th century. From “forest primeval” to a predominantly cleared agricultural region and now back to forest, our natural flora has been dramatically altered by human land use. Dr. Art’s insight on these changes have been gained through an intensive study of the history and ecology of the Hopkins Memorial Forest in Williamstown, MA. His lecture will reflect on what might be learned from this prototypical history, and whether those lessons may apply in the current era of invasive species, suburban fragmentation, and species extinction.

Dr. Art is the Samuel Fessenden Clarke Professor of Biology at Williams College and oversees research at the Hopkins Memorial Forest in Williamstown, MA. His research includes ant propagation of wildflowers, successional patterns, land use history, and deer-vegetation interactions in maritime forests. Some of his published works: *Wildflower Gardener’s Guide* (various editions 1987—1991, Garden Way Publishing), *A Garden of Wildflowers* (Storey Communications, 1986), and *Woods Walk* (with M. Robinson, Storey Publishing, 2003, winner of the 2003 *Children’s Digest* Nature Award).



Rhode Island Wild Plant Society
P.O. Box 2488
Providence, RI 02906
(401) 453-3777
E-mail: office@riwps.org
Website: <http://www.riwps.org>

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 01048
Providence, RI

CALL TO ACTION

Dear Members,

We are all members of the Rhode Island Wild Plant Society because we share a love of Rhode Island's native plants. Our common vision is to do everything we can to protect and preserve that critical element of our state's natural environment. Each of us give in different ways to fulfill that goal: volunteering with educational programs, plant propagation, political advocacy, plant inventories, rare plant monitoring, plant sales, harvest dinner, newsletter—the list could go on.

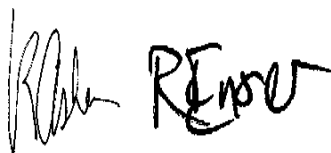
These commitments from so many RIWPS members has resulted in a very successful 2004 for the Society, e.g., a new "northern" plant sale, an absolutely outstanding harvest dinner, another award winning display at the Rhode Island Spring Flower and Garden Show, and continued conservation partnership with the New England Wildflower Society through the Plant Conservation Volunteer, Invasive Plant Atlas of New England, and Certificate in Native Plant Studies programs.

This year promises to be even better. The Seedstarters are expanding to new locations to provide more opportunity for learning how to propagate native plants. An exciting new relationship with CCRI is in the works, and a new event, "Meet the Garden Writers Luncheon" is scheduled for the summer.

All of this is possible because of the quality of work by the legion of volunteers that make these programs happen. Unfortunately, none of it would be possible without financial support that keeps the lights on, the computers humming and the newsletters coming. The annual appeal has been our way of finishing with a balanced budget. We deeply appreciate the response thus far, but we need to raise an additional \$1,500 to do that. The Board of Directors has taken several steps to "lean down" expenses, such as eliminating the paid administrative assistant and closing our rented office space.

If our December annual appeal mailing somehow got lost in the pile of Christmas Cards on your desk, we urge you to consider a special donation to get us back into a fiscal comfort zone while the Board continues to consider ways to restructure our expense position and keep us moving forward in protecting our state's precious plant habitats.

Sincerely,



Rick Enser & Karen Asher, Co-Presidents



**YES, I'm committed to preserving and protecting RI's native plants and their habitats.
Please accept my contribution to the RIWPS Annual Appeal.**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

*Please make checks payable to RIWPS . \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$35 other _____

I'd like to make my contribution using my credit card.

Kindly charge my: Visa MasterCard Amount \$ _____

Credit Card Number _____

Signature _____ Expiration Date _____