

2020 Volunteer Awards

2020 Lifetime Service Awards

Fran Underwood has been part of RIWPS for most of the Society's lifetime. He joined the board in 1991 and stayed on through

the Society's financial troubles. As a very active member of the Stewardship Committee, he was often called on to inventory the plants in members' landscapes. He organized and led many walks for the Society at a time when its members called themselves "Wild Folk."

Fran has discovered many a rare RI species in his walks around the state. His favorite find was a large colony of fall coral-root (*Corallorhiza odontorhiza*). Over the years he donated many special plants for the silent auction table at RIWPS plant sales and generously helped out at the sales. He has also authored articles about native flora, including a plant guide to the Big River Management Area.

In 2009 he and Kathy Barton launched the website among-ri-wildflowers.org. "Among RI Wildflowers" (ARIW) provides a vast array of information and articles about RI wild plants, including its popular mystery plant of the month, an amateur botanist series, resources for plant ID, and great photographs of RI Natives. Check it out! Fran, who has a degree in botany from URI, makes sure that ARIW is botanically correct. Kathy handles the graphics, website, and publications. ARIW attracts thousands of readers from around the world.



Fall coral-root. Photo by David Cameron

Kathy Barton

says that when she went to the first business meeting of RIWPS in March of 1987 it was "like coming home." She was delighted to find some 60-odd other people who cared as much about wild plants as she did. Kathy went on to serve as RIWPS president from 1991 to 1993 and for years planned and led walks as part of the Education Committee. She created walks, assembled teaching materials, and for years kept a blooming calendar—all resources she generously shared with RIWPS.

Kathy offered this history of her involvement with wildflowers: "If it weren't for Red Rose Tea and the fact I come from a family of tea drinkers, I might never have gotten hooked on wild flowers. Back in the '60s, Red Rose Tea used picture cards as a promotional in their boxes of tea. One set of cards was Wild Flowers of North America. I avidly collected, studied, and mounted them in an album that was available from the company. Later, when I had space for a garden, I started a wildflower garden, growing a number of the plants I remembered from my card collecting days. Dutchman's Breeches was a particular favorite. From gardening with wildflowers, I went on to lead walks and do programs in local schools. I am still learning about and enjoying native plants. And it all started because I liked the pretty pictures and my family drank tea."



Dutchman's Breeches. Photo by William Cullina

2020 Volunteer of the Year



Anne and her dog, Henry. Photo by Rock Singewald

When **Anne Raver** moved to RI from Maryland in the fall of 2015, she joined RIWPS to learn about the area through our walks and lectures, but it wasn't long before she was drawn into volunteering. Having written about the garden and environment for the *New York Times* and several other publications for many years, she was soon putting her talents to work for RIWPS.

She joined Seed Starters East and soon after was asked to help publicize the plant sale. She raised the bar for promoting the event, writing press releases and feature articles for local papers, magazines, and online publications and arranging for interviews and photo shoots in member gardens.

She has also written pieces for *WildfloraRI*, including a "Cultivation Note" about Carolyn Curtis and "On the Trail with Doug McGrady" while also heading up *WildfloraRI*'s editorial team, which she describes as quite a collaborative adventure. She also served on the team that transformed the signs for our plants sales.

As a member of Walks and Workshops committee, Anne originated our "In the Landscape of" series. She also helps with programs, most recently setting up a lecture with Dr. Doug Tallamy and organizing a Beecology workshop with Dr. Robert Gegear.

Anne is also the author of *Deep in the Green: An Exploration of Country Pleasures*.

Anne has been trying to say no, ever since Susan Marcus first called her up and asked her if she wanted to volunteer.