



The Native Plant Society of New Jersey

www.npsnj.org

Spring 2007 Issue

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A Note From Your Past President:

Thank you so much. Thank you to all the folks who got behind the Rain Garden Manual, all those who came out for energizing Annual Meetings and monthly meetings, for articles and data tables, revised resources (the butterfly list and all the how to lists online), and for the basic and much needed financial support of the Society. I also want to thank the mentors I had in Bill, Bob, Hubert, and Bunny and the friends I've made.

I may have moved to Philadelphia but I'll always be from the Pinelands of South Jersey. I've been lucky enough to have spent my youth picking huckleberries and canoeing blackwater creeks and I've been lucky enough to have spent a part of adulthood hiking Pyramid Mountain through the seasons Rob Jennings showed so beautifully in his spiritually driven slides and kayaking all over reservoirs and canals to see the stream side views of the north of NJ.

I'm looking around my desk and thought it might be a good thing to offer a list of some good books I've been using in my work in natural resources and at home. The City Gardener's Handbook: The Definitive Guide to Small-Space Gardening (Linda Yang) was given to me this year and I am impressed by the simple presentation and extent of information Mrs. Yang offers to gardeners with small space to work.

The following are some books I've really come to love: Plants for Stormwater Design (Daniel Shaw and Rusty Schmidt), A Field Guide to the Pine Barrens of New Jersey (Howard Boyd), Plant Communities of New Jersey, A Study of Landscape Diversity (Beryl Robichaud Collins & Karl H. Anderson), Weeds of the Northeast (Richard H. Uva et al), and Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas (National Park Service, USFWS).

So again, thank you and I look forward to seeing some of you at monthly meetings and functions. I'm just a short drive away. Please also feel free to email me at fedmail2@yahoo.com.

Your friend,
Tony Federici

Middlesex safari? It's not as crazy as it may sound

Long-gone species of wildlife reappearing

Thursday, January 25, 2007

BY DAVID WHEELER

For the Star-Ledger

The Serengeti Plain ... Yellowstone National Park . . . Denali in Alaska ... New Jersey's own Raritan River.

Okay, so maybe that's pushing it. But against all odds, wildlife is returning to Middlesex County. And not just white-tailed deer and Canada geese, either. Species that haven't been seen here for a century are reappearing on the land, water and sky within the densely populated Lower Raritan Watershed.

A bottlenose dolphin in June swam more than 14 miles up the Raritan River, all the way past New Brunswick's Landing Lane bridge, before retreating to its far more saline ocean home.

The hard-working beaver is again building its lodges in South Plainfield's Dismal Swamp after more than a century away.

An adventurous young black bear was spotted in 2005 in Edison's Stevens Preserve before being captured by state officials two days later in the heavily developed Colonia section of Woodbridge.

And our endangered national symbol, the majestic bald eagle, is again catching fish in the Raritan and its tributaries, using the I.L.R. Landfill in Edison as a favorite

perch. Eagles have also been spotted this year in Highland Park Meadows and Milltown's Mill Pond.

Some of these sightings — like the bear and the dolphin — are an aberration and don't represent an expansion of their home ranges. But many other animals are back in Middlesex County for good. And they have overcome lottery-type odds to do it.

After all, more than 200,000 people live in Woodbridge and Edison alone. More than 2,400 people live in every square mile in Middlesex County while the U.S. average is 80 people per mile. Open space is at a premium for wildlife in Middlesex County, but that's not their only obstacle.

For most of the 20th century, the Lower Raritan River was off-limits for all but the hardiest New Jerseyans and species of wildlife. The span from East Brunswick and Edison down to the Raritan's mouth at Sayreville and Perth Amboy was dubbed the "Chemical Belt" for its heavy industry, chemical manufacturers and a major U.S. Army arsenal.

Yet over the last two decades, many of the area's largest industrial plants have been closed. As the contaminated sites they left behind are remediated, the Raritan has become a river in recovery.

PESTICIDE UPDATE!

Thanks to your swift action, NJ Environmental Federation helped defeat a rollback of protective regulations that would have lifted a 20-year ban on the aerial spraying of the pesticide Dimilin on 6,000 acres of state forest in the Pinelands and 27,000 acres in 22 NJ municipalities.

In just a few weeks, NJ Environmental Federation members quickly rallied into action, sending thousands of emails, calls, and letters to the Corzine Administration asking that the ban be upheld.

Citing dimilin's public health and ecological side effects and alternative gypsy moth controls, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) rejected the NJ Department of Agriculture's request for a 1-year waiver of the ban.

"We're pleased the Corzine Administration decided to maintain this 20 year old practice to protect public health and the environment," said Jane Nogaki of the NJ Environmental Federation. "DEP rules already weigh the risks of Dimilin and gypsy moths and now we can go back to advancing environmental protections instead of stopping their rollbacks."

Not used since the 1980's when residents in their backyards and kids at school bus stops were sprayed, Dimilin can cause blue baby syndrome (reducing oxygen levels in blood), act as an endocrine disruptor (reducing testosterone levels), breaks down into a probable human carcinogen and is highly toxic to a vast array of wildlife.

Speakers Wanted

The Native Plant Society gets dozens of requests for speakers each year. We are looking to train a group of people in various talks - raingardens, native plants, invasive plants, habitat gardens, who is the native plant society etc... - Please contact the Native Plant Society if you would like to be trained as a NPSNJ Speaker.

We are also looking for people willing to train the speakers, so if you have a talk you created and are willing to share it with the NPS please let us know.

Dates and Times of Speakers Bureau Trainings will be announced through email and posted on our website.

K.Salisbury

Swamp Pink (*Helonias bullata*) Current and Future Research at Rutgers

Swamp Pink (*Helonias bullata*) is a federally endangered wetland plant found in the eastern United States from New Jersey south to Georgia. In New Jersey the bulk of the Swamp Pink populations are found in high quality wetlands of the Pinelands. If you are lucky enough to find a flowering specimen in the spring, you will be delighted by the fragrant flowers. The 30-50 pink flowers in the terminal raceme are contrasted by blue anthers to give a color scheme that is magical from a distance and beautifully complex up close. Most of the time, however, the plant is only visible as a cluster of long, parallel veined, evergreen leaves neatly lying on the wetland forest floor. Unfortunately, it is not a flower you are likely to find.

Due to the cumulative effects of agriculture, forestry, urban development and habitat fragmentation, the once numerous populations of Swamp Pink have dwindled to less than 200. Fortunately, the passage of the Coastal Areas Facility Review Act (1973), the Pinelands Act (1979), the New Jersey Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act (1987), and the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act (2004) by the New Jersey State Legislature have helped to safeguard habitat for Swamp Pink in our state. In fact, New Jersey currently contains 70% of the globally remaining Swamp Pink.

Though Swamp Pink enjoys federal and state protection, relatively little is known about its population structure, genetics, reproductive strategies and physiological properties. Proper management strategies cannot be fully developed without this information. As a part of my graduate studies at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, I plan to join the ranks of faculty members and former graduate students who have sought to elucidate this secretive species.

We are currently seeking to explain why Swamp Pink is limited to its niche. It is only found in mature, forested wetlands with a stable water table at or near the soil surface. By measuring the plant's production of specific hormones under various water regime treatments we hope to determine if Swamp Pink possesses physiological adaptations that give it an advantage in its specific wetland habitat. We are also preparing to undertake a complete genetic analysis of Swamp Pink population structure. We can use new technologies that make it economical to track genetic diversity. We can then construct a map showing the genetic relationships between Swamp Pink populations throughout its range. Finally, we are investigating the possibility of non-destructive tissue propagation of Swamp Pink so that we can develop a planting stock of known origin for future restoration projects. It is critically important that we continue to study the characteristics of Swamp Pink to ensure its survival and management as a natural resource.

As part of my graduate studies, I am committed to expanding public awareness of Swamp Pink and other native plant species. It is therefore my great pleasure to give talks to school, plant, garden, and environmental groups or any other concerned parties about Swamp Pink and other plant resources of New Jersey. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments or if someone would like to arrange a talk. I can most easily be contacted by e-mail: arinovy@eden.rutgers.edu or snail mail:

Ari Novy
Plant Biology Graduate Program
Rutgers University
Foran Hall/Cook Campus, 59 Dudley Rd.
New Brunswick, NJ 08902

For more information about Swamp Pink and other federally protected species in New Jersey please visit the New Jersey Field Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the web at: www.fws.gov/northeast/njfieldoffice/Endangered/Swamp_Pink.htm

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 24, 2007 Holly House, Cook College

Executive Board Attendees: Kathy Salisbury, Millie and Hubert Ling, Peggie Leifeste, Tony Federici, Bill Young, Bob Swain, Rob Jennings, Isaac Martin, Dan DiLollo, Bunny Jaskot **Attendees:** 43

MINUTES:

Tony opens the Meeting followed by a reading of the Minutes, a Treasurer's Report, and the announcement of the raffle. Rob Jennings, President of the Northern Chapter spoke about the new Chapter. Education is one of their missions. We need to go to an Earth Day event in South Jersey to encourage membership there. Tony indicated that this was his last day as President. He thanked Bob and Bill for great mentoring. Tony encouraged all to check the website to find out when meetings are occurring.

Tony introduced the Slate of Officers-2007

- President: Kathy Salisbury
- Vice President: Robert Jennings (North) Isaac Martin (South)
- Secretary: Bunny Jaskot
- Co-Treasurer: Peggie Leifeste, Bob Swain (technology component)

Peggie's Treasurer's Report

- We have a balance of \$3,581.46
- 2 CD's one maturing in October of \$1,167.33 and on for \$1333.84.
- Dues are due for Board Members and the General Membership. Membership stands at about 300 or so.
- We have two oak trees that are the grandchildren of Joyce Kilmer's Oak Tree.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Fiscal Year starts in January. We need to indicate in the newsletter that dues were due. We need to raise the dues that are currently set at \$15 individual and \$25 family. Domain name, newsletter printing and mailing, web posting and snacks for monthly/Annual meetings use up our monies. Everyone voted that we increase the membership fee. Thanks were extended to Millie Ling for her role as Web Master. Thanks to Bill and Tony for doing talks and lectures. Tony asked for more volunteers to do talks. Kathy is putting together a basic Speaker's Bureau. The NPSNJ Board members are asked all year around to present. We have power point discs that are common talks we give: Native Plants,

Tony Federici passes the gavel to Kathy Salisbury

The year 2006 began and ended on strong note. The Annual Meeting, held March 24 at Cook College, was one of the best meetings in memory, with a great turnout, and great presentations by Ari Novi and Rob Jennings. Ms Marie Marchinski won a raingarden, donated by the NPS and to be designed and installed by Isaac Martin and Bill Young.

As required by by-laws, we had our election of officers. Bunny remains as Secretary, Peggie remains as Treasurer but is now joined by Bob Swain, who vacated the vice presidency to Isaac Martin and Rob Jennings (central and north chapters, respectively) Kathy Salisbury is our new president! She brings a lot of experience, energy, and passion to the Society—we are very fortunate to have her. She knows her native plants well, and understands the importance of the Society in defining what a native plant is, where to find them, and how to make more species available to the public. She already has a few initiatives underway. Please drop an email and welcome her. ksalisbury@optonline.net

Mr. Tony Federici was just a marvelous president for the two plus years that he served. If you don't know the story, Tony moved here from Texas, and joined the NPS to get familiar with the plants of the northeast. Since then, he has moved up the ladder as an Environmental Scientist, and now works for URS Corp, one of the finest companies in the country. I had the pleasure to collaborate with him on projects. We recently co-presented a talk on "Raingardens and Stormwater Practices" at the ASLA Annual Convention 2007 down in Atlantic City. From all feedback, we just "tore it up".

Under Tony's steady hand, we branched out into new chapters, won a grant, and produced the (now famous) Raingarden manual. Tony never complained, understood the strengths and

Weaknesses of the society, and always was approachable and level headed. Tony will remain active, so we are gaining a president rather than losing one.

Please send your love out to Tony, and thank him for lifting the NPS to a higher level, and making New Jersey a better place. I know that I am a far better person for the company I have kept with Tony Federici, and I also know that we are friends for life.

Yours truly, Bill Young,
Newsletter Editor

PS: Please email me any stories, articles and/or announcements you have for the newsletter. Our deadlines are March 1, June 1, Sep 1, and Dec 1. info@npsnj.org

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Rain Gardens and a few more. Bill volunteered to burn discs. Millie indicated we can put the power points as pdf's. Bill was thanked for the newsletter. Members were encouraged to send materials to Bill. Isaac will be presenting on Earth Day in Manasquan Sunday April 22.

Kathy indicated that there is not one accepted definition of Native Plants. Her goal is to consult with all and decide on a native plant definition that we can do with all of our talks. Her other goal is to get chapters. Issues in the Pine Barrens are different than the Highlands. We would then like to fill the board with representatives of those chapters. She is also interested in getting NJ landscapers involved. She wants to develop a regular series of workshops, hikes etc. She will be reaching out to volunteers. Kathy wants to take advantage of other non profits to get the word out about the importance of native plants. Newsletter deadlines are March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1. Information from all the chapters will be submitted to Bill prior to that point. There is a problem finding landscape sized native plants commented one member. Peggie indicated at the bottom of the membership form is an area for comments. Kathy wants to get the names of all new members who volunteer to be involved.

Sylvia Kovacs is from the Northern Chapter. There are grant opportunities for Sustainable Agriculture. Sylvia is looking for a Municipality who would be interested in taking part of this grant-(Native Plant Nursery in the Highlands). Sylvia wants NPSNJ to submit a letter of support for this initiative. She indicated that a definition of native is important. DEP also puts out seedlings that are non native. Millie indicated there is a listing of native plants on the website. Don K indicated it is the homeowners that have a problem obtaining native plants. Tony indicated we have a list of Native Nurseries.

Bob took a vote for the slate of officers at this point and the above slate was duly elected.

FEATURED SPEAKER (Ari's presentation is on www.npsnj.org)

Ari Novy is a Plant Biology student in the Graduate Program at Rutgers University.

Talk Topic: Swamp Pink

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Talk Topic: Swamp Pink

Ari is supported by the University for his various Studies but actual money, for conducting the study, is his responsibility. He was reaching out for donations to assist in his research.

Helonia bullata is a Monotypic genus in the Lily Family (Liliaceae) It is the only member of the genus being closely

related to *Chamelerium* and *Trilium*. It has pink flowers with blue/purple anthers. Fragrant flower, dense raceme, primarily asexual reproduction, and clonal vegetative characterize this plant.

It is found in Atlantic white cedar swamp, stream borders, and in Spring seepage areas. Historically it was found from NY (Staten Island) to Georgia. NJ is the lifeboat state having about 60-70% of the plants.

Ari is doing physiologic studies that capture ethylene to study flood tolerance adaptations. He is beginning a genetic diversity study to identify propagule sources, estimate gene flow, and compare this plant with other similar conservation stories. Seeds are not viable after 2-3 weeks. No known method of seed cryogenic storage exists.

The next steps include further genetic analysis (AFLP), mechanism of seed dispersal, tolerance to indirect effects of development, suitability for genetic infusion, and re-introduction via constructed and restored wetlands. Ants actually help in dispersing the seed.

His survey costs involve \$200-300 for purchasing reagents, travel and etc. per population studied. He is trying to raise \$5-7,000 to do NJ and the following year he will survey Delaware and south.

Ari will write for the next newsletter and provide his email.

Bill and Isaac will be raffling off a \$1,000 Native plant Garden along with plants donated by Don Knezick of Pinelands Nursery and Supply.

SECOND FEATURED SPEAKER

Rob Jennings, President of the North Jersey NPSNJ Chapter and Superintendent of Natural Resources Management for the Morris County Park Commission.

Rob indicated he has lots of handouts. He also has a collection of spiritual/emotional reflections that provide a connection to native plants. Rob reiterated that the APLD (Association for Professional Landscape Designer) has contact via Susan Olinger who is the NJ President. Additionally, Rob will be updating the list of Native Plant Growers and then putting it on the web.



Rob Jennings:
One wild shirt for one wild guy

Talk Topic: Highlands through the Seasons.

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Pyramid Mountain, located above Boonton, is the facility from which Rob will be showing change through the seasons. He began with the Highlands in the winter time. It is a treasure trove on geology with its beautiful scenery and glacial deposits. Gaps in the forest provide incredible diversity. There are lots of little streams (mountains weep with water) with many sugar maples surrounding the streams as they sink and re-emerge in various locations. The sandy beaches of NJ initiate from the Appalachian streams as the mountains erode. Mice and coyote tracks are found in the snow. Late winter and early spring finds male Mallards in their best colors. Skunk cabbage, with an internal temperature of 72 degrees, is the first sign of spring. Skunk cabbage melts snow as it emerges with its beautiful but unusual flower. Red winged blackbird also heralds spring. Males arrive first to pick out the best spots followed by the females. Friday March 2, 2007 brought them back this year. Great blue herons, once threatened, have been removed from the list due to improved habitat restoration. We need native plant habitats to support these "guys." (that's a Pennsylvania term, take no offense!) They like secluded areas for their rookeries and are indicators of an improving environment. Juncos eat giant purple hyssop seeds and spread these native plants around.

Spring brings wood frogs. Only males make sound with air being forced from the sac in their throat area. These are day time callers. 'Toad Abodes' can be made from Terra cotta pots broken in half, filling the bottom with soil and leaf litter to provide good habitat for them. They are a natural insect control in a garden. Skunk cabbages are deer resistant but they like it wet. The first tree to flower is the red maple (*Acer rubrum*). Male flowers provide a yellowish tinge to the male trees. Bear Rock is a massive glacial erratic. The potential story of the origin of people in North America starts at this rock. The great white bear was probably a relic polar bear due to the climate at that point. This rock is huge and provided an overnight lodging shelter for Indians in their movements.

The heart of spring in the Great Swamp shows the great Oaks (a four foot elevation increase imitates a drier, mountain top habitat). Spring peepers are tiny and are considered tree frogs due to sticky pads on

their feet. They need native vegetation in the marsh and are a great sign of good habitat quality. Trilling may often represent a male frog grasping another male frog in error.



Tony gesturing wildly

Spring happens slow but is over fast. The Eastern painted turtle just emerged on March 23, 2007 at Pyramid Mt. The Eastern box turtle (male is red eyed) have plummeting populations due to habitat destruction by humans. Pollution and collecting is somewhat of an issue. They are the only turtles that can pull their whole body in their shells. Tadpoles emerge at this time. Bullfrogs last for two years as tadpoles. The Lenape were drawn to the many waterfalls where they inferred that Thunderbirds would carry "their good thoughts and prayers" to the Creator. Trout lilies, aka dogtooth violets tend to grow around yellow birch. Spicebush can be somewhat referred

to as our native forsythia. They are aromatic and edible. They benefit native wildlife and Spicebush is a larval host site for butterflies. Spicebush is dioecious and produce berries that coincide with the bird migration that is heading south at this time. Rue anemone has a very slender stalk. The Greeks revered these plants. Fiddlehead ferns begin to emerge at this time. The state flower of NJ is the common blue violet. There is a connection with pollinator animals to these flowers- an interdependence relationship among native plant and native animal! The true flower of the common blue violet is brown and on the forest floor. Spring beauties like full sun areas. There is iridescence in their petals and much color variation. Pokeweed and warblers arrive for insects bring birds. Eastern blue birds that stay all winter are eating multiflora rose which is keeping them here but causing them to die from the cold at times. Their scat reveals their diet.

Cardinals remain here throughout the Winter and are absolutely gorgeous. Tripod rock is found in the Highlands. The rock is not indigenous to the mountain it's found on (Pyramid Mountain) and the Lenape didn't put it there according to them. There are the Solstice Stones adjacent to it. The Summer solstice sun sets between the stones, and the original sighting boulder was replaced by a housing development. The Lenape used animal and plant signs to identify the seasons. No one knows why these Solstice Stones were placed here. There is also an image on a rock (Tripod Rock) that the Lenape thought resembled the head of a turtle.

Later in the season we see the highbush blueberry. The flower has a nice aroma with deer resistance to the foliage. In May *Cornus florida* (dogwood) comes out. This is a critical

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food source for migrating songbirds and small mammals. *Geranium maculatum* (wild geranium) is right along the paths-they may like disturbed/sun shade tolerance. We have native geranium, impatiens, and other flowers and they provide life, habitat and food for all the "critters." Elderberry is another great wildflower. It is important for pollinating insects. Forty nine species of bird consider it a prime food source. Ferns are deer resistant and are a showy landscape plant for shady areas. Mountain Laurel is showy too with white to pink diverse coloration. Rainstorms will cause the flowers to drop. They "shoot out" or catapult their pollen.

Catbirds generally herald late spring and summer. Blueberries are ripening. *Rubus allegheniensis* is rich in antioxidants (blackberry) that attract bears and foxes. *Spirea tomentosa* (steeplebush) is really showy and flowers from the top down. It attracts butterfly and nectar requirers. We have a native snapdragon (turtlehead) that likes full sun and wetness. An overlooked landscape plant is Milkweed. They are deer resistant, and wonderful sources for butterflies. Monarchs lay their eggs on these to complete their life cycles and they are easy to grow and are low maintenance. Rattlesnake plantain grows in leaf litter and shoots up waxy white flowers. Solidago species are very abundant. They may be deer resistant. They do not cause hayfever. There is no wind dispersal. Ragweed is also native, wind pollinated and causes hayfever. It grows under the Solidago and gives the Solidago the bad reputation. Joe Pye, a butterfly plant, formerly called Joe Pye Weed gives the wrong impression to Joe Public. They are not weeds. They can get really big are relatively deer resistant and they like full sun and moist areas. Stunted growth is the result of non ideal growing conditions. Joe Pye is an aberration of the Cherokee term for typhoid. Purple giant hyssop is deer resistant as is *Bergamot*. Both are in the Mint Family. *Lobelia cardinalis* and New York Ironweed are also deer resistant. Native habitats are free gardening-work with nature. Bullfrogs are the "king of the jungle" in vernal pools. When you plant native plants you encourage animals that can now have food to eat. Snakes like the garter snake eats up garden pests. Indian Pipe is a parasitic plant also found in NJ.

Fall is brought on by the Harvest and Hunter Moons. These moons appear larger and farmers can have additional lighting from the size of the moon and the light it shines. Oak-hickory forest are typical of this area. Virginia Creeper adds wonderful color and is a very important food source for birds. Witch hazel blooms at this time and can shoot out its seeds to twenty feet. Nocturnal critters like Screech Owls need tree hollows. Barred owls (call sounds like

who cooks for you) is native. Milkweed and dogbane go to seed along with pokeweed and attract many birds. Dogwood provides color all year around along with service berries. Chestnut Oak acorns, white oak, black oak and red oak (NJ state tree) are very important. Every color in the crayola box is in the woods in NJ. Every season finds something special. Sassafras and mulberry are the only trees with 2-3 lobes all found on the same tree. Mice, flying squirrels (more numerous than gray squirrels) make whistling noises. Flying squirrels are bigger than a chipmunk smaller than a gray squirrel. Grey squirrels are filled with insects. Wood chucks hibernate. Skunks are great for insect controls and eat lots of Japanese beetles. Rabbits are important food source for hawks, foxes, coyotes-they have a role. Raccoons and red fox are numerous along with beavers that are on the increase. Proper hunting of female deer can reduce the population. Reducing deer numbers from 60-12 deer/ area allows us to re-vegetate the forest. Black bear are found in every county in NJ. They are defensive animals.

Old man winter yawns and goes back to bed and the Earth is all OK because hope, happiness, health, and small signs of life come back. Take the time to go out and appreciate the miracle of life. Spring time happens. Even a cut tree learns to smile as Rob displays a tree stump with apparent eyes and grin.

Raffle is held

Meeting adjourns at approximately 1 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Bunny Jaskot

Bunnyj19@aol.com



Isaac and Tara with Hubert in background

For Earthday, April 22, Highland Park

is having ceremonies for three open space projects of interest to native-plant enthusiasts. At 2 p.m. the ceremonies begin at the new Eugene Young Environmental Education Center at the Native Plant Reserve on River Road just north of Route 27. While the main plantings and some other features are still to come, the new building will give a focus for activities at the existing reserve (winner of an EPA Year 2000 Environmental Quality Award). Later in the summer, the reserve itself is expected to be trans-formed by soil amendment and new plantings.

At 3 p.m., across the road, there will be a ceremony for Centennial Park, the new entrance park for the town at the intersection of Route 27 and River Road. At its front edge will be a rain garden filled with native plants right at the busiest intersection in town.

At 4 p.m., across town at The Meadows Natural Area (South Fifth and Valentine), a ceremony will recognize further progress in the trail-making and rehabilitation of 16 acres of land along the Raritan River downstream of Donaldson Park. Once used for farming, and later in part as a landfill, the area has for three decades been reverting to fields and woods. The new trail will create a nearly mile-long loop for rustic walking on a woodland path right at the edge of town.

Native Plant Society

Executive Board 2006

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