



The Native Plant Society of New Jersey, Summer 2024

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Photographs provided by NPSNJ members. Thank you for your contributions.

Lauren Morse, Kim Rowe, Lorraine Freeney, Shona Erlenborn, Valerie Szkodny, Nancy Toro, Lynne Adler, Juliet Marx, Susan Haake, Connie Deetz, Laura Bush, Deb Ellis, Bobbie Herbs, Sarah Galloway, Kazys Varnelis, and Elaine Silverstein

The President's Corner



Dear Friends,

I am honored to serve as president of the Native Plant Society of New Jersey. I've had a long career in academia as a historian of architecture, a scholar of the Internet's impact on culture, and more recently an artist. Over 20 years ago, I joined my first non-profit board, the Los Angeles Forum for Architecture and Urban Design, serving as President for two years before moving to New Jersey to teach at Columbia. I always welcome challenges and designing with native plants is the most fascinating one I've yet taken on. I am convinced that landscaping with native plants isn't just the right thing to do, it is the most beautiful way to design a landscape.

We purchased a midcentury modern house on the first Watchung Mountain in Montclair in 2011. Our half acre property was a mess: highly compacted fill that fell 50' over a 150' lot depth; what wasn't barren was filled with invasive plants. Only a dozen non-native ornamental perennials, a lot of *Vinca minor* and *Pachysandra terminalis*, plus about 30 trees, some native, some exotic, suggested that nobody ever cared for this property. I didn't know the first thing about plants, but when I went to the library to do research, New Jerseyan Ken Druse's *The New Shade Garden: Creating a Lush Oasis in the Age of Climate Change* and Pennsylvania-based Rick Darke's *The American Wood-*

*A crazy idea
came to me:
I could create a
woodland garden here
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I immersed myself
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land Garden: Capturing the Spirit of the Deciduous Forest spoke to me. Druse eloquently explained the variety of plants for bare spots under my trees—as well as the benefits of shade for temperature regulation—while Darke's beautiful photographs reminded me of the old growth forest of the Ice Glen behind the house I lived in as a teenager in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. A crazy idea came to me: I could create a woodland garden here in suburbia. I immersed myself into native plants and soon joined NPSNJ. I started participating at the statewide level in 2020 as a founder of the Advocacy Committee, joined the board in 2022 as Webmaster, and a year later took over as Vice-President of Membership. All those years have been mad scrambles, first to understand the legislative process, then getting the NPSNJ site onto WordPress, and finally implementing a new membership management system.



As President, I hope to build on the tremendous gains the Society made since COVID under Hubert Ling and Randi Eckel, helping NPSNJ advocate for the state's native plants, funding and undertaking initiatives to bring native plants to more public places, working with restoration and conservation efforts, and bringing in experts in botany, horticulture, and science to teach us more and help our mission "to promote the appreciation, protection, and study of New Jersey's Native Flora." I hope to see you at NPSNJ events such as our September Cape May weekend, my first Wednesday Webinar on naturalistic design for woodland gardens, a tour of my garden next year, and much more.

All the best,
Kazys Varnelis, PhD

NPSNJ 2024 Grant Awards

By Elaine Silverstein

NPSNJ Vice President of Chapters

In May, NPSNJ awarded grants to projects throughout the state that support our mission of promoting the appreciation, protection, and study of New Jersey's Native Flora. We awarded two Conservation Science Grants of \$2,000 each to the Friends of Foote's Pond Park in Morris County and to the Wild Woods Restoration Project for a project in Bergen County. Also awarded were 21 mini-grants of \$500 or \$750 each.

The Friends of Foote's Pond Park (see photo) will use their grant for their ongoing efforts to restore biodiversity and native habitat to Foote's Pond Wood in Morris County. The grant will be used for a patch reforestation project that will establish all layers of a future oak-hickory forest. The work involves clearing the forest floor of invasives in canopy gaps left by dead ash trees, densely planting native forest layers, and protecting new plantings from deer.

Wild Woods Restoration Project, a nonprofit located in Salisbury Mills, NY, and active throughout the Hudson Valley region, will use their grant for a new partnership with the Closter Nature Center. The project will restore the woods at the Nature Center while building volunteer capacity to assist managers of public lands with natural resource restoration efforts in the Bergen County area. Ultimately, the project will create a corps of volunteers for future restoration projects.

Over 40 individuals and organizations applied for grants in the 2024 cycle. A committee of nine NPSNJ members, representing chapters throughout the state, evaluated the proposals on the basis of awareness (will the project reach a new audience for NPSNJ's mission?), investment (will the funds be used well?), use of native plants, and sustainability (will the project be completed and maintained?). Final consideration was given to geographic diversity and whether the project was located in an underserved community; a majority of awardees are located in such communities. A full list of awards follows:



Grant Awardees

Conservation Science Grants

Friends of Foote's Pond Wood	Morris
Wild Woods Restoration Project	Bergen

Mini-Grants

Firehouse 6, Chelsea District	Atlantic
Jared Rosenbaum, Rooted	Warren
Meditative Gardens of Collingswood	Camden
Riverview neighborhood, Jersey City	Hudson
Cape May Science Center	Cape May
Tulpehaking Nature Center	Mercer
Pine Beach Garden Club	Ocean
Atlantic Highlands Historical Society	Monmouth
Somerset Master Gardener Teaching Garden	Somerset
Sunset Lake Neighborhood Association	Somerset
Potters Park, Spring Lake Borough	Monmouth
Janis E. Dismus Middle School, Englewood	Bergen
Red Dragon Canoe Club, Edgewater Park	Burlington
Skylands Unitarian Universalist Fellowship	Hunterdon
Borough of Rutherford Green Team	Bergen
Somerset Master Gardener Teaching Garden	Somerset
Boyd McGuinness Park, Jersey City	Hudson
James J. Braddock Park, North Bergen	Hudson
Hammonton Green Committee	Atlantic
Washington Park, Jersey City	Hudson
Brookdale Park Conservancy	Essex

Somerset Chapter Announces 3 Mini-Grant Awardees

By Nancy Toro and
Valerie Szkodny
Somerset Chapter Co-Leaders

The Somerset County Chapter is thrilled that the 3 Mini-Grant Applicants from Somerset County have been awarded funding by NPSNJ. All three awardees are Chapter members.



Lynne Adler is a Somerset County Master Gardener. Her project is to create a native meadow at the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Somerset County (RMGSC) Teaching Garden that aligns with the book, *Lawns into Meadows* by Owen Wormser. This will entail an area to demonstrate the four methods described in Wormser's book:

- "Cleared with Seed,"
- "Cleared with Plants,"
- "Uncleared with Seed," and
- "Uncleared with Plants."

Native plants and grasses will be used to populate the meadow.



This bed, which is in a wet area, is adjacent to the other native beds and would showcase not only moisture-loving pollinator plants but also a firefly habitat.



Also partnering with the Somerset County Master Gardener Teaching Garden is Shona Erlenborn, a Somerset County Master Gardener, Rutgers Environmental Steward, and a member of our chapter's steering committee. The Teaching Garden already consists of perennial, pollinator, sensory, edible, and demonstration gardens and four well-established native beds. The grant would fund planting of a new bed which the native plant team has recently acquired. This bed, which is in a wet area, is adjacent to the other native beds and would showcase not only moisture-loving pollinator plants but also a firefly habitat.

Juliet Marx is a board member of the Sunset Lake Association. Her grant will be used for a designated restoration site on the shoreline of Sunset Lake to teach the community about invasive species removal and native plant habitat restoration. Her plan is to recruit community members as volunteers to remove the invasive species and replace them with the native plantings. The project will be done in conjunction with an educational presentation to raise awareness and enthusiasm for native habitat restoration. In the long term, she would like the community and board to engage in better stewardship of the entire property.

IGC: NPSNJ Growing Retail Relationships Across NJ




Welcome to Pollinator Day!

Today this nursery is offering a larger selection of native plants and members of the Native Plant Society of NJ are here to guide you.




Plant These For Bees

- 1 Plant the right plant in the right place
- 2 Plant for a full season of bloom
- 3 Plant in 3s for pollinators



98% of bees are solitary, unlikely to harm you unless you disturb their nest


70% of bees are ground nesting, while 30% nest in wood piles and decaying trees



The Native Plant Society of New Jersey

Caterpillars are Picky Eaters


90% of insects are specialists and require a specific plant to live their life cycle.



Monarch caterpillars feed exclusively on milkweeds. Great Spangled Fritillary feed exclusively on violets. Pearl Crescent Caterpillars feed exclusively on asters.

6000-9000 Caterpillars are required to feed one clutch of birds.

Caterpillars transfer more energy from plants to other animals than any other herbivore. Plants transform the sun's energy into O₂ and carbohydrates.



The Native Plant Society of New Jersey

Right Plant/Right Place
Let the Land Do the Design

Light Conditions
Full sun (6 hours+)
Part sun/shade (3-6 hours)
Full shade (6 hours+)
Sneezeweed prefers full sun, cinnamon ferns prefer shade

Soil pH
Acidic to Alkaline
Blueberries prefer acid soil, goldenrod prefers alkaline

Soil Type
Sandy-Loam-Clay
Swamp pinks prefer sandy soil, trilliums prefer loam

Soil Moisture
Xeric-Mesic-Hydric
Butterfly milkweed prefers xeric conditions, birches prefer hydric

Plant in 3s
Group plants so that pollinators can find them



The Native Plant Society of New Jersey

Posters designed by the IGC Committee.

By Kim Rowe and Bobbie Herbs
Co-Chairs, IGC committee

The Independent Garden Center (IGC) Committee of NPNSJ and the IGC Liaisons opened the 2024 season with a series of events across NJ called "Pollinator Day" aimed at growing relationships with IGCs and increasing local access to native plants. Other committee initiatives include building collaboration with IGCs, hosting a second IGC Industry Update, updating IGC listings on the NPSNJ website, and developing a native plant finder tool that will be useful for IGC staff and customers.

Pollinator Day

A Pollinator Day is a native plant sale and community education event wrapped in one. Prior to the event, customers and folks on the NPSNJ mailing list preorder native plants at a discount for pickup on Pollinator Day at an IGC. NPSNJ Liaisons help the IGC promote the event, engage the community, and attract the largest audience possible.

On Pollinator Day, NPSNJ Liaisons present educational talks on pollinators, caterpillars, replacements for invasives, and more. They also help customers select plants that are right for their garden conditions. Part educators, part consultants, NPSNJ teams are an integral part of the day.

Putting together this event requires collaboration between NPSNJ volunteers, an IGC, and a wholesale native plants nursery. Our IGC liaisons have been very active in pitching and coordinating NJ Pollinator Day events.

We have finished our first round of Pollinator Days for 2024. With nine events under our belt(s), we have seen a variety of successful executions. Although not every garden center has modern technology, we estimate that over 1000 plants were sold during the events across the state. Currently we are gathering lists of all native species offered, and will compile that to begin evaluating the most likely NJ native plants in conventional retail. What we know so far is that 145 species of plants were on benches this season.

The results are promising: IGCs sell lots of native plants, they reach many new native plant buyers, and inform existing customers about the benefits of natives.

According to Bast Brothers owner, Bert Bast, more than 25% of sales on their cold and rainy Pollinator Day were straight species natives from Centerton Nurseries, and 22% of all shoppers that day took home at least one native plant. At Barlow Flower Farm, Pollinator Day results were similarly positive; they fulfilled 62 preorders of native plants and sold many straight species during the day. According to Cass Daugherty, marketing manager for Barlow's, "I think we knocked it out of the park."

Through the Pollinator Day program, NPSNJ is actively helping IGCs create a native plant market. Subsequently, we increase access to native plants and spread the word about natives to average homeowners and traditional gardeners.

Second IGC Industry Update

By Kim Rowe and
Bobbie Herbs
Co-Chairs, IGC committee

In addition to the Pollinator Day program, the IGC committee hosted its second Industry Update on April 10th featuring NJ Department of Agriculture Assistant Secretary Joe Atchison, along with Steve Castorani, founder and CFO of North Creek Nurseries and partner in American Beauties Native Plants, and Tim Kane, Brand Ambassador for American Beauties Native Plants.

Assistant Secretary Atchison updated the attendees on the Jersey Native Plants program and the launch of the pilot marketing initiative. The state will be offering Jersey Native



Plants signs and other branded materials to garden centers who meet the native plant requirements.

Steve Castorani and Tim Kane shared the story of the genesis of American Beauties Native Plants more than 12 years ago, describing the slow but now accelerating demand for the neonic-free, straight species plants they offer. Kane shared, “Frankly this was a hard sell for the first dozen years. It’s amazing to say it’s really hot now

for all the right reasons; natives are important. People are looking to find ways to bring life to their garden. I think a lot of the native movement is because the homeowner is different. The buyer at the garden center is different, it feels more important for them to do something great for the environment.”



Somerset Chapter Pollinator Day at Bountiful Gardens



By Nancy Toro
Co-Leader, Somerset Chapter
Pollinator Day at Bountiful Gardens in Hillsborough on June 15th drew on the talents and expertise of many capable individuals. Steven Handel, Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Rutgers and the Somerset Chapter Pollinator Day Liaison, planned the program and spoke about why planting native plants is so important. He was followed by Professor Michael Gochfeld, author of *Butterflies in New Jersey*. Bountiful Gardens' Landscape Designer, Daniel Ilkow talked about designing a garden with native plants.

Attendees were also treated to a warm welcome by Lisa Miccolis, owner and manager of Bountiful Gardens, and a tour of the newly expanded section of native plants given by Native Plant Specialist, Glenn Ferguson. The variety of natives at the garden center in Hillsborough is vastly increased and is consolidated into one well-marked area. Another new aspect is that plants are being provided by East Coast Natives, a native plant nursery established by Lisa Miccolis and Mike Mills nearby in Hillsborough. They plan to open the nursery to the public in the future.

The speakers and staff members were available to answer questions and help with plant selection. Chapter Leaders Valerie Szkodny and Nancy Toro managed the table of information from NPSNJ. The day brought nearly 50 attendees who were grateful for the information and discussion of their interests with the group. And they especially voiced their enthusiasm about having a local source of native plants in Somerset County. Pollinator Day proved a welcome introduction to some and a great source of information to all.



Southwest Chapter Hosts Two Pollinator Day Events at Bast Brothers IGC



By Bobbie Herbs
*Southwest Chapter Co-Leader
and IGC Committee Co-Chair*

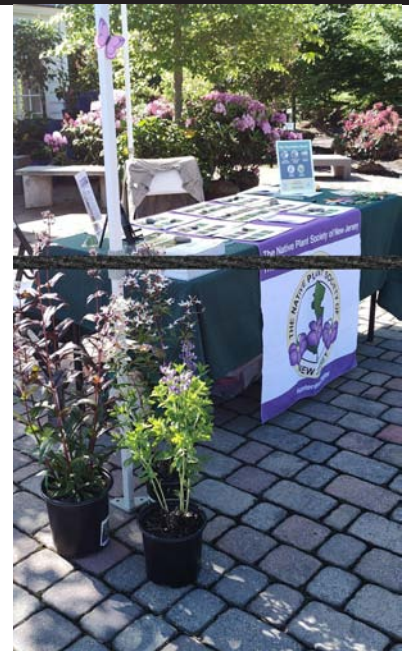
Bast Brothers times two: Yes, this independent garden center located in Mullica Hill held two Pollinator Day events this spring. This garden center has been open for ten years and is owned by the young family of Bert and Allie Bast. They are garden center innovators at the local level who care about our planet. They believe in the effective role native plants offer in managing weather dramas like deluge and drought, as well as the ecosystem engagement of bees, butterflies and birds. Bert has been a mainstay in the NPSNJ Independent Garden Center Industry updates. His voice has been strong, sharing his hope for the future and using support to get the word out on native species gardening, which helps drive customers to his business.

He has purchased over 1500 straight species from Centerton Nursery in 2024. This is a potentially risky business when business demands move a trend. With the shift in perceptions, some consumers still see native plants as messy. Yet, he had the vision to listen to other young gardeners who want to play a role in building back biodiversity and improving our resilience to climate change. And he knows a looser garden aesthetic will draw wildlife.

At the first event in April, 27% of the plants purchased were straight species, while 22% of all customers purchased at least one native plant. Our volunteers, Mike Jacob, Lucy Hooper and Bobbie Herbs worked to fill carts with many straight species selected for gardeners' specific home garden bed conditions. Bast Brothers is seriously considering another event this fall, an ideal time for planting perennials. Local chapters nearby the Mullica Hill location will be notified if a Pollinator Day is scheduled.



Hunterdon Chapter Hosts Pollinator Day Event at Rutgers Landscape & Nursery



NPSNJ member Helen Grundmann organized the first Hunterdon Chapter Pollinator Day in conjunction with the Rutgers Landscape & Nursery in Ringoes, NJ. Chapter leader Susan Haake designed and printed all of the pollinator posters just in the nick of time. The challenge of this event was that since both Helen and Susan were going to be out of town during that time period, everything needed to be organized beforehand. To the rescue: Chapter members Connie Deetz, Laura Bush, and Denise Hansson stepped in to run the event. Connie picked up all the signage early in the morning, and everyone pitched in to get set up. These members educated various customers and helped them pick out native plants. IGC Co-Chair Bobbie Herbs stopped by to lend her support. This event focused on members of various environmental groups that purchase native plants and included NPSNJ, NABA (North American Butterfly Association), NWF (National Wildlife Federation), ANJEE (Alliance for NJ Environmental Education), and Stony Brook Mill-



stone-Watershed Association. The Rutgers staff at the nursery researched and ordered more than 24 additional, not commonly seen native pollinator friendly perennials to bolster their already substantial selection of natives. Although customer attendance was lower than expected, the day was a learning experience for future Pollinator Day events.



Restoring Eagle Rock Native Meadow in Essex County



By Deb Ellis
Co-Leader, Essex Chapter

The Master Gardeners of Essex County have joined forces with the NPSNJ Essex Chapter to refurbish a large meadow (approx. 30,000 square feet) that was planted by the Master Gardeners in 2014 but never maintained.

With many enthusiastic volunteers from both groups, since April we have created a network of paths and almost entirely eliminated the invasive Mugwort from the meadow interior! Home to many birds, pollinators (and deer!), the meadow is located adjacent to the Essex County 9/11 Memorial so I hope the visible location will help educate visitors about native plants.

This is a multi-year project and we welcome additional volunteers! Contact debellisnj@gmail.com.



Mugwort Terminators!

Hudson Gives: Funding for Native Gardens



These funds support 11 pollinator gardens across Hudson County in places ranging from public libraries to rain gardens to urban parks.

By Lauren Morse
Co-Leader, Hudson Chapter

The Hudson chapter participated in an annual local fundraiser, Hudson Gives (sponsored by the Hudson Chamber of Commerce) in May 2024. This year was our third time participating and we had 167 donors contribute nearly \$8000! These funds support 11 pollinator gardens across Hudson County in places ranging from public libraries to rain gardens to urban parks. With these funds, the Hudson Chamber of Commerce can purchase native plants and seeds that will help build a greener Hudson County. Our chapter focuses on the many benefits to our community that native plants provide, specifically: beautification; improved public health; community connections; cleaner air and water; more butterflies and birds; and more!

These annual fundraising efforts are helping us grow a community filled with native plants in other ways. One participant from Hudson Gives 2023 said she didn't even know about native plants two years ago. She was so grateful for NPSNJ's state and Hudson Chapter's work to create opportunities to learn and fill public gardens in her neighborhood with native plants. She also alerted us to *Coreopsis lanceolata*, that was about to be destroyed due to construction. *Coreopsis* is not native to our state, but is native to southeastern and midwestern states and has naturalized here. And so, several gardening partners that participate in our Hudson Gives initiative were able to retrieve the plants and move them to their gardens. We're so gratified to see how the connections made are helping us build more resilient, greener communities. We are grateful to NPSNJ for their support of our work through Hudson Gives.

Jersey City Passes Native Plant Ordinance

By Lorraine Freeney
Co-Leader, Hudson Chapter

On April 10, 2024 Jersey City council members unanimously adopted an ordinance codifying the use of native plants in municipal landscaping and promoting community education focusing on the many benefits of native flora.

The ordinance was co-authored by Carol McNichol, Vice President of Wild Ones New Jersey Gateway Chapter, and Lorraine Freeney, co-leader of NPSNJ Hudson, and co-sponsored by Ward B Councilwoman Mira Prinz-Arey and Ward D Councilman Yousef Saleh, as well as the Divisions of Sustainability and Innovation. It mandates that a significant portion of new plantings on municipal properties must be native species, restricts the use of neonicotinoids and other pesticides, and prioritizes installing straight species. It also includes provisions for community education on the importance of native plants and calls for creating resources and collaborating with local organizations to spread awareness about the benefits of native flora.

Demand for the ordinance grew after local rain gardens were destroyed last year, and the finished version provides measures to protect existing and new community gardens, pollinator gardens, and other natural managed landscapes from accidental mowing. In addition, the city will create a registry of these gardens to assist in maintenance.

During the April meeting, Mira Prinz-Arey noted that she was looking forward to the coming educational campaign “to really teach not



only our residents about the importance of native plants but also our City staff so we can finally start working together to make sure that pollinator gardens, whether they’re in the public right-of-way or on private property, are maintained properly.”

As part of the educational component, the Jersey City Environmental Commission was approved for a \$2,500 grant from the Association of NJ Environmental Commissions to plant a model native pollinator habitat in one of Jersey City’s parks.

NPSNJ Hudson and Wild Ones NJ Gateway Chapter supported the grant application and both groups will offer advice on plant selection and installation. This garden will incorporate educational signage and volunteer partnership opportunities for other local environmental groups.

We at NPSNJ Hudson hope this ordinance, and the model native plant garden inspired by it, will keep Jersey City moving forward toward a greener, better future!

The Precarious Process of Pollination

By John Suskewich
Essex Chapter

Pollination is not always a straightforward process. Often and typically, the pollinator lands on the anthers of a flower, lifts off a dusting of pollen, and flits away to deposit it on a receptive pistil, but sometimes nature puts a fly in the ointment. Tactics, persistence, and/or luck is required.

New Jersey's native flora offers some examples of problematic pollination. *Gentiana clausa* (Closed gentian) and *Gentiana andrewsii* (Bottle gentian)† are late summer/early autumn bloomers with navy blue flowers that some people and several insects find frustrating. Although they look like they are getting ready to open, they never really do fully. Only the brute strength of the burly native bumblebee allows them to push apart the closed petals and penetrate the minuscule opening. Once inside the boudoir of the flower, they are rewarded with nectar while depositing pollen onto the reproductive parts of the flower. One of the accompanying photographs shows the rear end of a bumblebee sticking out of the opening it created by forcing apart a once tiny gap in the corolla.



Beautiful but uncommon, *Cypripedium acaule* (Pink lady's slipper) has its own impediment to pollination. The reproductive parts are hard to reach, and the flower must depend on some sneakiness to attain fertilization. It's kind of a bait and switch that the insect Consumer Protection Board should investigate. Once again, bumblebees are usually involved. A sweet scent tricks the bee to enter the flower through an opening in the "slipper" but once inside it gets trapped and can't exit the



way it came in, sort of the way a lobster pot works. Bumbling around the labyrinthine inside of the flower, the randy bee eventually passes across the stigma and anthers, depositing pollen and picking up more. If this description is a tad confusing, think how the bee must feel.

A final example of a pollination puzzle shows how nature can resolve its own complications. Ravishing red *Lobelia cardinalis* (Cardinal flower), appeals to people but most pollinators are not effective on this beautiful flower. Bees don't see red well, and the length of the flower tube makes it difficult for them to fertilize cardinal flower successfully. Most butterfly anatomy is not quite suited to it either, and the flower lacks the "platform" most lepidoptera prefer to use while feeding. Only hummingbirds, co-evolving with this plant, have proven to be its ideal pollination partner. The way the flowers open from bottom to top on the stem, and the location of the nectar source deep in the corolla, so that pollen will collect on the imbiber's noggin and be sprinkled onto the stigma of the next flower it visits, have made hummingbirds the best pollinator for this plant.

† *Gentiana andrewsii* (Bottle gentian) is endangered in NJ.

Filmmaker Sarah Galloway's IGC Films



Sustainable, Local, and Loyal: The Native Plant Opportunity!

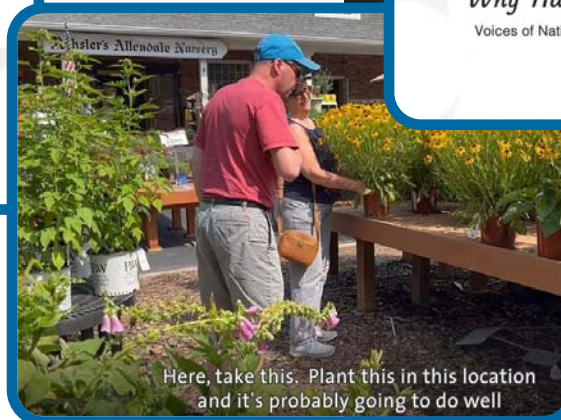
Here is the link to
**Sustainable, Local, and Loyal:
The Native Plant Opportunity!**

<https://vimeo.com/889949488>

SUMMARY

Video screened at "Sustainable, Local, and Loyal: The Native Plant Opportunity" a meeting between the Native Plant Society of New Jersey (NPSNJ.org) and Independent Garden Center owners, buyers, employees.

- Native Plants are on-trend, but unavailable.
- NPSNJ is here to support IGCs in supplying the growing demand from home gardeners for native plants.
- Call to Action:
Let's partner together!



Why Native Plants?

Voices of Native Plant Gardeners

Here, take this. Plant this in this location and it's probably going to do well

Bonus Film from Outtakes

I used outtakes from the film to create another film,

"Why Native Plants: Voices of Native Plant Gardeners,"

<https://vimeo.com/940398995>

Producers

Kim Correro
Bobbie Herbs
Kim Rowe

Director / Camera / Editor

Sarah Galloway

NPSNJ State Programs



By Susan Haake
Co-Leader, Hunterdon, NPSNJ E-News Designer

Eco-Printing Workshop Using Native Plants with Kathleen Lang of The Wearable Garden

The NPSNJ Programs Committee offered a 2-day workshop with Kathleen Lang for NPS Members. We learned all about the process of eco-printing using native plants.

Kathleen had a Zoom session where we learned the process and were given a plant list so we could collect plants and press them. The workshop was held at the beautiful Seasons Garden Center in Washington Crossing. It was a long process, laying out the pre-treated scarf, spraying it with iron water, creating the design with plants, covering the scarf with plastic, rolling it tightly and placing the rolls in a steambath for several hours. As we unrolled the scarves, we were all treated to the making of exciting and unique pieces of art made from native plants.

Using native plants was a new experience for Kathleen, and some plants made especially beautiful prints while others didn't seem to print at all. Kathleen really opened up our eyes with this creative use of plants.

Kathleen studied at Bucks County Community College with an emphasis in Printmaking. She began teaching at various venues such as Grounds for Sculpture and Arts Council of Princeton. Through this she discovered sustainable eco-printing on textiles.

