



Habitat Gardening in Central New York

Providing habitat for wildlife and a healthier, more interesting world for people, too!

Spring 2005 - Vol. 1 Num. 1



Native Plants Coming to Central NY This Spring!

Of course, native plants have always been around – that’s why they’re native! But by happy coincidence, we’ll be treated to a number of events and happenings about native plants and natural landscaping. Here’s what’s happening:

A Special March 20 Meeting of the Habitat Gardening Club of Central New York

We are pleased to announce that our March meeting will feature Dr. Don Leopold, who will discuss his new book, Native Plants of the Northeast: A Guide for Gardening and Conservation. This is the native plant resource we’ve been waiting for! Dr. Leopold is Distinguished Teaching Professor at SUNY-ESF and his public presentations on gardening with native plants are enthusiastically attended. He will be on hand to autograph books, which will be available for purchase at the meeting.

More information about this book is on p. 2.

NOTE: This is a change from the program previously scheduled.

Date: Sunday March 20 2:00 pm **NOTE:** This is NOT our usual fourth Sunday meeting because Easter falls on the fourth Sunday this year.

Location: Liverpool Library, 310 Tulip St. Liverpool

Fee: Free and open to the public

Website: www.hgclub.org

Greener Homes and Gardens

Homeowners can learn about native plants, habitat gardening and more at this conference hosted by Rosamond Gifford Zoo. Reservations are required and space is limited. Fee includes lunch. Call the zoo at 315-435-8511 ext. 100 for more information.

Date: Saturday, May 7

Location: Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park

Website: www.rosamondgiffordzoo.org

Native Plant Sale

Sponsored by the Habitat Gardening Club of Central New York

Here’s your chance to purchase native plants! Dan Carroll, Vice-President and Co-Founder of the Habitat Gardening Club and owner of Great Lakes Horticulture in Fulton is organizing our Native Plant Sale. With any luck, this will be the first of many native plant sales that will educate people, provide a source for native plants, and help fund our programs.

Date: Saturday May 14 from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm

Location: The Regional Market at 2100 Park St., Syracuse

Website: www.hgclub.org

Our Upcoming Programs

Bluebirds and Bluebird Nestbox Construction with John Rogers
Learn about bluebirds from our Central New York bluebird authority. You’ll also have an opportunity to build your own bluebird house just in time for the birds’ return! Children are welcome.

NOTE: *RESERVATIONS are required only if you want to build a nestbox.*

Date: Sunday February 27 2:00 pm

Location: Liverpool Library, 310 Tulip St. Liverpool

Fee: WO members free/ \$2 non-members
Special Fee: \$5 materials fee for nestbox

Toad Hollow Compost Tour

Does this sound as interesting as watching paint dry? You’re in for a great surprise! This is a wonderful example of creating compost on a large-scale, but also of an innovative partnership between local businesses, farmers, and institutions.

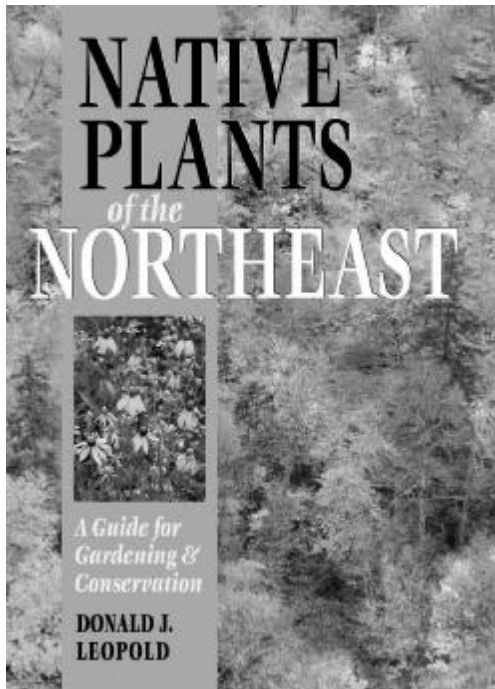
Date: Sunday April 24 at 2:00 pm

Location: 4505 Tanner Rd. Nedrow

Fee: WO members free/ \$2 non-members

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Our March 20th Program

Don Leopold is Distinguished Teaching Professor at the College of Environmental Science and Forestry, SUNY where he has won numerous teaching awards and researches the ecology of old-growth forests and wetlands, the biology of rare plant species, and the biodiversity and restoration of ecosystems.

No other single volume on native plants has such

comprehensive horticultural coverage as *Native Plants of the Northeast: A Guide for Gardening and Conservation*. Nearly seven hundred species of native trees, shrubs, vines, ferns, grasses, and wildflowers from the northeastern quarter of the United States and all of eastern Canada are included. Of course, the natural ranges of many of the plants extend beyond this area, and the book is an essential resource for everyone interested in gardening with native plants of all kinds, as well as those who need the information provided here for habitat restoration and enhancement of biodiversity for the sake of conservation.

Natural plant communities of eastern North America are described, providing a foundation for the choice of plants for different areas and climates — or a variety of sites in the garden — as well as for restoration of native plant habitats. Illustrated throughout with color photographs, the encyclopedic portion of the book includes practical advice on cultivation and propagation in addition to descriptions, ranges, and information on hardiness. An appendix recommends particular plants for difficult situations and for attracting butterflies, hummingbirds, and other wildlife. Written from the unique perspective of an author who has professional credentials in horticulture, botany, forestry, and ecology as well as hands-on practical experience, this book is the most trustworthy single source for all who wish to cultivate native plants.

~ From the Timber Press News Release

Mark your calendar for Sunday, March 20 at 2:00 at Liverpool Library. The Friends of Liverpool Library are co-sponsoring this event and will be serving refreshments.

Invite your friends to come meet the author and buy the book!

The Citizen Scientist:



The Great Backyard Bird Count 2005

*GO OUT AND COUNT FOR
THE BIRDS IN AMERICA'S
GREAT BACKYARD*

***During the weekend
of February 18***

through 21, people across the North American continent are encouraged to count the birds in their backyards and report them over the Internet, as part of the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), one of the world's largest volunteer efforts of its kind. In addition to its value as a research study, the GBBC allows people of all ages and backgrounds to celebrate birds and provide vital information about North America's birds.

This is the eighth year of the popular event, developed and managed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, with sponsorship from Wild Birds Unlimited storeowners. This year's theme, "North America's Great Backyard," was chosen as a way to celebrate the beauty of birds found across the continent. People are encouraged to enjoy the birds around them by going out into the "Great Backyard" during any or all of the count days and keeping track of the highest numbers of each bird species they see. People then report their sightings over the Internet at www.birdsource.org/gbbc. If you don't have Internet access, enlist the help of a friend who does.

More info is at www.birdsource.org/gbbc



Spring Tip

You can "watch" our hummingbirds migrate back north at

www.hummingbirds.net/map.html.

Why not have some native columbines (*Aquilegia canadensis*) waiting for them when they arrive?



Hell's Angels Rival?

Habitat Gardening in Central New York is a chapter of the Wild Ones. When some people hear the name "Wild Ones," they suspect we're a rival of Hell's Angels, but our group and the Wild Ones are much tamer organizations.

The official name of the organization explains it all - Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes. Unlike most garden clubs that emphasize ornamental gardens, our organization promotes native plants and natural landscaping (although our landscapes are just as appealing as traditional gardens!) Sustainable gardening practices, such as composting and reducing or eliminating the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers are important to us, too.

Our local chapter adds a twist to this mission since we also promote landscape features that preserve, restore, and provide habitat for wildlife – not just plants, but features such as nestboxes and bee houses. We encourage our members to have their yard certified as an official Backyard Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation.

Your Wild Ones Membership

We invite anyone and everyone to attend our meetings. Except for occasional special fees for materials, all of our meetings are free for members, some of our meetings are free to everyone, and some charge a small fee for non-members.

We welcome non-members at our meetings, but we strongly encourage everyone to join us officially and become a Wild Ones member, which automatically makes them a member of the Habitat Gardening in Central New York.

Dues go to the national Wild Ones office, and they return a portion of these dues to us for our expenses. The rest supports the education and outreach activities of the national organization as well as publishing the Wild Ones Journal.

Why become a member?

Of course, the most immediate and personal benefit is the Wild Ones Journal, an excellent bimonthly journal that Wild Ones members receive.

Members also are supporting the educational and advocacy efforts of the Wild Ones, the national voice for the native plants, natural landscaping movement.

Most important to Central New York, though, is that membership dues help pay our expenses so we can continue to provide high-quality programs!

What *are* our expenses?

Although many speakers generously donated their time and expertise when our club was new, now that we're established we believe that it is appropriate to pay our outside program speakers an honorarium. While it is a modest amount, it adds up over the course of the year! There are also incidental expenses for nametags, postage, and other office supplies that add up fast.

How to become a member

It's easy to join Wild Ones online at www.for-wild.org/joining.html. You can also call us at (315) 487-5742 or email us at stewardship@twcny.rr.com and we'll send you a membership form.

And if you're already a Wild Ones member...

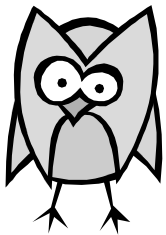
Your Wild Ones membership is a one-year membership, but our expenses are ongoing. Please remember to renew your membership each year!



We would like to thank a very generous anonymous donor who has contributed above and beyond their membership dues to help our organization continue in the black. Thank you for your stewardship of native plants, natural landscaping, and habitat gardening!

Habitat Gardening in Central New York

401 Parsons Drive
Syracuse, New York 13219



Did You Know?

The Top Twenty Invasive Plants of New York State includes:

- Norway maple
- Japanese barberry
- Japanese honeysuckle
- Tartarian honeysuckle
- Oriental bittersweet
- Russian olive
- Autumn olive
- Japanese knotweed
- Multiflora rose

They sell 'em, but please DON'T buy 'em!

Words of Wisdom

from Sara Stein

Sorry, birders: I must now hit this nerve. The fact that a plant feeds birds does not vindicate its use. It is true that without the northward spread of multiflora roses, we Yankees would not enjoy the song of mockingbirds on moonlit nights. But if those rose hips enable one bird to make it through our northern winters, the meadows that might otherwise flourish where multifloras have invaded would

support many more bird species on the myriad insects they provide in spring and summer, the variety of the grains and flower seeds they offer in the

winter, and the rodent diet they serve up throughout the year. One slaps the label "weed" on a species, not because it is without virtue, but because whatever virtues that plant may have cannot outweigh the countless virtues of the entire habitat it displaces.

~ Sara Stein, Planting Noah's Garden, pp. 172-173.

Habitat Gardening in Central New York:

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