



The Native Plant Society of New Jersey

www.npsnj.org

Winter 2003/2004 Issue

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The President is on vacation; please enjoy the winter scenes.



NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2004 • 10:00 AM

HOLLY HOUSE, COOK COLLEGE

Come one, come all!

See your fellow members and guests, bid for native plants at raffles, Hear a wonderful lecture on Pine Barrens Native Plants by the renowned Photographer and Naturalist *Michael Hogan*

There is no charge,
and all are welcome!



The Backyard Wildlife Habitat in Winter

Winter has arrived... and cold, wet days may be in your forecast for the next several months. Now is the time to assess our backyard gardens to see how wildlife-friendly they are — or could be — with a little help.

National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat™ program is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year helping people across America save a place for wildlife in their own backyards. NWF has certified more than 35,000 Backyard Wildlife Habitat sites so far. By providing food, water, cover and places for wildlife to raise their young, backyard gardeners can make a huge difference.

If you haven't already prepared your garden with the needs of winter wildlife in mind, now is the time to plan ahead for next year. So, look around your property for places where berry-producing shrubs can provide food, evergreen trees or a brush pile can provide cover, and a bird bath or flowing pond can provide water in the months to come.

The best way to offer winter food for wildlife is by planting vegetation that produces berries, nuts or seeds. Leave seed heads on flowers rather than deadheading them — this will provide visual interest in the winter garden and feed the wildlife at the same time. Bird feeders see the most activity in winter when natural foods are scarce. High-calorie foods such as black-oil sunflower seed and suet can provide enough energy to help birds through cold winter nights. Remember to keep feeders clean to protect birds from the spread of disease caused by seeds that are moldy or contaminated by droppings.

It is important to provide places where wildlife can find cover from cold winter weather and predators, especially in new suburban developments where the land has been cleared of vegetation. Planting native evergreens can provide this much needed cover. If they pose no hazard, dead trees (such as your leftover holiday tree) can provide safe places for wildlife, either left standing or on the ground.

Water can be scarce for wildlife in winter when natural sources are frozen. While most creatures are seeking drinking water, birds are also looking for bathing water. Bathing helps birds to stay warm by keeping their insulating feathers in tip-top condition. Keeping your bird bath clean and free from ice will help birds and other wildlife survive the winter. Heated birdbaths are also beneficial and they keep the water just warm enough to keep from freezing and use little electricity.



New Jersey State
bird and flower

www.nwf.org for
more information. ■



Dunegrass in snow at Bay Head, New Jersey

Governor McGreevey Announces Most Comprehensive Water Protections In The Nation

300-foot buffer will apply to more than 6,000 miles of waterways

(CLOSTER) - In his strongest move to date to protect New Jersey's drinking water and to stop sprawl, Governor James E. McGreevey today announced the formal adoption of two sets of stormwater rules that protect water quality and preserve the integrity of drinking water supplies statewide.

The rules will minimize the impact hundreds of new development projects, encouraging recharge of rainwater into the ground and controlling development within a 300-foot buffer around more than 6,000 miles of high quality waterways.

"As we stand here today, special interests are asking the courts to overturn our previous actions to protect drinking water and open space. Our actions today demonstrate that we will not back down—our efforts to protect drinking water will only get stronger, not weaker.

"These stormwater rules are the most comprehensive set of water protections in the nation—no other state has required statewide 300-foot buffers around its high quality waters. They will prove to be a critical tool in our fight against sprawl."

Taken from DEP News. depnews@dep.state.nj.us

The NPS is very excited about these protections to our biodiversity. ■



ON AND OFF THE WEB OPPORTUNITIES

Looking to plan for a different sort of scientific holiday to satisfy your need to travel and your need to see native plants. Do you find this description interesting and intriguing?

SITE # 1 ~ NATIVE PLANTS AND BIRDS OF PERU

Peru is a country of amazing geological and biological diversity. On this educational adventure to Peru we will explore the native plants of the Peruvian Andes and Amazon. Walking with scientists, professors and tribal people we will explore some of the ecological zones, agricultural crops, medicinal plants and traditional uses of Peru's native Plants. Program runs from Aug. 31st- Sept 15th with an extension to Lake Titicaca to the 19th. For more information go to: www.crookedtrails.com/peru

The link to the program description is:

http://www.crookedtrails.com/peru_nativeplants.htm

SITE # 2

Quite possibly you are thinking about that kayak trip you took this summer in the Pinelands. Maybe it was those carnivorous plants that absolutely amazed you. Check out this site. The links are great and the pictures beautiful. So eNJoy this trip. Cost: the click of a mouse.

<http://www.carnivorousplants.homestead.com/Index.html>

SITE # 3

So, you want to go out West? Well, the first place to stop is the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Be set to stay for a while because there is so much to see and visit out here. And, as amazing as it may sound, you can visit additional locations without so much as a click of the mouse. Hope you find this just eye candy for yourself.

check out this site: <http://www.wildflower.org/?nd=home>

SITE # 4 ~ Well now, this site is really a trip. Plan on spending a lot of time here.

They promote the establishment of native communities around homes and businesses, using ecologically sound practices. Through preservation and restoration of natural areas, they are dedicated to the conservation of biodiversity. Through their Seeds for Education Fund, they award grants for educational projects using native plants. Spend your days wandering their links to the world.

Check out this site: <http://www.for-wild.org/>

SITE # 5

WORKSHOPS OF INTEREST

Saturday, March 20th, 2004

New Jersey Environmental Federation's 18th Annual Conference

NEW JERSEY ~ MOVING INTO THE VANGUARD: PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH & THE ENVIRONMENT

9 a.m. ~ 5 p.m. at Princeton University Friend Center,
Princeton, NJ

Featured Workshops:

- * Drinking Water Protections
- * Precautionary Principle & Children's Health
- * Environment & Labor Working Together
- * Using NJDEP Right to Know Data
- * Environmental Justice
- * Healthy Schools
- * Water & Sprawl
- * Food Safety

Key Note Speaker: NJ Governor James E. McGreevey (invited) & Ted Schettler, M.D.

- * Science Director, Science and Environmental Health Network
- * Practicing physician, Boston Medical Center & East Boston Neighborhood Health Center
- * Author, In Harm's Way: Toxic Threats to Childhood Development

Conference registration (includes coffee, snacks, lunch & reception) is \$30 per person, \$25 per person for groups of 5 or more, \$25 per person registering before March 10, 2004, and \$15 for students.

To register with a credit card, please call Jenny Vickers at 732-280-8988. To pay by check, please fill out the form below and mail it with your check to: NJEF, 1002 Ocean Ave., Belmar, NJ 07719. For more information, email jvickers@cleanwater.org or visit www.cleanwateraction.org/events

SITE # 6

Want to get quality information on the environment ? Then sign up for your free Email Lists from Garden State EnviroNet - First in New Jersey for Environmental News and Information Go to: <http://www.gsenet.org>

Garden Education Day

Saturday, March 27

Cooper Mill Visitor Center

Route 24, Chester

Event Hours: 10 am until 3 pm

Contact the Chester Garden Club for more info.

**For more events, please check our website
or contact the NPSNJ for details**

GARLIC MUSTARD AND THE WEST VIRGINIA WHITES

The West Virginia White (*Pieris virginiensis*) is a small white woodland butterfly, which lays its eggs one at a time on the toothworts (*Dentaria diphylla* and *D. laciniata*), which are the host plants for its larvae. A large colony existed in the Thompson Wildlife Management Area in Linden, Virginia.

On a recent trip to the Thompson noted butterfly expert, Harry Pavulaan, found only five. He attributes the decline to an invasion of garlic mustard, a non-native exotic plant, which has become the scourge of natural woodlands everywhere.

According to Harry: The plant now appears to be the primary reason for the decline of the West Virginia White butterfly in our region. The butterfly normally uses Toothwort (*Dentaria*) as its natural host plant in this region. However, the Garlic Mustards give off

some type of strong chemical cues for the West Virginia White females to lay their eggs on that plant. Thus, they prefer to lay eggs on Garlic Mustard rather than the native Toothworts. The big problem is that the Mustard is toxic to the caterpillars. Thus, the butterfly colony rapidly disappears after Garlic Mustard invades an area. I have seen this happen in one location near Sandy Hook in Maryland, along the Potomac River near Harper's Ferry, several years ago. The West Virginia Whites were common there at one time. There was plenty of Toothwort for them to feed on, and no Garlic Mustard. I had not visited the location for about two years when I returned and was shocked to see Garlic Mustard blanket the forest floor. Needless to say, the West Virginia Whites were gone and have not returned. If this trend continues, the fate of the West

Virginia Whites will certainly become an issue but it may be too late, as the plant will likely become a permanent part of our flora. The only thing we can hope for is to control the plant in certain areas but this will likely require endless effort.

from listserv: Native Plants Northeast, Virginia Native Plant Society. 1/20/04 NativePlantseast@yahoo.com ■

Special Plants of the Pinelands Course

Course Title: Special Plants of the Pinelands

Course Subtitle: An intensive overview of the rare and characteristic plants of the Pinelands National Reserve, with an emphasis on the communities and habitats of the State-listed Endangered & Special Concern plants within the PNR.

Course Instructor: Ted Gordon

Course Coordinator: Russell Juelg

Primary Course Sponsor: PPA

Course Format: Twelve daylong sessions interspersed through the growing season. Each session (9 am-4 pm) consists of varying amounts of classroom lecture and field study.

Materials: Each student should have a hand lens and a copy of the 1991 edition of the Gleason & Cronquist *Manual of Vascular Plants*. Other reference material will be recommended.

Course Schedule: Beginning Tuesday, April 20, 2004, sessions are held every other Tuesday until September 28, 2004.

Meeting Location: May vary in accordance with availability and the intended location of the field study for that day.

Number of Seats Available: 25

Cost: Approximately \$190 per student. That works out to less than \$16 per daylong session. Actual cost may be considerably lower, depending on contributions of the Sponsors.

Possible Co-sponsors:

Pinelands Commission, Parks & Forestry, USFWS, NJAS, NJCF, TNC, Phila. Botanical Club, Torrey Botanical Society, Native Plant Society of New Jersey, Garden Club of New Jersey, Others? ■

LANDMARK BILL TO CLEAN UP AIR POLLUTION SCHEDULED FOR FINAL PASSAGE MONDAY

NJPIRG, NJEF, NJ Sierra Club, January 10, 2003

Trenton - Two days after the near unanimous passage of the Clean Cars Act out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee, the bill is on the verge of passage by the full Legislature on Monday. The bill would reduce air toxics by an additional 23 percent more than the federal emission standards and smog precursors by 19 percent by 2020 through stricter car emissions standards and the promotion of cleaner, advanced technology vehicles. The neighboring states of New York and Massachusetts have already adopted the stricter emissions control program designed by

California, known as the Low Emission Vehicle program, Phase II (LEV II).

"Here in New Jersey, everyone breathes air that egregiously exceeds USEPA standards. We don't have to look any further than the heavy traffic in our own communities and on the highways that surround us to understand how profoundly automobile emissions contribute to our state's pollution problem. This bill will start to clear the air in New Jersey by encouraging carmakers to produce the cleanest cars possible for New Jersey as early as this year and in increasing numbers over time," said Dena Mottola, NJPIRG's executive director.

Editor's Note: The Clean Car Act Passed!