



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Native Plant Trust Announces 2023 Opening of Garden in the Woods, New Visiting Artist Program; Registration for Spring/Summer Programs Open Now

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(Framingham, MA) Native Plant Trust, the nation's first plant conservation organization and the only one solely focused on New England's native plants, announces that its renowned botanic garden, Garden in the Woods, is now open to the public for the season, which runs through October 15. In a garden often described as magical, visitors will find a dramatic landscape with naturalistic displays showcasing New England native plants.

"Garden in the Woods encompasses 45 acres sculpted by retreating glaciers into eskers, steep-sided valleys, and a kettle pond. Here you'll find inspiration for your own garden and a new appreciation for the plant life of our region," notes Uli Lorimer, Director of Horticulture at Native Plant Trust. For hours and more information, please visit www.NativePlantTrust.org.

The spring/summer series of public programs, featuring many new offerings, is also open for registration.

"This season you'll find new programs on art and nature, which draw attention to the fact that the art of observation and close looking are extremely important elements in the study of plants," says Bess Paupeck, Director of Public Programs. "We hope that courses in watercolor, creating a nature sketchbook, and printmaking will attract new students to the study of native plants."

In addition, a new visiting artist program will invite local artists and creatives to explore their art practice while working among the plants at Garden in the Woods and in sanctuaries across New England. At the conclusion of their time, the visiting artists will present the culmination of their work to the public via an exhibition, performance, conversation, or installation.

Program highlights include:

- Trillium Week (May 8-14). The Garden in the Woods Trillium Collection is recognized as a Nationally Accredited Plant Collection by the American Public Gardens Association. Trillium Week celebrates the beauty and variety of trilliums at the Garden and features tours and the after-hours Twilight Trilliums event on Friday, May 12, 6 - 8 pm.

- Stories in Seed (May 21: 11 am - 12 pm artist talk; 12 pm - 3 pm seed engraving demonstration). Artist-miniaturist Sergey Jivetin will present his traveling seed stories project *Furrow*. In addition to his talk, he will hand-engrave several seeds with illustrations based on narratives about plants and their deep connections with farmers, seed savers, naturalists, and enthusiastic gardeners who nurture and preserve them.
- Visiting Artist Presentation: Mushroom Modulations (June 3, 8 pm). Native Plant Trust will present its first visiting artist, Christine Southworth, a Lexington, MA-based multi-media composer whose work primarily involves nature. Her new work creates an immersive performance environment using photographs and video of mushrooms and fungi growing at Garden in the Woods and around Middlesex County.
- Spring Symposium: Seeing the Forest and the Trees: Exploring the Social History of the Outdoors (June 21, 10 am- 2 pm, Live Virtual).
- Greening Politics (June 23, 6-7 pm). Kendy Hess, Brake Smith Associate Professor of Social History and Ethics, College of the Holy Cross, will offer a conversation about politics and the natural world, including how any political theory can be green, despite how we may see lines of division running through our systems.
- Native Plant Trust at 125 (July 12, 6-7 pm). Join Debbi Edelstein, Executive Director, Native Plant Trust, for a conversation about the vision of the organization as it approaches its 125th anniversary.

In addition, more than 25 courses focus on botany and conservation, including New England Roses (June 10), Native Fern Identification and Ecology (July 9), Orchids of New England (July 15), and Mushrooms for Beginners (July 22), plus 12 landscape study excursions to locations throughout New England, including Interesting Ferns of Mt. Toby (July 29).

Native Plant Trust is also offering 17 horticulture and design classes, including Edible Natives for City Landscapes (May 11), Making Sense of Invasive Plants and Unwanted Vegetation (June 17), Native Hydrangeas (June 22), Climate Change and Native Plants (August 7), and Choosing Native Plants (August 12).

Many programs are eligible for continuing education credits for professionals in conservation, horticulture, landscape, and arboriculture.

For more information and to register for programs, please visit www.NativePlantTrust.org.

ABOUT NATIVE PLANT TRUST

Native Plant Trust is the nation's first plant conservation organization and the only one solely focused on New England's native plants. We save native plants in the wild, grow them for gardens and restorations, and educate others on their value and use. We are based at Garden in the Woods, a renowned native plant botanic garden that attracts visitors from all over the world. From this flagship property in Framingham, Massachusetts, 30 staff and many of our 2,000 trained volunteers work throughout New England each year to monitor and protect rare and endangered plants, collect and preserve seeds to ensure biological diversity, detect and control invasive species, conduct research, and offer a range of educational programs. Native Plant Trust also operates a nursery at Nasami Farm in western Massachusetts and manages six sanctuaries in

Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont that are open to the public. Native Plant Trust is among the first organizations worldwide to receive Advanced Conservation Practitioner accreditation by London-based Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), which included an endorsement by an International Advisory Council representing six continents. Please visit www.NativePlantTrust.org.

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