

CONTINUOUS SUPPORTERS

Our deepest thanks go to our previous members who continue to support our mission of educating people about the environmental necessity, economic value and natural beauty of native plants in the Northeast.

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* Proud supporter of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

RAIN GARDENS - SLOW, CAPTURE & INFILTRATE RAIN CREATE ONE TODAY & MAKE A DIFFERENCE

by Jan Blaire
NPC Steering Committee Member

A rain garden can be created from a shallow depression in the ground that can be natural or man-made. A rain garden may be used to collect rain water that might normally go into the street and down a storm drain. The rain water that is initially collected contains the highest concentration of pollutants washed off of impervious surfaces such as roofs, roads, and parking lots. The stored water slowly dissipates into the ground and is naturally filtered by the stones, soil and plant roots. Rain gardens can be small areas located on a lawn or as large as a bioretention system in a parking lot. The reason for creating them is to purify and keep water where it falls and not send it out filled with pollutants into our lakes, rivers and oceans.

Rain gardens are usually planted with **perennial native plants**, and designed to slow, capture, and infiltrate rain. **Native plants** are an excellent choice for planting because they are drought-resistant, are best adapted to soil and temperature conditions in a particular area, and attract butterflies and birds.

RAIN GARDENS ARE BENEFICIAL BECAUSE THEY:

- Recharge local groundwater
- Conserve water
- Improve water quality
- Remove standing water in a yard
- Reduce mosquito breeding
- Reduce potential for flooding

In addition to creating a rain garden, you may also choose to buy or make a rain barrel. Rain barrels are containers that collect rain water from your roof. This water can be used later to water plants inside or outside your home.

It is becoming more apparent that there is a need for water conservation across the entire country. Keeping rain water where it falls is a natural solution. By creating a rain garden, you will have a lovely garden plus you will be helping to protect our rivers, streams, and lakes from pollution caused by dirty water from heavy storms, i.e., stormwater runoff.

HUNDREDS OF GARDENERS IN THE TRI-STATE AREA INCORPORATE THE USE OF NATIVES TO LANDSCAPE PROPERTY

Desire and dedication lead to over 4,000 wildflowers and natives plants being sold this past Spring by The Native Plant Center at the 9th Annual Plant Sale. The desire, as well as the dedication to educate the community about why using native plants in a garden enhances the landscape and helps the environment, made this year's Plant Sale the most successful yet.

No sooner did the 2007 Plant Sale end, the planning for the 2008 Sale began. Through careful orchestration by the Plant Sale Chair, Carolyn Summers, and NPC staff members, Brooke Beebe, Beth Roach and Nancy Inzinna, the process resumed. In December, the jolly man in the red suit was not the only one checking lists, so were we! Supplier lists, pre-sale lists, volunteer lists, customer lists ... the results were phenomenal. By May 3, over eighty varieties of native plants were on their way to a new home, ultimately to sustain area wildlife, conserve resources, and beautify the northeast.

If you are interested in participating in the 2009 Plant Sale, there are many volunteer opportunities available. Contact The NPC Volunteer Coordinator, Beth Roach at (914) 606-7876 for further details. Non-NPC members: phone for your free Pre-Sale list.



*Plant Natives!
One plant in one
garden makes a
difference.*



Photos by: Sandy Morrissey

Dedicated volunteers answered questions about native plants at this year's Sale.