

Native Plant Trust

Conserving and promoting
New England's native plants

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Native Plant Trust announces 2024 Opening Date for Garden in the Woods, this year's Visiting Artist; Registration for Spring and Summer Programs now open



(Framingham, MA) Native Plant Trust, the nation's first plant conservation organization and the only one solely focused on New England's native plants, will open its renowned botanic garden, Garden in the Woods, to the public for the 2024 season on Sunday, April 14, 2024. In a garden often described as magical, visitors will find naturalistic plant collections showcasing iconic 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," noted Uli Lorimer, Director of Horticulture at Native Plant Trust. The Garden Shop at Nasami Farm, a retail space well-known for growing New England native plants from seed harvested sustainably from wild populations throughout the region, will open for the season on April 27 with hundreds of choice plants for sale.



Hazel Alder, 12x12 inches, acrylic on wood panel, 2022 © Julie C. Baer

Along with the garden opening and retail nursery opening, registration is now open for more than 80 programs, including many never offered before, for the spring/summer 2024 season. “This spring and summer we offer a wide range of programs exploring native plants through self-paced online courses, virtual programming, and in-person experiences at Garden in the Woods and beyond,” said Bess Paupeck, director of Public Programs at Native Plant Trust. “We’ve expanded our Youth & Family offerings and added new Art & Nature programming. You will encounter courses that approach botany, horticulture, and conservation from new angles, inspired by art history, writing, and literature, connecting with an ever-expanding network of thinkers, makers, scientists, and educators. We are especially thrilled to introduce our 2024 visiting artist, Julie C. Baer.”

The Visiting Artist Program at Native Plant Trust invites local artists and creatives to explore their practice while working among the plants of our botanic garden at Garden in the Woods and our sanctuaries across New England. “At the conclusion of their time with us, the Visiting Artist will present the culmination of their work to the public via an exhibition, performance, conversation, or installation. For her project, *Regarding Nature*, Julie will create new work inspired by the changing forms of plants, algae, fungi, and lichens across their life cycles,” Paupeck said.

Special events include:

Trillium Week: May 12-17, 2024

The Garden in the Woods trillium collection is recognized as a Nationally Accredited Plant Collection by the American Public Gardens Association’s Plant Collections Network. Please join us for our ninth annual Trillium Week to celebrate the beauty and variety of trilliums at the Garden. The week will culminate with Twilight Trilliums on May 17, when visitors can stroll the Garden after hours and enjoy the sight of gorgeous ephemerals like great wakerobin (*Trillium grandiflorum*) and sweet wakerobin (*Trillium vaseyi*) on a beautiful spring evening. Garden admission, light refreshments and live music are included with registration.



Sound artist Scooby Laposky creates immersive artful experiences in collaboration with the natural world. Photo courtesy of Scooby Laposky.

Queer Botany: June 30, 2024, 11 AM - 3 PM

Spend an afternoon celebrating Pride Month and appreciating the diversity of native plants. Join a collaborative discussion with queer-identifying field botanists, horticulturists, and plant scientists. Conversation will center on queerness in botany and native plants. We will consider native plant morphologies and life cycles from a queer perspective. Following the discussion, we will break for lunch, then explore the garden in search of attributes of queerness in the plants we encounter. Although Queer Botany will focus on the LGBTQIA+ community, anyone is welcome to attend regardless of how they identify. This event is a collaboration between Native Plant Trust and Flora, Fauna, & Fungi Ecological Resource Network.

Sonifying Nature: A Talk with Sound Artist Scooby Laposky: September 7, 2024, 6 - 7 PM

Using plants and trees, sound artist Scooby Laposky gathers data that emerges from sounds found in nature, and with this data creates immersive artful experiences in collaboration with the natural world. Join us for an evening of exploration and conversation about this process. A sound designer and artist based in Cambridge, MA, and Hudson, NY, Laposky uses biodata sonification, acoustic ecology, and deep listening techniques to create real-time sound installations, musical recordings, and live performances based on the dynamics of ecosystems that are often hidden or unconsidered.

Select program highlights:

Native Edibles for Cities: April 18, 2024, 6 - 7 PM (Zoom/Online)

Whether you're interested in health, sustainability, or simple pleasure, native edibles can feed you even if you have limited space; learn which native edibles can be grown wherever you can find (or put) soil.

Native Plants and Birds in New England: April 25, 2024, 6:30 - 8 PM (Zoom/Online)

Learn how local birds are affected by the plants in your yard, how to make your yard more attractive to birds and about the relationships between the birds of New England and the plant communities they rely upon for survival.

For Youth and Families- Nature and Sculpture Exploration at Garden in the Woods: May 16, 2024, 1:30 - 4:00 PM

Join Danforth Art School Director and teacher Noelle Fournier at Garden in the Woods for an early-release day nature and sculpture exploration. Children will enjoy reading time, a scavenger hunt, a sculpture activity, and a sketching tour of the garden.

How Walks Become Words: Writing About Walking: June 16, 2024, 2 PM - 4 PM

This workshop will offer you creative strategies for shaping written work inspired by your walks, including a series of prompts for your own walking journal. Participants will engage in walking and writing activities that encourage close attention to large and minute aspects of our natural surroundings, our individual ways of walking, and more.

Our Future with Water: Managing Stormwater: June 26, 2024, 6 - 8 PM (Zoom/Online)

Learn simple methods for capturing and reusing stormwater and slowing stormwater runoff.

Plants, Pollinators, and You: Saturday, July 13, 2024, 1 - 2 PM

Join us right down the road from Garden in the Woods at the McAuliffe Branch Library, and check out their pollinator garden during this program, held in conjunction with the Framingham Public Library's 2024 Summer Read, Renew, Repeat Reading Program. We'll explore the world of pollinators and native plants while learning what you can do to help both. Suitable for younger audiences and families; caregivers must remain with children at all times.



Native Fern Identification and Ecology: July 20, 2024, 10 AM - 3 PM

A great course for anyone interested in learning how to identify ferns.

Leaves in Light: Making Pictures from Plants: August 18, 2024, 1 - 4 PM

In this in-person workshop led by artist Jesseca Ferguson, create anthotypes—plant-based images made from the light-sensitive characteristics of plants using petals, leaves, and berries to prepare colorful emulsions and hand-coat artist's papers.

Close Look: Plants in Art and Design: September 18, 2024, 6 - 7 PM (Zoom/Online)

Throughout human history, plants appear in art and design both as decoration and as symbol, and hold a wide variety of meanings. In this talk, we will look closely at the many ways plants emerged in the history of art and design, and will consider their status as things of beauty and as symbols weighted with story.

Many programs are eligible for continuing education credits for professionals in conservation, horticulture, landscape, and arboriculture. For more information and to register for programs, visit www.NativePlantTrust.org.

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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. From our base in Massachusetts, staff and 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. We welcome visitors from all over the world to Garden in the Woods, our renowned native plant botanic garden in Framingham. We also operate a nursery at Nasami Farm in western Massachusetts and manage 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.