

THE RI WILD PLANT SOCIETY PRESENTS  
**A VERNAL POOL**  
AT THE RHODE ISLAND FLOWER SHOW  
February 23 – 26, 2006

The Rhode Island Wild Plant Society (RIWPS) has been diligently planning and working in preparation for this year's RI Spring Flower and Garden Show. This year's woodsy display will feature a vernal pool.

**What is a vernal pool you ask?**

Most of the year vernal pools don't look like anything special, but the closer one looks, the more there is to see. In the spring, shallow depressions fill with spring rain creating small ponds. These ponds usually dry-up by the end of the summer. But for a few months each spring they team with activity. Vernal pools provide a safe haven for frogs, salamanders, toads and newts to reproduce and safely hatch. On a warm spring evening you can hear the peepers sing and if your lucky catch a parade of randy salamanders crossing the road. At the pool, birds, turtles, and snakes drink and feed, insects lay their eggs, dragonflies swarm, and wild flowers flower and set seed for the next year.

The RI Wild Plant Society will be recreating this unique environment for Flower Show visitors. Featuring an actual vernal pool in the middle of the display, a spring symphony of peepers and birds can be heard as the lighting takes you from dawn to dusk. If you look closely you may even see a few creatures hidden in the abundance of native flora used as a backdrop for this display. After taking in the visual display you can visit the RIWPS education booth on the third floor for a more detailed explanation of the vernal pool community and its importance in Rhode Island.

Over 50 members of RIWPS are involved in the building of the display. Some help keep plants warm during their trip to the convention center, others spend their weekends gathering pine needles, mossy rocks and logs from their yards for that authentic woodsy feel; and dozens more show up to haul dirt, plant, and push rocks into place. Many more volunteers staff the display and our education answering questions and introducing visitors to the RI Wild Society. Judith Ireland (of East Greenwich, RI) designed this year's display, Jules Cohen (of North Kingstown, RI) worked tirelessly as the chairman of the Flower Show committee, Gil Moore (of Slatersville, RI) coordinated the acquisition and forcing of all the plants, and Lisa Fiore (of Wakefield, RI) will coordinate the planting of the display.

For further information, photos, and interviews, please call Erin Fournier at (401) 453-3777.