

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The 2006 RIWPS Garden Tour

July 15<sup>th</sup> & July 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-4:30

Tickets: \$20 members/\$25 non-members

The Rhode Island Wild Plant Society (RIWPS) is expanding its biennial garden tour to two days this year, Saturday, July 15 and Sunday, July 16. Gardens will be open for touring from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm each day. According to Erin Fournier, the non-profit group's director, "We had so many wonderful and unique gardens offered for the tour this year, and we didn't want to leave anyone out. Because Rhode Island is such a small state, it's a great opportunity to showoff how native plants can work in quite different locations." The society is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of Rhode Island's native plants and their habitats through habitat preservation, education, propagation and recreational programs.

Country gardens, which will be featured on Saturday, are located in and about Foster and North Scituate, quaint New England villages in the rural Western part of the state that are a haven for dedicated gardeners. Each of the (8) gardens is special in its own way - from a garden that surrounds an historic home with magnificent old stone walls, a wild flower garden, topiaries, and a vegetable garden with scarecrow - to a magnificent property with mature specimen trees, specialty daylilies and a beautiful vista to captivate one's eye. Many of these gardens contain water features and, of course, typical to Rhode Island, lovely shade gardens.

Sunday it's off to Cranston and Providence to tour a variety of town gardens including cozy courtyard gardens and garden rooms perfect for entertaining and escaping from everyday hectic schedules and pressures. Some city gardeners have found ways to eliminate lawns altogether and have created a variety of habitats including water features, shade gardens, and creative uses of trees and shrubs in small spaces.

Both tour days also include interesting and unusual nurseries with display gardens and unique plants for the adventurous gardener. Owner/gardeners will be on hand to conduct tours and answer gardening questions. Information and tickets are available by calling the RIWPS office at (401) 453-3777. Tickets are \$25.00 and include both days. Proceeds from the tour will be used for the RIWPS educational and community outreach programs.