

Rhode Island Wild Plant Society Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For further information, contact the RIWPS office
(401) 789-7497 or office@riwps.org
website: www.riwps.org

Join the Wild Plant Society on one of their inspiring Spring Walks / Programs

Contact the walk leader directly in advance of the date to make your reservation.

Or call or email the RIWPS office at 789-7497~ office@riwps.org.

- **RI Wild Plant Society Annual Meeting & Program**

Saturday, March 8, 2008 1:30 PM

Weaver Auditorium, URI Coastal Institute
Kingston, RI
(corner of Flagg & Greenhouse Roads)

PROGRAM: Changing Ecosystems, Changing Plants

As climate and species demographics change, which plants are native, exotic or invasive? Presented by **Dr. Susan Gordon**, Manager of the Kinney Azalea Gardens in Kingston and Adjunct Asst. Professor of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture at URI. This program is free and open to the public -- bring a friend!

Snow Date: Sat., March 15, same time & place (check local TV/radio or 789-7497)

- **RI Wild Plant Society Program**

Discover What's Old and What's New in the Plant World!

Wednesday, March 26, 2008 -- 10:00 a.m.

Roger Williams Park Natural History Museum & Roger Williams Park Botanical Center
Providence, RI

Explore the herbarium at Roger Williams Park Natural History Museum with the museum's curator, Marilyn Massaro, then take a guided tour of the lovely plant displays at the Roger Williams Park Botanical Center. Meet in the Museum lobby.

Pre-registration required -- limited spaces available. Please register early by contacting the

RIWPS office at 789-7497. Fee: \$10.00 RIWPS members, \$13.00 non-members.

- **RI Wild Plant Society Walk**
Buds, Twigs and Bark - Learn to identify local trees
Saturday, April 5, 2008 -- 1:00 -3:00 p.m.
Tri-Pond Park Nature Center
Asa Pond Road
South Kingstown, RI

As spring emerges, learn to identify local trees and shrubs through their bark and buds. After some indoor exploration of samples and their characteristics, we will walk a short trail at Tri-Pond Park Nature Center to try our skills. Spring will be in the air -- an ideal time to learn before using your knowledge later on walks in the woods. Bring pencil and paper for notes.

Leader: Frances Topping, a naturalist interested in the interactions of plants and animals, including humans. Frances holds a BS in Botany and Zoology from Sheffield University, England and a Graphic Design degree from Rhode Island School of Design.

Registration required. Contact Frances at 401-364-8002. Fee \$8.00 RIWPS members, \$10.00 non-members.

- **RI Wild Plant Society Walk**
Amphibian Vernal Pool Walk
Saturday, April 12, 2008 -- 10:00 a.m.
Carolina Management Area

This walk will focus on vernal pools and breeding ecology of pond-breeding amphibians. We will visit a number of vernal pools in the Carolina Management Area, hiking on trails with a mild terrain. Meet in Stop and Shop parking lot in Hope Valley (east side of I-95, on Rte. 138).

Leader: URI Professor Peter Paton. Pre-register with Peter at ppaton@uri.edu or call the RIWPS office at 789-7497. Fee: \$3.00 RIWPS members, \$5.00 non-members.

- **RI Wild Plant Society Field Trip**
Visit to Garden in the Woods "Home of the New England Wildflower Society"
Wednesday, May 7, 2008
Framingham, MA
Meet to car pool at 9 a.m. Time of tour: 11 a.m.

There is no better place to visit in early May than Garden in the Woods. The trails will be full of spring blossoms including blue phlox, white trillium, and yellow ladyslippers. There are many different habitats with all sorts of native plants. We will have a guided tour. After the tour, relax with a picnic lunch (bring a brown bag lunch) and then continue wandering through the woods. The plant sale area at Garden in the Woods will be full of plants to purchase, and the shop full of books and gifts. A tour by electric cart is available, but restricted to those who have difficulty walking. Reserve early and indicate to RIWPS.

Transportation: Drive by private car and meet there. We will meet just off I-95 in South Attleboro at 9:00 for carpooling. Return to the same location will be around 3:30 or 4:00. If you are willing to drive, let us know when you register. Riders in car pool cars are expected to assist in furnishing gas and expense money to the driver.

Pre-registration required. The tour is limited to twenty. Please register early by contacting the RIWPS office at 789-7497. Fee: \$12.00 RIWPS members, \$15.00 non-members. NEWFS members can deduct \$5 from the fee but MUST bring their membership card with them.

- **RI Wild Plant Society Walk**
Habitat Changes and the Forest
Saturday May 10, 2008 -- 10:00 a.m.-12 Noon
Powder Mill Ledges, Audubon Headquarters
Smithfield, RI

Come and tour the Audubon site and see how nature can coexist so close to a major business district. This area is very unique in the different types of habitat found in close proximity to each other. See the definite line when agriculture was abandoned. Learn how to read the forest. The emphasis will be tree identification and basic forestry concepts. Moderate hike, 2 -3 miles.

Leader: Paul Dolan Assistant State Forester. Register at pcdol@cox.net. Fee: \$3.00 RIWPS members, \$5.00 non-members.

- **RI Wild Plant Society Walk**
Sprague Farm
Sunday, May 18, 2008 -- 1:00 p.m.
Chepachet, RI

The two primary forest formations of New England are the northern hardwood forest and the central hardwood forest. There is also an overlap region, the "transition zone" where many species of both formations can be found. This transition zone dips into parts of the northwest corner of Rhode Island, as evident in the forest at Sprague Farm that is owned and managed by the Gloucester Land Trust. This thousand plus acre preserve includes the best striped maple (*Acer Pensylvanicum*) stand in the state, some magnificent chestnut oaks (*Quercus prinus*) and an Atlantic white cedar swamp (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*). With luck we should also catch some woodland spring ephemerals in bloom.

Leader: Garry Plunkett, naturalist and NEWFS Certificate Program graduate. Fee \$3.00 members, \$5.00 non-members. Register with Garry at 401-624-2549.

- **RI Wild Plant Society Program & Walk**
An Introduction to Newcomb's Wildflower Guide
Saturday, May 24, 2008 -- 9:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon
Sunday, June 8, 2008 -- 9:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon

If you've ever looked at a flower and said "Gee, I wish I knew what that is," then this is the program for you. Newcomb's can give the answer with an easily used key that will leave you gasping with amazement. Okay, maybe not quite that good. But it is quick and fast. This class will have two sessions -- the first a workshop followed by field work/walk and then a second field trip to another site to help you get started with your life list.

Leader: Kathy Barton, past president of RIWPS, Plant Conservation Volunteer for NEWFS and a Certified Interpretive Guide. Bring a Newcomb's guide and wear sturdy walking shoes.

Fee \$25.00 RIWPS members, \$28.00 non-members. Fee includes extra study materials

and site fees. This class is limited to 15 attendees; preference will be given to RIWPS members. Please register early by contacting the RIWPS office at 789-7497.