

RI WILD PLANT SOCIETY PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
June 9, 2008

Contact: Jackie Dawley, Office Manager – (401)789-7497 or office@riwps.org or the walk leader where indicated.

SUMMER WALKS AND PROGRAMS

TOUR PULASKI STATE PARK

Chepachet, RI

Saturday, June 21, 2008 10 am - 12 noon

This tour will highlight one of the jewels in the state forest system. Until the 1930's Pulaski Park was heavily used for forest products. The government bought the land to help forestland owners get back on their feet after the depression. Pulaski is a wonderful example of how a forest can recover and be restored as a vital habitat. The hike will tour thru the hemlock trail, and see some of the results of state management release of beetles in battling Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. There is also Lightning Hill, where trees meet the elements in large thunderstorms. Leader: Paul Dolan, Assistant State Forester
Fee: \$5 members, \$7 nonmembers. Register with Jackie at the RIWPS office 401-789-7497

CARNIVOROUS PLANT WALK- Co-sponsored with the New England Carnivorous Plant Society Great Swamp Wildlife Management Area, West Kingston, RI

Saturday, July 19, 2008 Noon – 3 pm

Rhode Island is home to several species of flesh-eating plants. While most other plants are dependent on the soil for providing essential nutrients, carnivorous plants can get what they need from decaying insects. This allows them to survive in some nutrient-poor conditions such as sphagnum bogs, fens, wet gravel, or just floating in the water. The Great Swamp is a great place to see some of them. We should find pitcher plants, sundews and bladderworts, and with luck, most will be in bloom. The Great Swamp has a lot to offer botanically, from the stately American Holly Tree, to the beautiful White Fringed Orchid.

Easy walk - No Fee. To register and for information and directions contact walk Leaders: Doug McGrady, 401-248-2967 (RIWPS) and John Phillip, 401-741-7825 (NECPS)

FERNS FOR YOUR LANDSCAPE

Tiverton, RI

Sunday, July 27, 2008 10:00 am

Nothing evokes serenity and “naturalizes” a landscape like a glade of ferns. They are easy to grow and provide season-long greenery and wonderful texture. This program will get you started in appreciating and identifying common native ferns with their appropriate soil and light conditions. After reviewing fern species, their interesting life cycle and propagation techniques, we'll tour the property where a variety of native ferns add to its natural diversity and aesthetic quality.

Leader: Garry Plunkett, naturalist and NEWFS Certificate Program graduate.

Fee: \$5 for members, \$7 nonmembers. Register with Jackie at RIWPS office 401-789-7497

QUEEN RIVER PRESERVE

Exeter, RI

Saturday, August 9, 2008 8:30 -10:30 am

Let's try to beat the heat while exploring a little known area. The Nature Conservancy's Queen River Preserve is an easy stroll along forested pathways to a pristine stream. An unusual pine barren community, wetlands and woods can be explored, and together we can uncover its secrets. Bring an interest, or expertise, in mosses, ferns, lichens, flowering plants and trees and see why this area is an important area to protect.

Leader: Frances Topping, a nature generalist interested in the interactions of plants and animals, including humans.

Fee: \$5 for members, \$7 nonmembers. Register with Jackie at RIWPS office 401-789-7497

WEED IDENTIFICATION

URI Agricultural Experiment Station, URI Kingston

Saturday, August 23, 2008 9:00 am -12:00 noon, rain or shine

Got weeds? Don't know what they are? The first step in weed management is proper identification. Come and join Carl Sawyer, Research Associate at the URI Agricultural Experiment Station, and learn how to key out weeds using *Weeds of the Northeast* by Uva, Neal, and DiTomaso. We will key out specimens brought in by participants, look at weed communities at the Station and talk about management strategies. A hand lens would be helpful. Limited to 15 participants.

Leader: Carl Sawyer M.S. in plant physiology and research associate at URI Agricultural Experiment Station.

Fee: \$5 for members, \$7 nonmembers. Register with Jackie at RIWPS office 401-789-7497

NORTH KINGSTOWN

Saturday, September 6, 2008 time to be announced

Easy paddle

Bring your canoe or kayak to venture a view of *Bidens laevis* (tickseed) in bloom. By paddling around Secret Lake we will get up close to this flower in the Asteraceae family. It will feel like being in a meadow of sunflowers except we will be in the water.

Leader: Sindy Hempstead

Fee: \$5 for members, \$7 nonmembers. Register with Jackie at RIWPS office 401-789-7497

MUSHROOM WALK

Nettie Jones Preserve, West Greenwich

Tuesday, Sept 16, 2008 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Fungus is everywhere but mostly we only notice it when it decides to send out its spore producing fruit, the mushroom. At Nettie Jones Preserve in West Greenwich, the variety of habitats from the mixed hardwood forest, streams and old fields should give us a diversity of mushrooms to look for.

We will pick one of each type to try and identify it to a major group. There is no collecting on this foray. You are advised never to eat a wild mushroom unless you are positive of its species. Many mushrooms look alike, but some are deadly.

Leader: Noel Rowe, an amateur mushroom enthusiast [*but is by no means an expert*].

Fee: \$5 for members, \$7 nonmembers. Register with Jackie at RIWPS office 401-789-7497