

# Rhode Island Wild Plant Society

## PRESS RELEASE

### FEBRUARY & MARCH 2009 WINTER WALKS & PROGRAMS

With the exception of membership meetings, you must register 48 hours before the event/program. Pre-payment is also required. Call the RIWPS office at 401-789-7497 or email [office@riwps.org](mailto:office@riwps.org), unless otherwise noted. Send to RIWPS, PO Box 414, Exeter, RI 02822. Standard fee for members is \$5.00 and for non-members \$7.00, unless otherwise noted.

#### EXPLORE ARCADIA'S BLACK SPRUCE BOG IN WINTER

Exeter (Arcadia Wildlife Management Area)

**Sat., FEBRUARY 7, 2009 ~ 1-3 pm**

(Snow Date: Sun., February 8)

Leader: DOUG McGRADY

Bogs form in kettleholes, or depressions, that have poorly-drained soils. Unlike swamps and fens, bogs lack flowing water. The water that does collect becomes acidic and low in oxygen, resulting in poor growing conditions for most plants. The lack of oxygen also slows decomposition. This allows generations of Sphagnum moss to gradually fill the kettlehole, creating a spongy mat of peat. Some plants do well in their peaty "soil". Black Spruce, found in only fourteen states, is one that tolerates these conditions, and is quite uncommon in RI. Other plants include Leatherleaf, Highbush Blueberry, Rhodora, Sheep Laurel and some carnivorous plants. Moderate+ walk.

Fee: \$5 members, \$7 nonmembers.

#### RHODE ISLAND SPRING FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW

RI Convention Center, Providence

**FEBRUARY 19 to FEBRUARY 22**

Visit the RIWPS Exhibit

#### PLANNING A WATER GARDEN FOR YOUR BACKYARD

North Kingstown

**Sat., MARCH 7, 2009**

**10:00 am to 12:00 noon** (Snow Date: Sun., March 8, 2009)

Leader: BARNEY WEBSTER

Barney will demonstrate a variety of options for building a simple pond. He will show you how to incorporate simple shelves to avoid the rock necklace look. Emphasis will be on using native plants and maintenance-free set-ups, upflow filters and pump cages.

Fee: \$5 members, \$7 nonmembers.

#### RIWPS ANNUAL MEETING

Kettle Pond Nature Center,  
50 Bend Road, Charlestown

**Sun., MARCH 15, 2009**

**1:00 pm** Business Meeting

**2:00 pm** Refreshments & Fellowship

**2:30 pm** Awards Presentation

followed by guest speaker DOUGLAS TALLAMY, talking on "Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in our Gardens".

Dr. Tallamy will discuss the unbreakable link between native plant species and native wildlife. When native plant species disappear, or are replaced by alien exotics, the insects disappear, thus impoverishing the food source for birds and other animals. Dr. Tallamy is a Professor of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware.

Check WPRO for snow date or RIWPS office, 789-7497.

Program FREE and open to the public.

Bring a friend!

#### TREE ID IN PARKER WOODLAND

George B. Parker Woodland,  
Coventry

**Sat., MARCH 21, 2009**

**11:00 am to 1:00 pm** (Snow Date: Sun., March 22)

Leader: FRANCIS UNDERWOOD

Join Francis Underwood, one of RIWPS' most knowledgeable tree lovers, to learn to identify the trees and shrubs of ASRI's Parker Woodland by examining the bark, buds, habitats and communities, without the leaves and flowers to distract you. Bundle up, bring your guidebook and expect to enjoy the outing on this geologically and historically interesting preserve.

Moderate walk.

Fee: \$5 members, \$7 nonmembers.

#### TREES & SHRUBS OF SWAN POINT CEMETERY

Providence

**Thu., MARCH 26, 2009 ~ 10:00 am**

**to 12:00 noon** (Weather Date: Tue, March 31)

Leader: KELLY PERRY,  
Horticulturalist

The Swan Point Cemetery on Blackstone Boulevard in Providence is renowned for its trees and shrubs. We are delighted to have Kelly Donnelly Perry, their horticulturalist, lead us on a walk to see some of the highlights of this 200-acre facility. We hope to catch the new buds and other signs of spring in this beautiful spot, as well as have a peek into some of the greenhouses. Easy walk.

Fee: \$5 members, \$7 nonmembers.

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**WE WELCOME** people of all botanical abilities at our events. Beginners or experts, amateurs or professionals ... we all come to enjoy and learn about wild plants.

#### WALK NOTES & GUIDELINES

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED** for all events with fees (and sometimes for those without fees). Register by contacting the RIWPS office at 401-789-7497 or [office@riwps.org](mailto:office@riwps.org) or on occasion, the person listed as a contact. Registration closes 48 hours before the walk, so please register early. Send payment to RIWPS, PO Box 414, Exeter, RI 02822.

**CONFIRMATION:** Registered participants will receive directions to the site and more details by e-mail or telephone.

**CANCELLATION:** If you must cancel, please notify the person with whom you registered as soon as possible so that we may notify those on the waiting list.