

RHODE ISLAND WILD PLANT SOCIETY P.O. BOX 414, EXETER, RI 02822 789-7497

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**The 16th Annual Rhode Island Spring Flower &  
Garden Show  
February 19-22, 2009  
Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence**

The Rhode Island Wild Plant Society invites you to:

**RE-DISCOVER THE WONDER OF THE  
NEW ENGLAND WOODLAND**

This year the RI Wild Plant Society's display garden at the 2009 RI Spring Flower and Garden Show in Providence will focus on going outside to play and reconnecting with nature.

It is inspired by two books *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature Deficit Disorder* by Richard Louv and *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens* by Douglas Tallamy.

"Studies now point to direct exposure to nature as essential for a child's healthy physical and emotional development." - The Washington Post

"The children and nature movement is fueled by this fundamental idea: the child in nature is an endangered species, and the health of children and the health of the Earth are inseparable." - Richard Louv

Take time to experience nature and get a vital view of life. Take a pause in your busy schedule to connect to natural beauty. Allow yourself to be refreshed; no batteries required!

Time spent in nature has become increasingly limited. Many have lost contact with the sense of wonder, harmony and freedom that nature offers. In the woods all our senses are engaged; we become immersed in something larger than ourselves. Technology cannot replace the personal experience of being outdoors. "I like to play indoors better 'cause that's where all the electrical outlets are."

- A Fourth Grader In San Diego - Quote from Richard Louv's book

“In too many areas of our country there is no place left for wildlife but in the landscapes and gardens we ourselves create. Unless we restore native plants to our suburban ecosystems, the future of biodiversity in the United States is dim.” - Douglas Tallamy, author *Bringing Nature Home, How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens*.

America is raising an entire generation of children who have not had these experiences. Outdoor play, particularly outdoor play that is unstructured and unsupervised has become a thing of the past for today’s children.

RIWPS will provide handouts with information on planting native plants in the garden to sustain wildlife, creating child centered activities to encourage children to experience and appreciate nature, a variety of activities for families to make time for the out doors, and more. These will be available in the RIWPS education booth upstairs.

The garden will feature trees such as hollies, shadbush, birches, cedar, pines, and redbuds. There will be shrubs like swamp azalea, silky dogwood, mountain laurel and spicebush. Some of the herbaceous plants featured are cardinal flower, foamflower, marsh marigold, anemone and jack-in-the-pulpit.

Through the years, RIWPS has received many accolades for its display gardens including the viewers’ choice award three times and the Alan Haskell Award in 2007.

The flower show committee chairman is Jules Cohen. Judy Ireland is once again serving as the designer. Members of the committee are Karen Asher, Bob & Shirley Anderson, Kim Botelho, Lou Cadwell, Andy Daigle, Dick Donnelly, Dave Gumbley. Chris Kalina, Gil Moore, Mark Rowan, Debbie & Maurice St. Pierre, Susan Shuster, Sally Schwartz, Sandra Thompson, Frances Topping, and Barney Webster.

Their business partners are: Blue Moon Farm Perennials, The Farmers Daughter, Nelumbo Water Gardens, Quonset Nursery, Sylvan Nursery and Tranquil Lake Nursery. RIWPS thanks Senator and Mrs. Lincoln Chafee.

For more information about the RI Wild Plant Society visit their website [www.riwps.org](http://www.riwps.org) or contact them at 789-RIWP (7497).