

# **Rhode Island Wild Plant Society**

## **Press Release**

For further information, contact the RIWPS office  
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### **Rhode Island Wild Plant Society Announces Winner of 2009 Educational Grant**

The Rhode Island Wild Plant Society is pleased to announce that the annual \$500 education grant has been awarded to **Kelly Oelofse**, a seventh grade teacher at the **Hugh B. Bain Middle School on** Gansett Ave in Cranston.

Paul Dolan, Chair of the Education Grant Committee introduced this year's winner at the RIWPS Annual Meeting held at Kettle Pond, Charlestown, Rhode Island on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

With the grant, Ms. Oelofse will develop a science unit in which students will identify native plants using good botanical methods and integrate this knowledge with wild plants and invasives and their affects on our ecosystem. A special activity of this project will be the creation by each student of a pop-up book that will be a journal of his or her part of the project. This unit adheres to the science curriculum mandates. The future aim is to have this unit available to all middle schools through RIWPS.

The Rhode Island Wild Plant Society offers our congratulations and best wishes to Ms. Oelofse and her students in this endeavor.