

NATIVE PLANT NEWS

PAGE 02

Making Native Plant History

Celebrating 125 Years of
Native Plant Conservation,
Horticulture, and Education



Spring/Summer 2025 contents

p. 10 / Jane Roy Brown © Native Plant Trust



p. 15 / © Ngoc Minh Ngo

02

Our 125th Anniversary Issue

Meet the plant that inspired our celebratory logo, and trace Native Plant Trust's growth since 1900.

05

Save the Date

125th gala on September 30 to honor scientist and native plant advocates

04

Taking Stock of Climate Solutions

An interview with Founders' Medal recipient Dr. Jonathan Foley —Jane Roy Brown

10

Meeting the Need for Native Plant Seed

Restoration Accelerator™ Gears Up at Nasami Farm —Jane Roy Brown

17

Celebrating You

What your amazing commitment to nature means

Abby and Peter Coffin's distinguished leadership —Tracey Willmott

24

Forever Green

Preserving the Wild Tapestry of Our World —Peter Doyle

25

Changing Seasons

Of Ferns and Their Beneficiaries —Cole Campbell

Protect Our Environment, Heal Our Society

How we treat the Earth reflects how we treat people

In 1970, Native Plant Trust was celebrating its 70th anniversary, and the US was celebrating the first Earth Day. Among the presenters was James Farmer, Jr. His words, delivered to a small crowd in Washington, DC, connected the ideals of two movements that had been segregated for decades: the environmental and the civil rights movements.



TIM JOHNSON
 Chief Executive Officer

“The garbage. The trash. The carbon monoxide. The junk!” Farmer proclaimed. “Who suffers most from it, if it is not the poor? Especially the ghettoized poor...”

Farmer (1920–1999) had cofounded the Congress of Racial Equity, which organized Freedom Rides, supported MLK, Jr. through the Montgomery Bus Boycott, and helped coordinate the March on Washington. He understood that how we treat the environment was a direct reflection of how we treat people.

“[It is these marginalized communities] who stand to benefit first from any successes in cleaning up the environment,” continued Farmer. “If we do not save the environment, then whatever we do in civil rights will be of no meaning. Because then we will have the equality of extinction.”

As Native Plant Trust celebrates its 125th anniversary with news of our awards gala, our 2025 Founders’ Medal and Distinguished Leaders recipients, and the announcement of the Restoration Accelerator™, keep this in mind: While it looks like our work is all about plants, it’s about people too.

In the coming 125 years of conserving and promoting native plants, let us do what James Farmer encouraged and also care for the put-upon, looked-down upon, exploited, and discarded in our society. **The quality of humanity’s future relies on the quality of our environment.**

EDITORIAL

Jane Roy Brown; send comments to jrbrown@NativePlantTrust.org

DESIGN

Kate Wollensak Freeborn

COVER

Plymouth rose-gentian
(Sabatia kennedyana)
 Uli Lorimer © Native Plant Trust

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair
 William Huyett

Vice Chair
 Kendy Hess

Treasurer
 Susan Schadler

Clerk
 Charles Fayerweather

Chief Executive Officer
 Tim Johnson

TRUSTEES

- Christine Battat
- David Coughlan
- Andrew Gutterman
- Liisa Kissel
- John (Joe) Knowles
- Sharon Malt
- David Martland
- John Natoli
- Elizabeth (Zibby) Pyle
- Amira Quraishi
- Thomas Stone

Native Plant News is published by Native Plant Trust, an independent, nonprofit, member-supported organization. Subscriptions are included in membership dues. For information, contact: membership@NativePlantTrust.org.

© 2025 Native Plant Trust.
 All rights reserved.



125TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



Anniversary Logo Honors “Jewel” of Southern New England

—Olivia Newhall-Thayer, Communications Manager

Welcome to the quasiquintennial anniversary issue of *Native Plant News*.

To mark the organization’s 125th anniversary year, Native Plant Trust has temporarily added the image of an uptilted Plymouth rose-gentian (*Sabatia kennedyana*) to its logo. “Plymouth rose-gentian is a jewel in the crown of the coastal-plain pond shores of southern New England,” writes former Director of Conservation Michael Piantedosi. “Because it inhabits some of our region’s most beautiful and fragile landscapes, *Sabatia kennedyana* is among many organisms whose conservation preserves our natural heritage.”

This species occurs in maritime Canada and in three southeastern states as well as in New England, where it is most abundant in Massachusetts. It is also present in Rhode Island, where it is classified as extremely rare and endangered. Because it is endemic to the sandy or peaty shores of coastal-plain ponds, its populations are limited by virtue of this uncommon habitat, where it is also vulnerable to changes in water quality and water level. Human-caused threats—climate change, trampling by

off-road vehicles, shoreline development, and poaching—further challenge this species’ long-term survival.

With the help of Plant Conservation Volunteers and members of the New England Plant Conservation Program, Native Plant Trust actively monitors 148 populations of Plymouth rose-gentian throughout the region. According to Ecological Programs Coordinator Erik Sechler, an increase in field monitoring and surveying reveals that populations are larger than previous records showed, but the species still remains at risk.

The logo, which will be in use throughout the commemorative celebrations, captures the distinctive saucer shape of the partly open flower. “What I love most about this logo is the perspective,” says CEO Tim Johnson. “The petals and sepals of the flower are on display from underneath the corolla, as if the viewer were lying on the ground, gazing up. Each petal carries slight variation and emerges from the stem with the organic logic of a hundred million years of evolution. It is not geometrically perfect, but it is perfect nonetheless.”

125th Gala to Honor Climate Scientist, Native Plant Advocates

—Jane Roy Brown, Writer-Editor

The presentations of the Founders’ Medal and Distinguished Leadership Award will be at the center of the festivities at Native Plant Trust’s 125th Anniversary Gala on September 30. The 2025 Founders’ Medal recognizes the exceptional work of Dr. Jonathan Foley, an academic research scientist, thought leader, and executive director of Project Drawdown, a global resource for climate change solutions (see p. 2). The Distinguished Leadership Award celebrates the extraordinary commitment of Abby and Peter Coffin in advocating for native plant and ecosystem conservation (see p. 16).

Foley has led the development of the Drawdown Roadmap (see www.drawdown.org), a science-based strategy that highlights the most important climate actions that governments, businesses, and individuals need to take to stop climate change.

The Founders’ Medal honors achievement in conservation, horticulture, or education whose impact rises to national or international importance, and Foley’s contributions in conservation and education merit this acknowledgement, says Native Plant Trust CEO Tim Johnson. “Critical to Native Plant Trust’s mission, Project Drawdown’s science-backed solutions put into stark terms just how important wildlands, functional plant ecosystems, sustainable land-use practices, and

humanity’s relationship with nature are in creating a net-negative carbon economy,” says Johnson. “Project Drawdown and Dr. Foley inspire hope, facilitate action, and focus the world’s attention.”

Foley earned his doctorate in atmospheric sciences and has published widely in scientific journals, yet he can break down climate science at a middle-school level. He has won recognition as a science communicator from the Office of the President of the United States, the J. S. McDonnell Foundation, the Aldo Leopold Foundation, the Ecological Society of America, and the National Science Foundation. Following his acceptance of the Founders’ Medal, Foley will present a talk at the gala.



Dr. Jonathan Foley courtesy Project Drawdown

SAVE *the* DATE

Native Plant Trust’s 125th ANNIVERSARY GALA

sowing the seeds for our future

Tuesday, September 30, 2025
6 PM - 9 PM
Artists for Humanity Epicenter
Boston, MA

Honoring:
Dr. Jonathan Foley
Abby & Peter Coffin



125TH ANNIVERSARY TIMELINE

LEADING THE MOVEMENT FOR 125 YEARS
Follow our growth from our founding in 1900 as a Boston-based native plant conservation group to our present status as a regional and national leader in native plant conservation, horticulture, and education.

1900

Native Plant Trust is founded as the Society for the Protection of Native Plants in Boston. President, Professor Robert T. Jackson; honorary president, Jane Loring Gray, widow of botanist Asa Gray.



1922

Society for the Protection of Native Plants changes name to the Society for the Preservation of Native Plants.



Taking Stock of Climate Solutions

An Interview with Dr. Jonathan Foley

—Jane Roy Brown, Writer-Editor



Native Plant News recently spoke with climate scientist Dr. Jonathan Foley, executive director of Project Drawdown and the recipient of Native Plant Trust’s 2025 Founders’ Medal, about tackling climate change on a regional scale and how native plants can help.

Before taking on Project Drawdown in 2019, Foley launched the Institute on the Environment at University of Minnesota and served as its founding director. He also has held prestigious professorships, chairs, and directorships at the Universities of Wisconsin and Minnesota, and aided in the growth of the climate field by establishing the Climate, People, and Environment Program and the Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment at University of Wisconsin. His high-impact climate change research has explored agricultural land management, forest demography, hydrology, glacial melt, and public policy, earning him recognition by Reuters as one of the most influential researchers of our time.

Elizabeth Farnsworth © Native Plant Trust

1925

Society for the Preservation of Native Plants changes name to New England Wild Flower Preservation Society, adds education to its advocacy mission.

1958–1960s

Native plant sanctuaries established in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts.



NATIVE PLANT NEWS: What was the inspiration for Project Drawdown?

JONATHAN FOLEY: Project Drawdown started as a book arising from a simple question: “Everybody’s talking about the doom and gloom of climate change. Has anybody taken stock of solutions?” And the answer was, “Not really.” There were some very dense technical reports in the scientific community, but nobody was doing a systematic comparison, using the same units, assumptions, and techniques to ask, “Do we have enough tools to actually solve this?” So a team led by Paul Hawken, Amanda Ravenhill, Katharine Wilkinson, and others wrote a popular book that reviewed about 100 different approaches to tackling climate change, summarizing what the world’s scientists and engineers were saying. The authors cranked the numbers and laid out solutions systematically, so you could compare different climate solutions in terms of their impact, apple to apple—whether it’s installing a solar panel or preserving a forest or hooking up a new heat pump. No one had done this before. At the time I was running a science museum in San Francisco, and I was honored to be asked to write a foreword to one of the editions of the book.

Seeing the book’s success, the authors decided to turn it into an organization that would continue to be a leading resource about climate solutions. In 2019 I was asked to move the project from a book into what’s now a thriving global think tank on the science and strategies for climate solutions.

NPN: Solutions on your website [www.drawdown.org] include potential actions by big industrial players, and then you have this wonderful storytelling section in which ordinary individuals from all over the world describe actions they have taken to reduce climate change. How does empowering the individual make a difference? And what kinds of actions can we take?

JF: We got into the mess of climate change through different paths—failures of policy and business and technology, but also in our culture and in our own daily actions. Therefore, the

solutions to climate change are going to have to come from all those places too. It’s not just politicians and CEOs who have all the power. We, as individuals, also have a lot of power in the choices we make, whether it’s reducing red meat and eating more plants in our diets, or how we build and heat and cool our homes, or how we get around. All those decisions are ours.

NPN: Sometimes our choices are limited. To get to Rome, you have to fly. Should we stop going to Rome?

JF: No, and I don’t want people to feel guilty about this. Instead of a guilt trip, I want people to feel a power trip. Look at the choices I have the next time I need to replace the furnace, for example. I could put in a heat pump that is powered by locally generated renewable energy and keeps money in my part of the country. Or the next time I get a car I can buy an electric vehicle, or at least a highly efficient hybrid, because I don’t want my money fueling ExxonMobil. You can also look at where you bank. When you put your money in a big corporate bank, you don’t know what they’re doing with it in some other part of the country or the world. Maybe they’re loaning it to fossil fuel producers who are building more pipelines and wells and refineries. You can then decide to move your money to a credit union or another local bank.

Power also unfolds at the local level through city councils, zoning and planning boards, and conservation commissions. Those are the organizations who tell you whether or not you can put a solar panel on your roof, not the White House. The billionaires and the politicians want you to feel powerless. But you are not powerless.

“It’s not just politicians and CEOs who have all the power. We, as individuals, also have a lot of power.”

NPN: Shifting the topic to plants, is it too late in the progression of climate change to try to save individual plant species and even failing ecosystems?

JF: No. I’m never going to run up the white flag as long as there’s one last redwood, one last whale, or one last child on this planet. I’m not giving up, nor should you. I live in rural Minnesota, where the native vegetation was once oak savanna and prairie, but it’s mostly been obliterated by corn. How can we bring back the native plants appropriate to this biome, for

1965

Garden in the Woods designer Will Curtis and his partner, Dick Styles, deed the Garden to the Society.



1970

New England Wild Flower Preservation Society changes name to New England Wild Flower Society.



habitat, for ecosystem services like clean water, clean air, and ameliorating urban heat islands? Healthy ecosystems give us healthy people too.

NPN: To that point, in the conservation arena we are seeing recent emphasis on the idea that humans are part of, not apart from, nature, which inserts self-interest into the cause of saving nonhuman species.

JF: Yes. I don't like siloed thinking, say, between preserving the integrity of our biosphere in this silo and trying to improve human well-being and equity and justice in that silo. That's not how the planet works. This is one planet, and they're all interrelated. We're launching a new project this year, Drawdown Nexus, which is trying to find solutions at the intersection of climate, nature, and people.

NPN: We see silos within the environmental movement. Some environmental justice advocates in city neighborhoods view climate change as secondary to the immediate, survival-level issue of air pollution. Wouldn't removing the sources of air pollution, which in this country tend to be coal-burning utility plants, also mitigate climate change, and vice versa?

JF: Globally, more than eight million people a year are estimated to die from the soot and smog produced by burning fossil fuels, the second-leading risk factor for death in the world [source: "2024 State of the Global Air" report]. Stopping the burning of fossil fuels would bring the single biggest improvement in human health and equity on the planet, and a big climate win at the same time. I sometimes challenge my climate colleagues by saying, "Instead of putting carbon first on the agenda, what if we put people first?" What if we said, "We want clean air"? You'd end up getting some of the worst climate offenders, like big coal-burning plants, out of the way, and you'd have less resistance and a lot more political and financial capital to work with. Our to-do list items overlap, and they shouldn't be pulling us in opposite directions.

NPN: In a video on your website, you speak about forests being valuable not only as carbon sinks, meaning that they absorb CO₂ and store it in their tissues, but also as ecosystems that provide services we rely on. Do forests, as living systems of diverse species, have enhanced value in climate-change terms, as opposed to, say, a timber plantation?

JF: That's still a rich area of discovery in biology, learning how ecosystems and biodiversity really work, and that's where we need to use a bigger lens than just carbon to assess value. But even using just carbon, with a more diverse ecosystem, whether it's a grassland versus a cornfield or a lawn versus a parking lot, you do see huge differences, in terms of not only overall productivity, but also the resilience of those systems. If you have a monoculture, it's one species, and maybe it's a really efficient one that's really good at photosynthesis and grows fast. But monocultures tend to fail, and pretty spectacularly. When you have an extreme weather event or a drought, an invasive pest, or a disease, monocultures are vulnerable to being completely wiped out. Nobody would ever invest their entire retirement savings

in just one stock. Diversity equals resilience. Diversity equals strength. Overall, single-species plantations may be more productive, but that neglects so many other values of ecosystems, like creating habitats and complex food webs, regulating water flows, and other services.

NPN: Native Plant Trust produced a report with The Nature Conservancy called "Conserving Plant Diversity in New England," which is posted on our website. In the report, the scientists highlight certain places on the land as climate resilient, which they define as natural strongholds for the current plant populations in a variety of climate scenarios, based on landforms, hydrology, soils, and so on. How do you define climate resilience?

JF: I don't think there's a single working definition for resilience. It's very contextual. Nature is full of what we call feedback mechanisms that, on one hand, help stabilize

"Diversity equals resilience. Diversity equals strength."

1980s

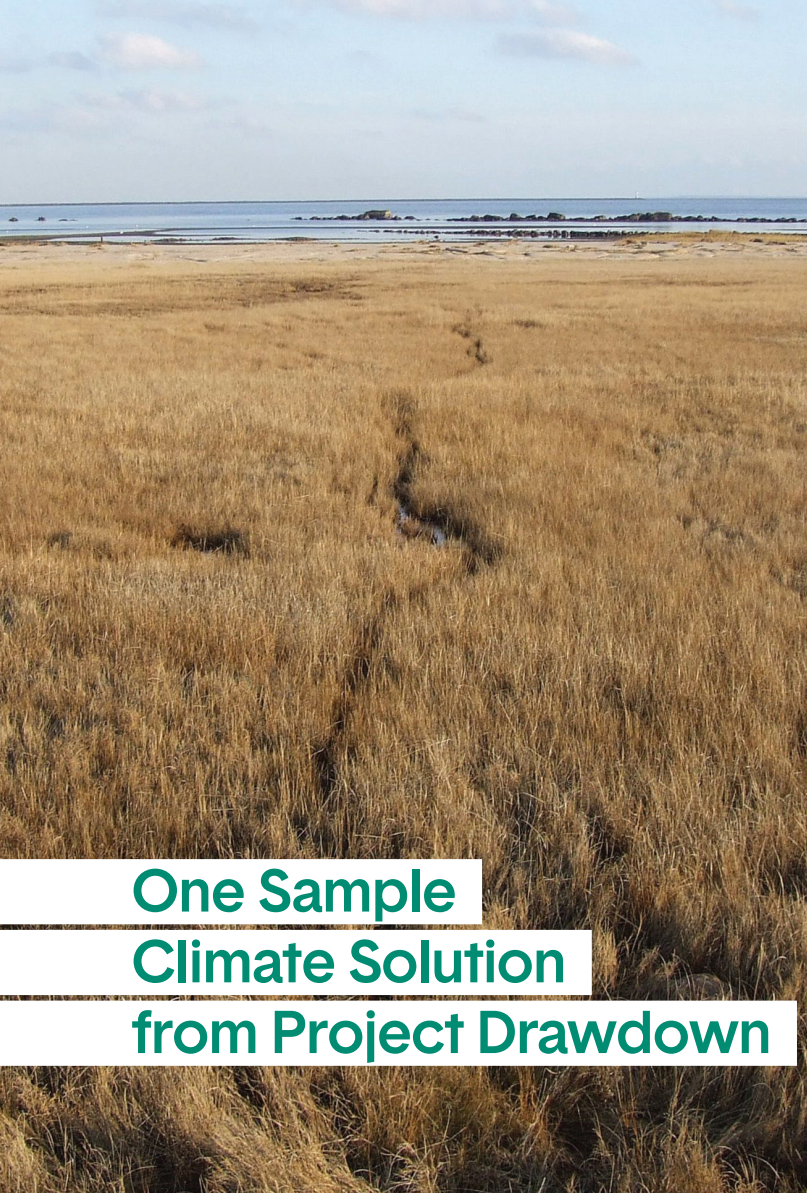
Staff botanists start banking seeds of rare plants as a means of *ex situ* conservation.



1985

Native plant studies certificate program begins.





One Sample Climate Solution from Project Drawdown

Project Drawdown’s website (www.drawdown.org) contains strategies and tools an individual, organization, or business needs to stop climate change. Take a look at how one action related to Native Plant Trust’s mission can help sink some serious carbon.

This is only a partial excerpt. For methodology, citations, and other information on this topic, please see: www.drawdown.org/solutions/coastal-wetland-restoration. All text courtesy Project Drawdown.

Coastal Wetland Restoration

Agriculture, development, and natural disasters have degraded many coastal wetlands. Restoring mangrove forests, salt marshes, and seagrass beds to health revives carbon sequestration.

Introduction

Unlike most terrestrial ecosystems, coastal wetlands—salt marshes, mangroves, and seagrasses—can continue sequestering carbon for centuries without becoming saturated. In fact, coastal wetlands can store five times as much carbon as tropical forests over the long term, mostly in deep wetland soils. As a result, they have accumulated vast stores of carbon, making their greenhouse gas mitigation potential high despite their small area. Coastal wetlands also provide important ecosystem services.

Impact

Like forest and peatlands, coastal wetlands are subject to severe degradation. Restoring mangroves, salt marshes, and seagrasses reduces greenhouse gas emissions. It also enhances their ability to support biodiversity and provide ecosystem services. *Protecting 6.06–7.19 million hectares of currently degraded coastal wetlands and allowing natural regrowth to occur would sequester 0.76–1.00 gigatons of carbon dioxide-equivalent greenhouse gases by 2050.*

What You Can Do

If you live near a coast, write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper on the role mangroves, seagrasses, and salt marshes play in protecting your community. Volunteer with, or contribute to, an organization that works to protect coastal ecosystems.

Co-benefits

Coastal wetland protection mitigates the impacts of extreme climate events such as hurricanes, floods, and sea-level rise. In many countries, mangroves and other coastal ecosystems support subsistence fisheries that are critical for food security.

Elizabeth Farnsworth © Native Plant Trust

1991

New England Wild Flower Society establishes New England Plant Conservation Program (NEPCoP), a network of professional plant scientists in public agencies and private nonprofits to collect and share information about rare species.

1993

New England Wild Flower Society founds Plant Conservation Volunteers, a community science outgrowth of NEPCoP, to train amateur botanists to conduct field monitoring, seed collection, and habitat management.



natural systems in minor disturbances, like a small weather fluctuation. Nature is very good at being resilient to small fluctuations, finding ways of achieving equilibrium. But then nature pulls some interesting tricks. When you get a really big disturbance, like fire, the system suddenly flips and transitions to an entirely new equilibrium. Do you call that resilient? I do, but you have to think about that in a bigger context.

I think of being in a kayak, and I'm getting some little waves. I'm stabilizing myself by just being flexible and nimble, leaning away from the waves. But when a big wave comes along, you're supposed to change direction. Maybe you even flip over and come out of the kayak and do something different. That's what nature does after big disturbances. It reorganizes itself into a new, thriving system.

NPN: In the case of "Conserving Plant Diversity in New England," the report provides a mapping tool so that land conservation groups can chart pathways for plant diversity and migration as the climate changes, based on these resilience characteristics.

JF: That's great. New England is experiencing some of the fastest warming on the planet right now. And resilience doesn't necessarily mean keeping conditions static, maybe within a certain range. It also means future-proofing.

NPN: Drawdown.org contains a lot of information about conservation agriculture. Does that include planting rows of pollinator plants or other herbaceous plants to support beneficial insects and/or restore the soil?

JF: Before getting into conservation farming techniques, let's talk about the footprint of agriculture. About 40 percent of all the land on Earth is used in some form of agriculture. It is the biggest ecosystem on Earth, and our first priority would be to shrink that dramatically, to return most of that land to nature. And we could do that by reducing food waste. We sure don't need to use 40 percent of all the acreage on Earth for food when we waste 33 percent of that food. And the vast majority of our agricultural lands are mainly feeding animals or cars [using corn or grain for ethanol], not people directly.

Here in Minnesota, the majority of our farmland is used to feed cars or cows. And while we can eat the cows, it's absurdly inefficient. We lose about 95 percent of our food energy when we convert sunshine into plants and then feed the plants to the cows. Instead, we can eat more plants. It's more efficient, better for nature, and healthier for us.

It doesn't mean everyone has to become a vegan, but it would help to dial down excessive meat consumption, because the elephant in the room is a cow. We also have to look at producing other food on a more modest scale than we do today, and in a more efficient and more thoughtful way.



"..the elephant in the room is a cow."

Taylor Siebert / Unsplash

1994

Staff botanists develop a successful way to propagate and transplant seedlings of Robbins's cinquefoil (*Potentilla robbinsiana*), an endangered alpine plant on Mt. Washington in New Hampshire.



1996

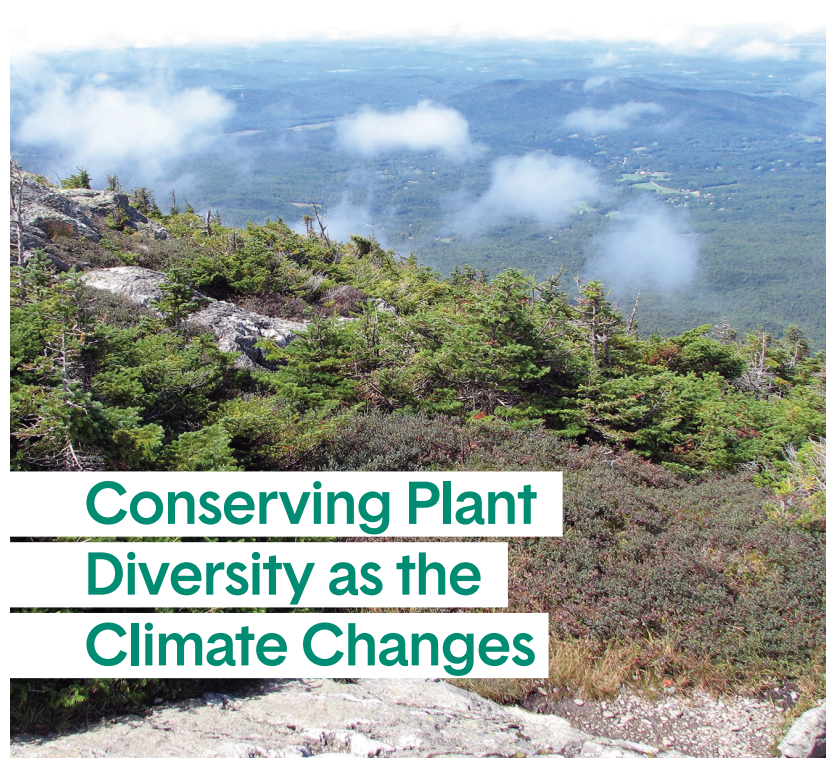
Publication of *Flora Conservanda*, the first document listing plants growing in New England that are globally, regionally, and locally rare

Then it makes sense to use conservation approaches to farming: cover crops, so you don't lose the soil and the nutrients in the winter to snowmelt or severe storms before you plant in spring. And you can incorporate things like buffer strips, especially along creeks and streams, and those should be native plants—perennial, deep-rooted plants that are native to your region, which are great for pollinators and wildlife. Like hedgerows and prairie strips, in the Midwest, planted between the parcels of corn and soybeans, especially along erodible hill slopes and near the water's edge, to help keep the soil and phosphorus from running into our waterways.

We're also big fans of silviculture, which includes inter-spreading trees with grazing and crop lands to prevent soil erosion, but also to provide habitat for beneficial insects, pollinators, bats, and birds, which help keep the pests away. But now we're stuck in a kind of spray-and-pray approach because we're growing monocultures of corn as far as the eye can see, corn that we don't even eat. It's insanity.

NPN: As advocates for native plants, what should our members do as individuals to reduce climate change?

JF: My friend Katharine Hayhoe, a climate scientist and public educator, says that the most important thing to do about climate change is keep talking about it. And in the realm of native plants and ecosystem preservation, just keep talking about this. Having conversations like this is really important, and not just with our friends, but with people who don't really value conservation. Some of my friends in San Francisco are like, "How can you talk to your neighbors about climate change?" I have no problem talking to them, because they're seeing it too. I just use somewhat different words, and I've learned to have these conversations by talking about the local benefits for preventing flooding, and things that touch people's lives here—kitchen table issues, not abstractions. Don't beat them over the head with what you believe, but listen. Then you could say, "Hey, maybe I could help you with some of the things you care about." I think that's how we can turn down the heat on polarized conversations. And maybe we can build some interesting new alliances and partnerships.



Conserving Plant Diversity as the Climate Changes

"Conserving Plant Diversity in New England," a groundbreaking report produced in 2022 by Native Plant Trust and The Nature Conservancy, examines the landscape from the plants' perspective. From the forest floor, the field edge, or the tidal shore, humans can get a close perspective on distinct species and plant communities, but we cannot see how parcels of land relate to each other or to the pattern of habitats on the landscape.

The report, which includes a robust mapping tool, enables viewers to zoom out and see how connectivity or fragmentation affects climate resilience. Fragmentation disrupts seed dispersal and migration routes. It also leads to an increase in edge effects—more light, wind, soil erosion, and invasive species occurrences, plus higher temperatures and the alteration of microclimates by these exposures.

Plants experience climate at the micro scale—inches to yards—and sites that include variations in topography and hydrology create a mix of microclimates that have the potential to buffer the impact of climate change. Plants can move to more favorable microclimates within these climate-resilient sites. If these sites are also connected to each other, they can facilitate longer-distance range shifts.

To read "Conserving Plant Diversity in New England," see www.nativeplanttrust.org/conservation.

—Michael Piantedosi

Elizabeth Farnsworth © Native Plant Trust

1999

Harvard University's Concord, MA, field station donates its herbarium of about 5,400 specimens to New England Wild Flower Society.



2002

US Fish & Wildlife Service removes Robbins's cinquefoil (*Potentilla robbinsiana*) from the Federal Endangered Species List due to its successful recovery.

2005

The Society purchases Nasami Farm, a 75-acre nursery in the Connecticut River Valley of Massachusetts, for use as a native plant propagation center and nursery.





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:
 Nasami Farm's seed-increase plot
 at first harvest ; seed workshop
 participants examine *Verbena
 hastata* seed heads (Jane Roy
 Brown © Native Plant Trust);
Verbena hastata seed after
 winnowing; consultant Matt
 Garrabone with tabletop
 winnowing machine in Nasami's
 new seed-processing building;
 stacked brass seed sieves
 (Olivia Newhall-Thayer © Native
 Plant Trust)



2011

Publication of *Flora Novae
 Angliae*, the most compre-
 hensive manual of New
 England's vascular plants in
 decades, by staff Research
 Botanist Arthur Haines



2012

Launch of *Go Botany*, an
 innovative, web-based
 plant-identification
 tool. Publication of
Flora Conservanda,
 2nd edition

GO BOTANY

Discover thousands of New England plants

Home Simple Key PlantShare Full Key Dichotomous Key Teaching Help

UPDATE The Flora Addenda document is now available, with many taxonomic changes



Meeting the Need for Native Plant Seed

Restoration Accelerator™ Gears Up at Nasami Farm

—Jane Roy Brown, Writer-Editor

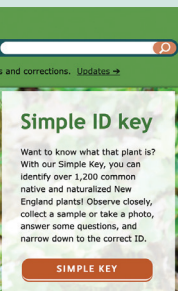


“Our forests are very stressed and depleted, especially the understory layer,” says Dr. Linda Rohleder, president of Wild Woods Restoration Project and a member of the Northeast Seed Network steering committee.

Rohleder is not talking about the vast tracts of public land in the western United States, where wildfires rage through millions of acres a year, but about forests in the Northeast, specifically in New York’s Hudson Valley, where her organization is based. “The forests here are suffering. After land managers struggle to deal with deer and clear out invasive plants, it’s hard for them to find native seeds to regenerate the native forest understory,” Rohleder says. She founded Wild Woods Restoration Project to organize volunteers to grow understory plants from wild-collected, local seed; then she provides the plants to small parks and forest preserves that cannot afford to buy them from commercial nurseries.

“Everyone wants seed—not huge quantities, but enough for their home landscapes and gardens,” says Amy Pulley, owner of Wing and a Prayer, a small native plant nursery in Cummington, a rural Massachusetts hilltown northwest of the Connecticut River Valley. “I grow as many plants as I can and collect seed from them, but I could grow more species if I had a reliable seed source,” Pulley says. She adds that she is seeing native plant nurseries spring up throughout Massachusetts, driven by “deep concern about the decline in habitat for native plants and their pollinators.”

Rohleder and Pulley were among the 30 or so people who showed up on a sunny fall day in 2024 at Nasami Farm, Native Plant Trust’s nursery in Whately, MA, for a seed-growing workshop and a peek at the new seed-processing and storage equipment installed here during the past 18 months, in support of Native Plant Trust’s new Restoration Accelerator™ program. Some, like Pulley, drove here from only 10 or 15 miles away. Others, including Rohleder; Marilyn Barlow of Select Seeds in Union, CT; and John Gedraitis of Van Berkum Nursery in Deerfield, NH, traveled greater distances. The widespread interest is a testament to a seed shortage throughout the Northeast and the country as a whole (see p. 13).



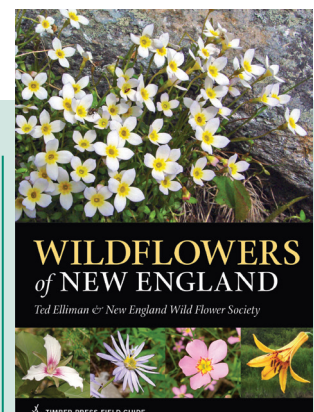
2015

“State of New England Plants” report highlights threats to rare and common species and their habitats throughout the region.



2016

Publication of *Wildflowers of New England*, an illustrated field guide by staff botanist Ted Elliman.





Nasami Farm Manager Alexis Doshas (L, facing group) and consultant Matt Garrambone (R) lead a workshop introducing Nasami's seed-processing operations in fall 2024. Jane Roy Brown © Native Plant Trust

“Lots of different players are trying to do something positive for the environment, knowing that plants play a foundational role in ecosystems,” says Native Plant Trust Director of Horticulture Uli Lorimer, who is here to gauge the first-time response to the new operation. “Growing plants from native seed gives people an important opportunity to make a difference.”

Native Plant Trust CEO Tim Johnson sees the enterprise as a milestone for the organization: “This is the single most important initiative Native Plant Trust has undertaken in twenty years,” he says. “This will have real impact on the landscape.”

Alexis Doshas, Nasami Farm’s nursery manager, and Matt Garrambone, principal at Beechwood Environmental LLC and a consultant to Native Plant Trust, stand at the seed-increase plot, a flat garden patch about 30 by 80 feet. The first plants at Nasami grown solely for their seed stand in straight rows along the length: swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*), coastal Joe Pye weed (*Eutrochium dubium*), path rush (*Juncus tenuis*), and blue vervain (*Verbena*

hastata). The species, Doshas says, were chosen as suitable for the site’s conditions, for their hardiness, and for their demand in restoration and horticulture. Funded by a grant from Northeast Sustainable Agriculture, Research, and Education (SARE, project #FNE22-009), the installation of the seed plot took place the previous summer, Doshas says. With the help of Nasami’s Chester B. Allen Propagation and Horticulture intern, volunteers, and the nursery staff, the plants went into the ground as plugs—seedlings grown in deeper cells to enable robust root growth.

Garrambone fields a question that pops up continually in relation to native plant seed: How local does the seed source need to be in relation to the site where it will be sown? Put another way, how local is local? After all, evolutionary adaptation is the point of using native species, so that plants entering the ecosystem will interact with the other organisms. This is another way of talking about ecotype, which is genetic variation within a species shaped by physical conditions in the environment (see sidebar). Yet, according to a 2022 survey of the use

“This is the single most important initiative Native Plant Trust has undertaken in twenty years.”

—Tim Johnson
Native Plant Trust CEO

NATIVE PLANTS
for New England Gardens

Mark Richardson and Dan Jaffe

2018

Publication of *Native Plants for New England Gardens*, an illustrated guide by Horticulture staff members Mark Richardson and Dan Jaffe (Wilder)



2019

New England Wild Flower Society changes its name to Native Plant Trust.

Native Plant Trust
Conserving and promoting New England’s native plants

and commercial availability of native plant materials in the eastern United States (Tangren, Toth, and Siegel), some restoration practitioners routinely travel more than 400 miles to get “locally” sourced seed, based on a definition of “local” as within a 50- to 100-mile radius.

“Sourcing locally usually means using a local provenance sourcing strategy,” says Garrambone. “With a local provenance strategy, some collectors use distance as a proxy for genetic variation. Other collectors use environmental variables, such as temperature and precipitation as a probable indicator of ecotype. The plus side of local provenance is that you capture local variation, and the downside is that you may capture only local variation, and not the full spectrum of genetic diversity present in the region.” He goes on to describe a second strategy, called regional admixture provenance, which entails collecting seed from multiple dispersed populations within a seed zone, potentially capturing more diversity. “The approach that is most appropriate depends on the needs of your project,” Garrambone concludes.

In the new Quonset hut, Garrambone demonstrates a tabletop air-screen seed cleaner and a freestanding machine called a Winnow Wizard, both designed to separate seed from chaff. The Winnow Wizard consumes blue vervain (*Verbena hastata*) seed heads and spits out a tray of naked, pinhead-sized seeds—hundreds of thousands with a few quaking thrums of the engine. Though neither machine works for every species—the hard seed casings of path rush, for example, require crushing—they easily dispatch the seed of other species grown in the on-site plot.

From Seed Need to Restoration Accelerator™

Extreme weather and wildfires, intensified by climate change, are damaging the native plant communities of landscapes across the United States. Native plant communities are foundational to thriving ecosystems, delivering goods and services that regulate the environment and support life, provide food and shelter for a wide range of native animals, and embody a wealth of genetic information with many beneficial applications. —An Assessment of Native Seed Needs and the Capacity for Their Supply (final report), National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2023

Over the last few years, an increase in demand for New England native plants intersected with a well-documented bottleneck in the supply chain nationally: a shortage of locally adapted seed from sustainably managed sources. In 2022, Native Plant Trust gathered organizations involved in producing and/or using seed for a virtual symposium to devise a strategy to expand the supply of native seed in the Northeast. The gathering coincided with the formation of the Northeast Seed Network to address the need for a coordinated seed-increase program that would include education, training, and engagement with those who use native seed. As an alliance of regional seed partnerships, the network aims to build connections between seed producers and users to increase the supply of native seed and meet the region’s restoration goals.



Also in 2022, Nasami Farm received a grant from Northeast Sustainable Agriculture, Research, and Education (SARE, project #FNE22-009) to build five seed-increase plots and study their efficacy as a viable and sustainable native seed production method. The following year, Nasami started expanding its controlled-environment

seed storage space—both a cold-dry room and a long-term freezer—and constructed a bulk seed-processing building to prepare for the nursery’s role as a regional seed-distribution hub. In 2024, Nasami finished construction of the storage room and equipped the processing building to clean large quantities of seed. The entire operation, now dubbed the Restoration Accelerator™, is up and running for 2025.

—Michael Piantedosi

2019

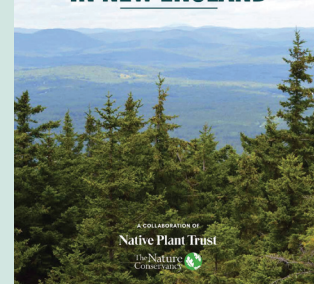
Botanic Gardens Conservation International confers Advanced Conservation Practitioner accreditation on Native Plant Trust in the premier round of international selections.

2022

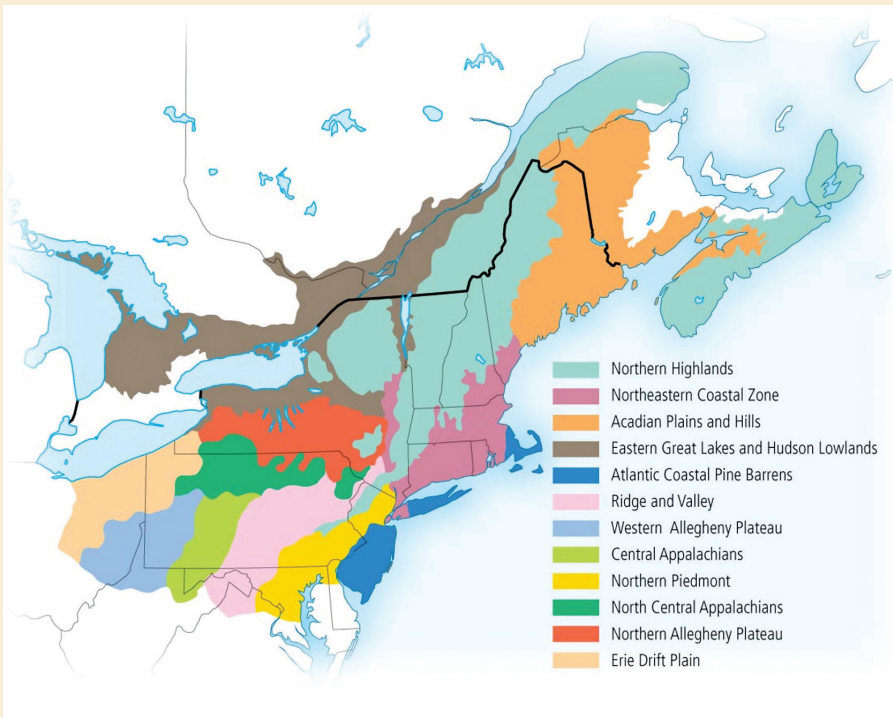
Publication of “Conserving Plant Diversity in New England,” a comprehensive framework and mapping tool for habitat conservation in the face of climate change, in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy.



CONSERVING PLANT DIVERSITY IN NEW ENGLAND



A COLLABORATION OF
Native Plant Trust
The Nature Conservancy



Ecosystems, Ecoregions, Ecotypes

Restoring impaired ecosystems requires a supply of diverse native plant seeds that are well suited to the climates, soils, and other living species of the system. —“An Assessment of Native Seed Needs and the Capacity for Their Supply (final report),” National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2023

The map above shows the ecoregion containing New England. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), ecoregions “are areas where ecosystems (and the type, quality, and quantity of environmental resources) are generally similar” And ecosystems? They are “communities of living things, including plants, animals, and microorganisms, that interact with each other and the physical world,” also as defined by the EPA.

An ecotype—a term coined by a Swedish evolutionary biologist in 1922—is a genetically distinct population of a species occupying a specific habitat, which is defined broadly by its ecoregion. Through the process of evolution, ecotypic species have adapted to the same environmental conditions over millennia, developing distinctive physical modifications that may or may not be evident to the naked eye. Plants grown from local ecotypic seed are genetically adapted to their specific environmental conditions, are more resilient in the face of climate change, and are better able to support the many species that have coevolved in their landscape.

—J. R. B.

Lorimer explains that the Restoration Accelerator™ program is the culmination of events that began in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, which ravaged the Atlantic coast in 2012. To help federal land managers restore coastal habitats, Native Plant Trust took part in a federal project to collect seed from common native species along the northeast coast and make it available to the agencies. Native Plant Trust’s Conservation staff contributed 850 seed collections of common native species, which helped to restore habitats at nearly a dozen sites.

“After that, the goal was to create a long-term resource for this type of seed use,” says Lorimer. “Increasing storm frequency and intensity will likely continue to spur the increase in seed demand, coupled with rising demand from the restoration and horticulture industry for native plants. In the long term, we want to establish more seed producers throughout the region and have a means of forecasting the demand for seed and how we can support it.”

Marilyn Barlow, the founder and owner of Select Seeds, a small retail nursery, is attending the workshop to see what it would take to grow her own seed. “Most of the native seeds I use now come from wholesale nurseries in the Midwest,” Barlow says. “I’d like to become at least a regional source for small quantities.”

The success of the program, Lorimer says, rests on encouraging more growers like Barlow to enter the seed-growing, or seed-increase, market—not just farmers, who are among the first groups to express interest, but also commercial nurseries, individuals, land trusts, and municipalities with conservation land. “Commercial growers are recognizing the value of locally sourced, seed-grown plants, but time, labor, and consistency are scarce,” says Lorimer.

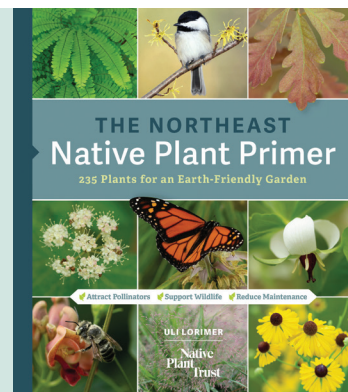
2022

Northeast Seed Network, a group of organizations including Native Plant Trust, forms to increase the supply of native plant seed for habitat restoration.



2022

Publication of *The Northeast Native Plant Primer* by Director of Horticulture Uli Lorimer



Among those commercial growers is Van Berkum Nursery, whose owner, John Gedraitis, is a long-time partner of Native Plant Trust. Van Berkum grows several species of Nasami’s seedlings to saleable size and returns them for retail sale at Nasami and Garden in the Woods, freeing Nasami staff time and greenhouse space for seed processing and propagation. For the past six years, Van Berkum has sold plants of local ecotypes; but as demand for the ecotypic stock has grown, a shortage of outdoor growing space has constrained production. “During the past several years, as plant sales have grown considerably at Native Plant Trust’s two sites, we have also been receiving more requests for ecotypic plants and seed,” he says. “To meet our production goals and get more native plants into the hands of consumers, we saw an opportunity to be part of the solution and grow more native plants for seed.” Gedraitis says that the nursery has never relied solely on wild-collected plant material and grows plants for production in stock beds. He plans to continue this practice as demand increases.

To this end, Van Berkum Nursery recently purchased a 23-acre farm in nearby Epsom, NH, to develop for seed production. “Our staff has partnered with Native Plant Trust’s team to develop planting and management protocols for seed production at our new farm, which we will implement soon,” he says. “We are leaning into their expertise to plant the land and conceptualize gold-standard practices in all aspects of native seed production. It’s been very, very exciting.”

The prospect of growing seed not only for business, but also for environmental good is what has drawn most of those who came out on a crisp morning to check out Nasami Farm’s seed plot and processing facility. “In the end,” says Lorimer, “this entire project is about increasing biodiversity, which means more birds, more insects, and more wildlife support—all the benefits of restoration. That’s the ultimate dream here. To restore more of an increasingly fragmented landscape, we need all the tools at our disposal.”

“We saw an opportunity to be part of the solution and grow more native plants for seed.”

—John Gedraitis, owner,
Van Berkum Nursery



How You Can Help

Native Plant Trust’s Restoration Accelerator™ is ready to receive requests for seed storage and processing services. We welcome requests from individuals and organizations, including seed collectors, growers, nonprofits, and public agencies. For more information, email RA@NativePlantTrust.org.

Your support is essential for all the conservation, horticulture, and education initiatives being launched in our 125th year, including the Restoration Accelerator™. To donate, please use the envelope included, go online to nativeplanttrust/support, or contact our Philanthropy department at gifts@NativePlantTrust.org; 774-301-8454.

Jane Roy Brown © Native Plant Trust

2023

Nasami Farm creates a plot to grow common species for seed, funded by Northeast SARE, and builds a climate-controlled seed-storage facility and seed-processing building, funded by an anonymous foundation.



2024

At Garden in the Woods, Horticulture staff complete construction of a new Hop Brook bridge and boardwalk, funded by Mass Cultural Council and several generous donors.



Awarding Two Distinguished Leaders

—By Tracey Willmott, Director of Philanthropy

Native Plant Trust is proud to recognize two outstanding leaders who embody our ideals in plant conservation and environmental protection with our Distinguished Leadership Award: Abby and Peter Coffin.

The Coffins embrace the principles of Native Plant Trust with inspiration, sincerity, and generosity of spirit. Together, they are tireless advocates for protecting and conserving the land and waterways of our nation.

During her tenures on the board, council, and many Native Plant Trust committees, Abby has embodied true board leadership. Her thoughtful ideas, insights, and direction have sustained and greatly improved Native Plant Trust programs and operations.

Abby's commitment to conserving native plants and ecosystems is exemplified by her service as board chair for Mountain Top Arboretum in Tannersville, NY; and by her long-term service and dedication to the Garden Club of America, her local garden club, and her community. Her devotion has helped to expand public support for native plant conservation and stewardship across the United States.

Peter is the founder and executive chair of Breckinridge Capital Advisors—a company emphasizing environmental, social, and governance performance in its income strategies—and recently completed his term as Chair of the Board of The Trustees of Reservations. Native Plant Trust is deeply grateful to be guided by such people of insight, experience, and resolve who confront challenges with the confidence and optimism that help chart a successful course for the future of the environment.



Celebrating You...

What your amazing commitment to nature means

Thank you to everyone who understands that plants are the cornerstones of our planet and whose financial support has helped conserve and promote New England's native plants. We especially want to recognize those of you who have made Native Plant Trust one of your philanthropic priorities.



CONSERVATION CIRCLE AND LEADERSHIP GIFTS

The total giving noted here is for fiscal year 2024, ending December 31, and reflects restricted and unrestricted gifts, membership dues, and pledges. Our Conservation Circle honors individuals whose generous support reached \$1,000.00 or more. Leadership gifts and grants from companies and foundations also had an extraordinary impact.

The expansion of the outdoor retail plant area at Garden in the Woods was made possible by a grant from the Beacon Hill Garden Club and support from several magnanimous individuals. The improved layout helps inspire visitors to plant natives at their own homes and local landscapes. © Ngoc Minh Ngo

\$100,000+

Anonymous (2)
Abby and Peter B. Coffin
BNY Mellon Charitable Gift Funds
Fidelity Charitable Gift Funds
Lauren and William I. Huyett
Massachusetts Cultural Council
Jackie and Thomas Stone
Martha Wallace and Ed Kane

\$25,000 – \$99,999

Anonymous
John C. Barber
Frances H. Clark and Bernard J. McHugh
Ruah Donnelly and Steven E. Dinkelaker
Loring Wolcott & Coolidge Charitable Trusts
Janine Luke
Sharon and Brad Malt
David A. and Teresa A. Martland
Michele H. Mittelman
Edward P. Petcavage
Elizabeth and Russell Pyle
Schwab Charitable Gift Funds
Estate of Galen L. Stone†
The Fund for Charitable Giving

\$10,000 – \$24,999

Anonymous (2)
Louise F. Ahearn
Christine and Randall Battat
Beacon Hill Garden Club
Boston Foundation
Lalor and Patricia N. Burdick
Center for Plant Conservation
Combined Jewish Philanthropies
Edward S. and Arabella N. Dane
Charles and Carol Fayerweather

Marjorie D. and Nicholas P. Greville
Helen Clay Frick Foundation
Elizabeth B. Johnson
Johnson-Stillman Family Foundation
Geri Payne
Bob and Amy Rands
Rising Phoenix Foundation
Barbara and Edward Scolnick
The Nature Conservancy
Pilot House Philanthropy
Vanguard Charitable

† Denotes deceased donors

\$5,000 – \$9,999

Anonymous (4)
 Annemarie Altman
 Benevity
 Cape Code Foundation
 Caroline Blanton Thayer 1990
 Charitable Trust
 Charlesview Foundation
 William G. Constable
 Courtney Ek and Steven Tsai
 Margaret Emerson
 Margaret and John Falk
 Nancy L. Goodman and
 Mike Kotarba
 Estate of Martha Griffin†
 Dr. Kendy M. Hess
 Lucile P. and William C. Hicks
 Lola Horwitz
 Liisa N. Kissel
 National Philanthropic Trust
 Estate of Alla O'Brien†
 Lori K. and Roland F. Pease Jr.
 Catherine L. Pepe
 George and Kathy Putnam
 Miguel A. Rosales and
 John David Corey
 Rhode Island Foundation
 Susan Schadler and
 Leslie Lipschitz
 Kathleen E. and
 Robert C. Shamberger
 Leo S. Walsh Foundation

\$1,000 – \$4,999

Anonymous (3)
 Abode Energy Management
 Alexandra S. Andrews
 William S. Andreas
 Jessica Baker and
 Patrick Doyle
 Allison Barlow
 Paul Barringer
 Glenn Batchelder and
 Candace J. Young
 Molly and John E. Beard
 Priscilla E. Bender
 Lisa M. Bendixen and
 Jonathan Leehey
 Janet S. and
 Dr. Robert A. Bissell
 Ellen A. Bisschopp and
 Ray A. Capobianco
 Mary Anne Borge and
 Jeff Worthington
 Sandra and Stephen Bravo
 Aviva and Douglas Brooks
 Ralph Brown and Sue Murray
 Janet Buchwald and
 Joel Moskowitz
 Bunchberry Foundation
 Kimberly and Dennis Burns
 Lizanne Campbell
 Marty H. Carlock
 Carol L. Cheney
 Lucinda Chrislip

John A. Clark and
 Elizabeth P. Barringer
 Susan and David Clark
 David L. and
 Rebecca E. Conant
 Judith H. Cook
 Commonwealth Charitable
 Fund
 Community Foundation of
 Western Massachusetts
 Kathleen and Paul Connolly
 Dr. William W. and
 Martha P. Cooper
 Susan and Joseph Coppola
 David H. and
 Louise A. Coughlan
 Serena Crosina and
 Michael Thomas
 Crowell Family Foundation
 Michelle Crowley
 Stuart L. Cummings
 Cummings Community Giving
 Elizabeth and John Darley
 Polly Darnell
 Martha R. Davis
 Constance G. Deeks
 Graelyn Dettmer
 Allyn and Margaret Dimock
 Peter V. Doyle and
 Ellen Clancy
 Ellen P. and Thomas B. Draper
 Samuel H. and
 Nancy J. Duncan

Pamela B. and
 David W. Durrant
 Leigh A. Dunworth and
 Dr. Alan E. Smith
 Suzanne W. Dworsky
 Echo Charitable Foundation
 Ralph C. Eagle Jr.
 Donna Eden
 Robin B. and Samuel Fan
 Lisa and George B. Foote
 Barbara and
 Stephen A. Fossey
 Barbara and Reginald Foster
 Susan H. Frey and
 Michael Burns
 Janet W. Ganson
 Garden Club of Mount Desert
 Maxine Giammo and
 Geoffrey Von Maltzahn
 Annette Gosnell
 Michael Grabbe
 Suzanne Groet and
 Michael Watson
 Susan R. Gunderson
 Douglas B. Harding
 Hartford Foundation
 Charlotte Harvey
 Catherine M. and
 Richard A. Hatfield
 Nancy Hazard
 Thelma K. and John H. Hewitt
 Daniel Hildreth
 Ingrid J. and
 John M. Hotchkiss
 Katherine A. Howard
 Jewish Communal Fund
 Ingrid Johnson and
 Deborah Nelson
 Barbara Katzenberg and
 Peter Piela
 Elizabeth Kauffman
 Dr. Barbara M. and
 Robert A. Keller
 Abigail and Joseph Kelling
 Kenwood Foundation



Seed Technician
 Kate Wellspring and
 Herbarium Project
 Assistant Fitz Dettmer
 document herbarium
 specimens. A generous
 challenge match and
 show of support from
 130 donors surpassed
 the fundraising goal for
 the herbarium project,
 and digitizing the
 specimens has begun.
 © Native Plant Trust

Louise Keogh-Weed and
John Keogh
Jane and Bruce Keough
Judith D. King
Lynne Klemmer and
Erik Husby
John H. and Polly W. Knowles
Virginia Lane
Sarah Lederman
David S. Lee
Jaeok and Kang Lee
Emily L. and George Lewis
Faye H. and David P. Lieb
Deborah Lievens
David L. Lindsay
Dr. Hope N. Luckie and
Matthew T. Grasse
Brian K. and Anne S. Mazar
Stephen McCarthy
Virginia McIntyre and
John Stevens
Deirdre Menoyo
Elizabeth A. and
Bernard Meyer
Mezitt Horticultural
Foundation
Enid R. Mingolelli
John W. Murphy
John Natoli
Dr. Christopher Neill and
Dr. Linda A. Deegan
New Hampshire Charitable
Foundation
Northeast Sustainable
Agriculture Research and
Education Program
Deborah Nowers
Carolyn M. Osteen
Overhills Foundation
Dr. Gregory Palermo
Virginia and George Parker
Richard B. and
Beverly S. Peiser
Plimpton-Shattuck Fund
Barbara F. and
Frederick M. Pryor



The Conservation Circle got a behind-the-scenes tour at Wellesley College, including the Frost Center for the Environment, Global Flora greenhouses, and campus gardens. © Native Plant Trust

Amira Quraishi
Carey Radebaugh and
Mylene Priam
Elisabeth A. Raleigh
Renaissance Charitable
Foundation
Pamela P. and Griffith L. Resor
Robert Hanss, Inc.
Robert Treat Paine
Association
Estate of Sandra S. Rodgers†
Lucas Rogers and
Mathieu Gagne
Robert Roggeveen
Elizabeth Ross
Judy Ryon and Walter North
Sarah Schwaegler
Catherine Schwenk
Anne K. Serrell
Ruth and Bill Shelley
Diana D. Simoni
M. Faye H. and John Sinnott
Nicholas A. Skinner
Edwin E. and
Katherine T. Smith
Mark Smith and John O'Keefe
Dr. Lisa A. Standley
Kathleen Starke and
Jon Jakubos
Donald J. and Meg Steiner
T. Rowe Price Charitable
Thrivent Charitable Impact
& Investing

Christine Towle and
John Lescher
Triple T Foundation
Cornelia Trubey
Vincent Turano
Upper Valley Native Plant
Conservation Fund
U.S. Charitable Gift Trust
Edwina von Gal
Tony and Lorraine A. Wain
Jean Walsh and
Graham Davies
Dr. Denham Ward
Paul M. Wexelblat
Timothy W. and
Ellen H. Whitney
Jim and Betty† Wickis
Robin E. Wilkerson and
Steve Atlas
Christina Wood
Richard S. Wood
Patty Wylde
Susan Zacharias

\$500 – \$999

Anonymous (5)
Elizabeth Alden and
Leo J. Dunn
Michael Argue
George and Terri Balogh
Tim Bancroft and Julie Baer
Bank of America Charitable
Gift Funds
Katie and Neal Barnes
George and Barbara Beal
Rebecca Behizadeh
Mara T. Beliveau
Michele L. and Alan
Bembenek
Dr. Peter M. Brem and
Mrs. Elaine Brem
Eleanor Briggs
Linda and Fred Brownson
Sara H. Brydges
Bernice Buresh and
Rachel Hirsch
Blair D. Carlson and
Betty Dannewitz
Lisa Cashdan and Peter Stein
Phil Catchings
Dr. Ronald Cobb and
Dr. Janet Weathers
George F. Colony and
Ann Colony
Peter J. and Philippa
Condakes
Tracey Cornogg and
Anthony Miranda

Sally Coughlin
 Stirling and Brian Cousins
 Francine Crawford and
 William E. Crawford
 Crawford Foundation
 Bonnie Day and
 Terrance Goss
 Kerry Dietz and Eva Schocken
 Kathryn E. deKrafft and
 Kenneth Skudder
 Fitzwilliam Dettmer
 Matthew Dettmer
 Martha and Donald Dolben
 April Donahower and
 Alex Perdue
 Eric J. Drobinski Memorial
 Foundation
 Nancy and Lee Dunham
 Amy Englehart and
 Dana Gordon
 Jeanne Fallon
 Mike Fallon and
 Joyce M. Greenleaf
 Jennifer and Carlo Favazza
 J. Skyla Fay
 Kathie R. Florsheim
 Susan Fox and Greg Melville
 Rhonda and Luke Fowler
 James Frantzreb and
 Isabel Simons
 Patricia Freysinger
 Stanley and Cheryl Fry
 Keith and Jennifer Garrant
 Dorothy J. Gilman and
 Steven Gilman
 Give Lively Foundation, Inc.
 Susan Greco and Jan Machnik
 Michael Groaning and
 Catherine Horwitz
 Elliott Morra and
 Kimberly E. Gurlitz
 Terese A. Hammerle
 Kathryn Hanlon
 Andrea Harris
 Calann and Robin Hertel
 Matthew Horsfield

Yutaka and Sally Ishizaka
 Catherine IZard and
 Mark Desnoyer
 John and Mary R. James
 Lauren Jansen and
 Charley Swofford
 Lauren Johnson and
 Marissa Mandel
 Eric Jones
 Laura and Eric Jordahl
 Martha Juelich and
 Mike Richard
 Carolyn Kemp
 Paul and Amelia Kominers
 George Krein
 Marta Jo Lawrence
 Andrea Lewis and Jill Borrelli
 Maine Community
 Foundation
 Curtis W. Marble
 Judith Maro and
 Vijay Vanguri
 Sarah A. and
 Douglas S. Marshall
 Dr. Michele McCormick
 Julien McKee and
 Abigail Rogers-McKee
 Raina and Michael McManus
 Robert McNamee and
 Alexandra McNamee
 John Meierhoffer
 Elizabeth P. Meyer
 Christina Millet
 Wyatt J. Mills and
 Gwyn A. Mills
 Marianne V. Moore and
 Nicholas L. Rodenhouse
 Jody and Garlan Morse
 Network for Good
 Noanett Garden Club
 Dr. Thomas Norton and
 Patricia Norton
 Kathleen Obbagy
 Jennifer and Mark Panosky
 Ivy Parish
 Chris and Vicki Perley

Dr. Joan Petracca
 Karen D. and
 Matthew V. Pierce
 Debra and John Piot
 Garry R. and
 Virginia L. Plunkett
 Fran Pollitt and Frank Briber
 Bonnie B. Potter
 Ute and Patrick Prevost
 Janet Rassweiler
 Pamela and John Scott Reid
 Joseph H. Rice
 Jacqueline Rigolio
 Mary and Simon Robinson
 Marjorie H. Roy
 Catherine and Phil Saines
 Brenda Salyer
 Robert T. and
 Sharon G. Sanford
 Tom and Barbara Sargent
 Dr. Marilyn Sarles
 Paula and Michael Sarli
 Loring and Andrew Schwarz
 Linda Skeff
 Stevenson Family Charitable
 Trust
 Fredericka and
 Howard Stevenson
 Elaine Stone

Anne Symchych
 Barbara A. Tarrh and
 John Tarrh
 David V.N. Taylor
 Karen K. and
 David F. Thomas
 Sara Timmons
 Dr. Michele Trucksis
 Unitarian Universalist Church
 of Concord
 Letitia Upton and David Stein
 Rosemary Van Antwerp
 Janet Veasey and Bob Binney
 Vermont Community
 Foundation
 Kathleen Vetter and
 John Zurich
 Hartley D. Webster and
 Benson Webster
 Catherine and Craig Weston
 Mercy H. Wheeler
 Harriet P.S. Williams and
 Peter L. Askin
 Mundy Wilson Piper and
 Win Piper
 Laurel Zangerl-Salter
 Ester Zhao

CEO Tim Johnson with interns at Garden in the Woods. Endowments and annual gifts from forward-thinking people support a new group of student interns every year for career-boosting experiences in horticulture and conservation. Courtesy Art Illman, MetroWest Daily News



LIFE MEMBERS

These dedicated individuals have chosen to play a long-term role in the preservation of New England's native plants by becoming life members.

- Judy A. Artley and Charles T. Moses
- Nancy H. August
- John C. Barber
- Julia A. Barber
- Lisa M. Bendixen
- Janet S. Bissell
- William Brumback
- Patricia Callan and Chuck Crafts
- Jane Chatfield
- Terry A. Chvisuk
- Edward H. and Sandy Coburn
- Frederick R. and Jeanine Coburn
- Martha F. Coburn and Robert W. Carlson
- Robert S. Coburn
- Virginia and Jay Coburn
- Judith H. Cook
- Jane Davis
- David L. DeKing
- Patricia A. Diggins
- Ann Dinsmore and Richard Nemrow
- Peter V. Doyle
- Elizabeth Dudley
- Debbi Edelstein
- Edward Elliman
- Elizabeth S. and Frederic A. Eustis
- Janet Fillion and Richard Laine
- Joanne C. and Lionel L. Fray
- Anne and Walter J. Gamble
- Newton Garland
- Nancy L. Goodman and Mike Kotarba
- Christine M. Gradijan
- Marjorie D. and Nicholas P. Greville
- Barbara A. and Charles A. Grunden
- Ervina Hamilton



Volunteers Janet Bissell (L) and Judy Ptak received the 2024 Volunteer Service Award and life memberships in honor of their outstanding service to Native Plant Trust. We are deeply grateful to the hundreds of volunteers who provide active, hands-on support every year. Jane Roy Brown © Native Plant Trust

- Dena and G.F. Hardymon
- Allyson Hayward
- Deborah and Richard Hellmold
- Thelma K. and John H. Hewitt
- Catherine M. Huntley
- Dr. Kristina N. Jones
- Larry L. Jones
- George Kocur
- Arthur P. Kreiger and Rebecca Benson
- David L. Lindsay
- David R. Longland
- Dr. Eugene I. Majerowicz
- Ellen B. and Duncan McFarland
- Michele H. Mittelman
- Sally McGuire Muspratt
- Beverly Myers
- Bruce Patterson
- Judith Pierce
- May H. Pierce
- Peggy Plimpton
- Ellen M. Poss
- Christine A. Psathas and Robert E. Shabot
- Judy Ptak
- Harriet D. Purcell
- Dr. Paul J. Rich
- Bonnie and Phillip Rosenthal
- Johanna Ross
- Barbara V. Rowland
- Marjorie H. Roy
- Maureen L. and Michael C. Ruetters
- Aire-Maija Schwann
- Catherine Schwenk
- Robin Shield
- William and Hatsy Shields
- Peggy Spaeth
- Gwen L. Stauffer
- Dr. Edward S. Valentine
- Dr. Nancy L. Weiss
- Cheryl K. Wilfong
- Robin E. Wilkerson and Steve Atlas
- Patty Wylde
- Margaret F. and T.C. Price Zimmermann



With Director of Horticulture Uli Lorimer (second from L), our Council members preview the new bulk seed-processing and storage facilities at Nasami Farm last fall. Jane Roy Brown © Native Plant Trust

TRILLIUM SOCIETY

To help ensure our future ability to conserve native plants and their habitats, the following generous friends have included us in their estate plans.

Anonymous (21)
 Elizabeth L. Aghajanian
 Annemarie Altman
 Lalor Burdick
 William J. Claff
 Frances H. Clark
 Sarah A. Cline
 Abby Coffin
 Stuart L. Cummings
 Kathryn E. deKrafft
 Ruah Donnelly
 Peter V. Doyle and
 Ellen Clancy
 Christopher R. Ely
 Nancy L. Goodman
 George C. and
 Diantha C. Harrington
 Thelma K. Hewitt
 Katherine A. Howard

Patti Laier
 Kim Laws
 Marla Levitre
 Sharon and Brad Malt
 Mardi J. Mauney
 Stephen McCarthy
 Deirdre Menoyo
 Carole M. Merrifield
 Bettina L. Messana
 Shawn K. Morris
 Margaret J. Nation
 Ken Nimblett
 Carolyn M. Osteen
 Jessie B. Panek
 Lauren A. Parrilla
 Geri Payne
 Karen D. and
 Matthew V. Pierce
 Barbara F. Pryor

Rachel Ross
 Catherine Schwenk
 Lara S. Skinner
 Dorine A. Smith
 Anita E. Springer
 Jackie and Thomas E. Stone
 Christine A. Towle
 Leslie Turek
 Dr. Edward S. Valentine
 Martha J. Wallace
 Nancy L. Weiss
 Mary Beth Wheeler
 Ellen Hartshorne Whitney
 Cheryl K. Wilfong
 Erika Wolbach
 Patty Wylde

MATCHING GIFT COMPANIES

We extend special thanks to these businesses, and their employees, for their generous support in 2024.

AbbVie Inc.
 Agilent Scientific Instruments
 Analog Devices
 Applied Materials Inc.
 Biogen
 Blue Cross Blue Shield of
 Massachusetts
 Bristol Myers Squibb

Empower Retirement LLC
 Etsy
 Gartner Inc.
 Google Inc.
 HCA Healthcare
 Hewlett Packard Enterprise
 Foundation
 Intuit Inc.

Johnson & Johnson
 MFS Investment Management
 Microsoft
 Takeda Pharmaceutical
 Company

TRIBUTES

In 2024, we received honoraria or memorial donations in tribute to the following friends, colleagues, mentors, and loved ones.

In Honor of

- Rev. Ann Aaberg
- Jenn and Nick Bailey
- Diana Conroy
- Deborah Costine
- Arabella S. Dane
- Jane A. Desforjes
- Joshua Dion
- Ted Elliman
- Karro Frost
- Mark Geoffroy
- Marjorie D. Greville
- Rebecca and Matthew Henning
- Anna Holland
- Jo
- Joe and Nancy
- Jess and Andy
- Barbara M. Keller
- Hnoin Dine Laslie
- Uli Lorimer
- Julie Lutz
- Daniel Marcucci and Grace Cordts
- Amy Mertl
- Polly Pierce
- Michael Posner
- Bonnie Power
- Fran and Spence Putnam
- Elisabeth A. Raleigh
- Robert Rands
- Alice B. Schori
- Nancy Sodano
- Martha J. Wallace
- James Wilson
- Shirley M. Zachry

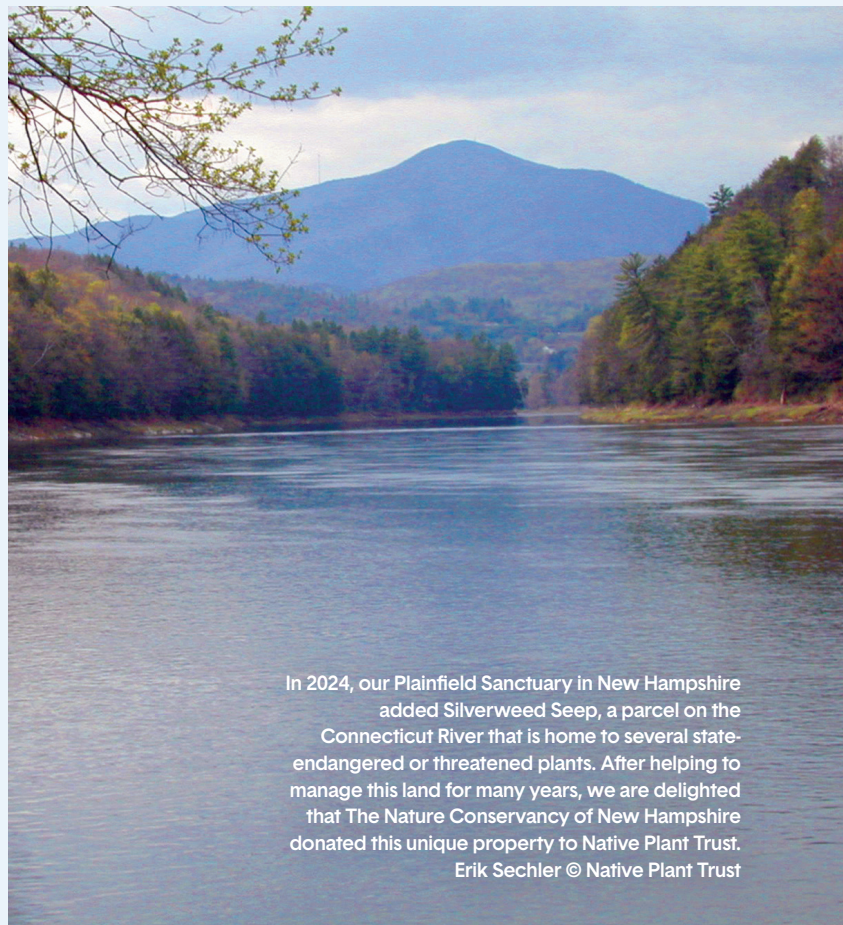
In Memory of

- John Aubry
- Marie Bolger
- David and Barbara Bristol
- Spencer C. Brookes II
- Hugh J. Caperton and Elizabeth L. Caperton
- Jimmy Carter
- Katie Clifford
- Agnes C. Ginger Esty
- Dr. Elizabeth Farnsworth
- William W. Fitch
- Viola Mary Gasperi
- Nancy A. Howe
- Helen Marble
- Betty Muto
- Adriana O'Sullivan
- Jean Page
- Elizabeth S. Paynter
- Marie Peltz Kuk
- Leland Perry
- Dr. Michael J. Robinson
- Manny Santos
- Martha Wood Schroeder
- Carolyn L. Selldorff
- Roy Sodano
- John C. Stanley
- Mary Ann Streeter
- Margot Turano
- Laura Voorhies
- Dr. Adriaan Walther
- Gail West
- Robert J. Willis

GIFTS-IN-KIND

Gifts-in-kind uniquely allowed us to expand our programmatic impact in 2024.

- Sharon and Brad Malt
- Susan Schadler and Leslie Lipschitz
- Patricia Seitz
- Nancy Serrell



In 2024, our Plainfield Sanctuary in New Hampshire added Silverweed Seep, a parcel on the Connecticut River that is home to several state-endangered or threatened plants. After helping to manage this land for many years, we are delighted that The Nature Conservancy of New Hampshire donated this unique property to Native Plant Trust.
Erik Sechler © Native Plant Trust



FOREVER GREEN

Preserving the Wild Tapestry of Our World

— Peter Doyle, Gift Planning Consultant

Every leaf, every flower, every seed contributes to a healthier and more diverse environment. Like the intricate ecosystems that native plants create, your support sustains our multifaceted work to save native plants.

You can choose many ways to make a significant gift to your favorite nonprofit, and making Native Plant Trust a beneficiary of your life insurance policy is one of the simplest. It's a brilliant strategy when you consider that policy benefits typically eclipse the cost of the premiums, so your donation might be greater than any you could make during your lifetime.

Imagine the impact of your generosity on the natural world. Plus, this type of charitable gift comes with a financial perk for your loved ones. The death benefit paid to a nonprofit reduces your overall estate, possibly offering a positive tax outcome for your heirs.

Help us preserve the wild tapestry of our world. Please consider using a life insurance policy to continue your commitment to the environment well into the future. You'll be joining fellow nature lovers in our very special legacy group, the Trillium Society, who are also helping ensure that every leaf, every seed, every native plant in New England survives and thrives.

To learn more about how your life insurance policy can support the native plants of New England, contact: peterdoyle215@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE: This is general information and is not presented as specific legal or tax advice.



Native Plant Trust Council member Peter V. K. Doyle is a gift-planning specialist who worked for Harvard Medical School, Harvard Business School, Wellesley College, and other institutions before retiring and becoming a consultant. He is currently shedding most of his long-standing clients to devote more time to Native Plant Trust.



Together We Stand at a Crossroads

—By Tracey Willmott, Director of Philanthropy

It is strange to be celebrating 125 years of conservation success and know that we must work harder than ever during an unprecedented period of shifting environmental and political challenges.

With the effects of a changing climate becoming more visible on the landscape, Native Plant Trust's mission—still true to its roots in 1900—is as forward-looking as ever. From shifts in species distribution to changes in which plants thrive in gardens, nature is displaying signs that we humans cannot afford to ignore. In these uncertain times, your support for our work is needed more than ever. Right now, you have unrivaled power to make a positive difference in the region's wild places and gardens alike. Do it for yourself. Do it for your family. Do it for future generations.



Right now, you have unrivaled power to make a positive difference on the region's wild places and garden alike.

For more than a century, friends like you have helped achieve a multitude of conservation successes, build significant growth in ecological horticulture, and create a groundswell of interest in the native plant movement. These accomplishments have built a strong foundation; however, we urgently need your help to continue these efforts in this special anniversary year.

Your passion and fortitude fuel this work. At this critical juncture, you can have a profound impact in securing a sustainable future for New England's native plants. We won't back down. We trust you won't either. Thank you!

Please donate now:
www.nativeplanttrust.org/support
774-301-8454
gifts@NativePlantTrust.org



CHANGING SEASONS

Of Ferns and Their Beneficiaries

—Cole Campbell, Propagation Horticulturist, Garden in the Woods

Last spring, I was on an early morning walk through Garden in the Woods when a ruby-throated hummingbird zipped by my head. It was on a mission, as they always seem to be. The hummingbird hovered around a nearby cinnamon fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum* ssp. *cinnamomeum*), where it began to collect the fuzzy, cinnamon-colored fibers off the base of the plant. Its beak quickly filled, and the hummingbird flew off once again, this time to its nest perched on a nearby yellow birch branch. I had read that hummingbirds can use cinnamon fern to line their nests, but I never dreamed I would have the chance to see it happen.

Although it's not immediately obvious, ferns can support birds in many ways beyond providing nesting material. Ferns are host plants for several species of moths and butterflies that modify the fern fronds and create ideal shelter for spiders. Ninety-six percent of birds rely on insects and spiders as food at some point in their lives, including arthropods associated with ferns. In addition to food, ferns with a creeping habit, like eastern hay-scented fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*) and New York fern (*Amauropelta noveboracensis*), provide countless bird species with a place to rest and hide from predators. Ferns also improve the overall health of ecosystems by stabilizing soil, retaining soil moisture, and filtering water. These benefits help birds and humans alike. Ferns that suit the conditions of your home landscape are a great addition to an ecological garden and may even draw in a ruby-throated hummingbird or two.

Cinnamon fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*) Dan Jaffe Wilder © Native Plant Trust



Native Plant Trust **GARDEN SHOP**

Now open at
Garden in the Woods
and Nasami Farm

Thank you for making 2024
a great planting season.
Download our 2025 native
plants list and shop now.

Gift cards available.

www.nativeplants.org

Every purchase supports
our mission. Thank you!

Your Natural Legacy

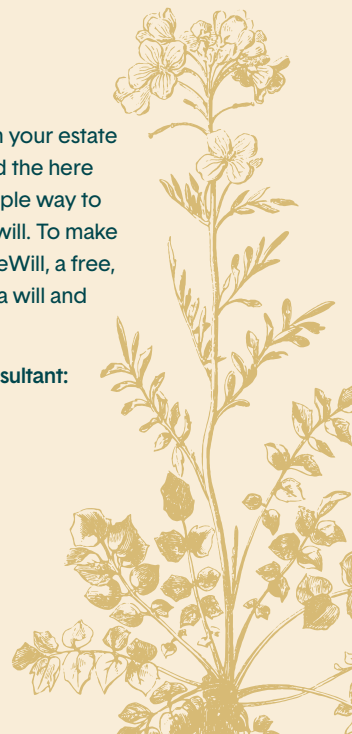
Planning to include a gift to Native Plant Trust from your estate extends your passion for the natural world beyond the here and now and creates an enduring legacy. One simple way to establish your legacy is by including a gift in your will. To make that as easy as possible, we've partnered with FreeWill, a free, online resource that guides you through creating a will and legacy gift in just 20 minutes.

Questions? Contact Peter Doyle, Gift Planning Consultant:
peterdoyle215@gmail.com



Visit FreeWill.com/NPT
or scan the QR code.

PLEASE NOTE: This is general information and is not
presented as specific legal or tax advice.



CELEBRATING 125 YEARS



Native Plant Trust

Conserving and promoting
New England's native plants

HEADQUARTERS

321 Commonwealth Road, Suite 204
Wayland, MA 01778



CLIMATE CHANGE CAN-DO

Recycle Your Plastic Pots Here

Good news! Native Plant Trust's Garden Shops now recycle plastic pots from plants purchased at Garden in the Woods and Nasami Farm, thanks to our recycling partnership with Van Berkum Nursery in Deerfield, NH. Please return your pots to the Garden Shops at either location during their open hours.