



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## NATIVE PLANT TRUST AND AUDUBON SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND OFFER NATIVE PLANT DESIGN SYMPOSIUM

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Native Plant Trust, the nation's first plant conservation organization and the only one solely focused on New England's native plants, announces a Native Plant Design Symposium in partnership with the Audubon Society of Rhode Island, featuring experts in ecological design and in landscape architecture.

The Native Plant Design Symposium takes place on Friday, October 25, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Audubon Society of Rhode Island's Nature Center in Bristol, RI. Space is limited – early registration is encouraged. To register for the event, please visit the "Learn" section of [www.NativePlantTrust.org](http://www.NativePlantTrust.org).

The full-day event highlights ecological design methods and strategies using native plants in both public and private spaces, and the role of native plants in shaping our ecosystems. It includes a keynote, panel discussion, and workshops. "The Native Plant Design Symposium will address large-scale issues, such as design's role in habitat restoration, and fine-grained points like new horticultural techniques," observes Courtney Allen, Native Plant Trust's Director of Public Programs. "As a community, we will explore design principles and their applications using native plants in different scenarios, from public parks to farms to residential properties."

Ann Kearsley, faculty member in landscape architecture at Rhode Island School of Design and principal of Ann Kearsley Design, will present the keynote. Ann Kearsley Design connects landscape form and spatial structure to the dynamics of a site's natural systems and the enhancement of ecosystem function.

Additional panelists and workshop presenters include:

Shannon Brawley, a geographer and landscape architect who is the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association, a professional trade association serving the state's green industry and promoting environmental stewardship.

Lindsey Langenburg, President of the Rhode Island chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects and a landscape architect with the Providence Parks Department. She has served as Principal Planner for the State of Rhode Island and has designed resilient waterfront landscapes for private estates.

Alan Peck, Superintendent of the 15-acre public garden Wilcox Park in Westerly, RI. The historic property, designed by renowned landscape architect Warren Manning, is known for its impressive trees and is a model native plant landscape. Wilcox Park was a demonstration site for Native Plant Trust's Pollinate New England garden initiative in 2018.

## ABOUT NATIVE PLANT TRUST

Native Plant Trust is the nation's first plant conservation organization and the only one solely focused on New England's native plants. We save native plants in the wild, grow them for gardens and restorations, and educate others on their value and use. We are based at Garden in the Woods, a renowned native plant botanic garden that attracts visitors from all over the world. From this flagship property in Framingham, Massachusetts, 25 staff and many of our 1,500 trained volunteers work throughout New England each year to monitor and protect rare and endangered plants, collect and preserve seeds to ensure biological diversity, detect and control invasive species, conduct research, and offer a range of educational programs. Native Plant Trust also operates a nursery at Nasami Farm in western Massachusetts and manages six sanctuaries in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont that are open to the public. Native Plant Trust is among the first organizations worldwide to receive Advanced Conservation Practitioner accreditation by London-based Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), which included an endorsement by an International Advisory Council representing six continents. Please visit [www.NativePlantTrust.org](http://www.NativePlantTrust.org).

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