



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Native Plant Trust Reopens Garden in the Woods to the Public with Timed Ticketing

Media Contact: Debbi Edelstein, Executive Director, dedelstein@NativePlantTrust.org, 508.877.7630 x3101

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(*Framingham, MA*) Native Plant Trust, the nation's first plant conservation organization and the only one solely focused on New England's native plants, announces the opening of its renowned botanic garden, Garden in the Woods, for the 2020 season.

"Life changed drastically in New England and the world over these last months, and we are pleased to be able to open Garden in the Woods so that members of Native Plant Trust and the public can find joy and solace in nature," notes Debbi Edelstein, Executive Director. "We have carefully put in place guidelines and procedures to keep visitors and staff safe, and thank everyone for their support."

All visitors will need to purchase a timed ticket in advance through Native Plant Trust's website, www.NativePlantTrust.org. Admission is free for the majority of Native Plant Trust's members, who will still need to go online to reserve a time. Garden in the Woods will be open daily, from 10am to 5pm (last timed ticket 4pm). To maintain a safe environment for visitors and staff, the number of people in the Garden will be limited each day. Play areas, restrooms and the gift shop will be closed, and picnic benches and other seating will not be available. Please note that for safety, there is no parking at the Garden or on Hemenway Road: parking is available on neighboring streets.

The plant sales areas at Garden in the Woods and Nasami Farm are still closed for in-person shopping. Plant orders placed with the shops by phone, email, or Zoom appointment can be picked up by appointment at both locations. See the website, www.NativePlantTrust.org for details.

For those unable to visit in person, the horticulture and conservation staff will continue to post videos and photos of what's in bloom on the website and social media. Please visit www.NativePlantTrust.org and follow Native Plant Trust on Facebook and Instagram @NativePlantTrust. A full array of remote learning opportunities will continue to be available through the Public Programs department.

"We stand with the scientific community in creating the safest possible environments for visitors, students, instructors, volunteers, partners, and staff," notes Courtney Allen, Director of Public Programs. "Over the past month, hundreds of participants joined Native Plant Trust for more than

twenty online education opportunities. We may not be able to gather in person for programs, but we can still get up close with plants. When in-person classes resume, depending on state policies and medical recommendations, we have plans in place to implement several precautions, such as reduced class sizes, sanitation protocols, and mandatory face coverings and physical distancing. Meanwhile, we continue to offer extensive online learning opportunities available to those in our region and beyond.”

For more information, please visit www.NativePlantTrust.org.

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.

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