



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A New Way of Experiencing the Restorative Power of Nature: Native Plant Trust Introduces THRIVE: A Plant-Art Virtual Experience

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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 a new virtual event, THRIVE, to take place on Friday, September 25, 6-8 p.m. Registration now open at www.NativePlantTrust.org.

THRIVE: A Plant-Art Virtual Experience is an evening of innovative, interdisciplinary exploration inspired by plants' perseverance. Cutting-edge visual, musical, and literary performance art will lead us on a hopeful journey, revealing how plants thrive through challenges and how humans can do the same. "During a time of physical distancing, it has become even more important to design new safe, creative virtual spaces to connect people with nature and with each other," says Courtney Allen, Director of Public Programs. "THRIVE is an opportunity to gather as a virtual community and celebrate hope during this challenging time."

The virtual event will be akin to a live performance art installation. Native Plant Trust will feature the work of Data Garden, a Los Angeles-based experimental music technology group that uses plants' biofeedback to create music; Fong Qi Wei, Singapore-based visual artist and creator of the *Exploded Flowers* photography series; Deborah Leipziger, Brookline-based Brazilian poet and author of *Flower Map*; and Ben Cosgrove, instrumental composer and musician whose work is inspired by New England landscapes. Further visual, literary, and musical artists will be announced as the event date approaches. Additional images and videography for the evening will highlight the plant collections at Native Plant Trust's Framingham botanic garden, Garden in the Woods, as well as explore the microscopic perspectives of plant life. There will also be interactive components, such as creating collaborative word clouds and collages with fellow participants.

Tickets for THRIVE: A Plant-Art Virtual Experience are \$25 and available at 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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