



Native Plant Fest of the Alleghenies

Natural Biodiversity and Johnstown Area Heritage Association are pleased to announce the first ever Native Plant Fest of the Alleghenies on May 22, 2010! Join us at the Johnstown Heritage Discovery Center in Johnstown, PA from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm to learn how native plants play a vital role in our ecosystems and can augment your garden. Not only do native plants provide wildlife habitat, they also offer a sense of place and a tangible connection to the past. Whatever your landscape needs this spring, many showy species of native perennials, shrubs, and trees will be available for purchase at the event!

Native plants will be sold by local and regional nurseries from 10 am to 4 pm and special programming is scheduled throughout the day. From 11:00 am to 12:30 pm, attendees are invited to participate in the native plant workshop. Part one of the workshop will feature Kathy McGregor, owner of Sylvania Natives in Pittsburgh. She will engage participants on the “how tos, which ones and why fors” of gardening with natives. Liz McDowell of the Western Mountains Chapter of the Maryland Native Plant Society will present the second part of the workshop on ways to use native plants to “battle botanical bullies” and enhance the region’s biodiversity. During that same time frame, two children’s programs will be offered in the Johnstown Children’s Museum, located in the Heritage Discovery Center.

Professor and author Doug Tallamy will be the day's keynote presenter at 1:30 pm. His book, *Bringing Nature Home*, has earned him widespread recognition and has inspired people around the nation to "go native." According to Tallamy, “because our gardens are part of the terrestrial ecosystems that sustain humans and the life around us, we must keep them in working order. Gardening in this crowded world carries both moral and ecological responsibilities that we can no longer ignore.” Tallamy will discuss the important ecological roles native plants play in our landscapes, emphasize the benefits of designing gardens with these roles in mind, and explore the consequences of failing to do so. His presentation will be followed by a book sale and signing.

Johnstown Area Heritage Association and Natural Biodiversity members are invited free-of-charge to any of the day’s events. The workshops and Doug Tallamy’s presentation cost \$5 each for non-members. The children’s workshops are free for kids whose parents attend the adult workshop. Because space is limited, reserve your spot for a workshop or the keynote presentation through Natural Biodiversity’s office at (814) 509-6036 or nbd_staff@naturalbiodiversity.org. For a more detailed outline of the Native Plant Fest, go to www.naturalbiodiversity.org/news to see the event’s flyer.