

GCFM NATIVE PLANT CHALLENGE

Volume IV | April 2021



[The Butterfly Garden at the Stony Brook Wildlife Sanctuary](#), maintained by the Garden Club of Norfolk, includes Wild Quinine, Bee Balm, Black-eyed Susan, Goldenrod (not yet blooming) and Liatris.

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MY FAVORITE NATIVE PLANT



New Jersey Tea, *Ceanothus americanus*

Hardy from Zone 3 to 9

New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*) thrives in a wide variety of soil types. Its roots dive deep seeking water wherever it is planted. In sandy or loamy soil, full sunlight, or partial shade, it thrives despite drought or heat. And since it is native up into Quebec, winter is not a problem.

Tight clusters of small white flowers on the tips of branches attract

numerous insects. Oval leaves (used as a tea substitute in revolutionary times) are a soft green in summer and turn a bright yellow in the fall. The branches form an attractive mounding crown and with its modest size (up to three ft. tall and 4 ft. wide), this shrub can be used a specimen plant or in masses.

Submitted by Betty Sanders, Medfield Garden Club

TWINLEAF A FAVORITE SPRING NATIVE

In April I always keep a close eye on my shade garden, watching for the elusive blooms of *Jeffersonia diphylla*, or Twinleaf. Twinleaf's distinctive paired leaves emerge first, often remaining furled and close to the ground while the first flower stalks grow taller to bear brilliant white blossoms. A breezy spring day will shatter the blossoms, leaving scattered petals as a reminder to watch the plants more closely for any buds that are yet to bloom. It is a delight to get the timing right and see this plant in full bloom. Even if you miss the flowers, the beautifully textured and paired leaves and the large helmet-shaped seed pods make the plant worth growing.

Submitted by Ellen Todd, Groton Garden Club



DESIGNING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

I signed up with the **Native Plant Trust** for their **Designing with Native Plants** online course. It is an incredible bargain at only \$50.00. It is about 12 hours of online programming and it is available to access up to June 15, 2021, but you must register by June 1st. I plan to download all the lists and slides for future reference and to use what I learn to design my own native plant garden at my home in Andover. I have listened to a number of online lectures on this topic, but this course will give me the design tools I need to put it all together!

This is a wonderful



opportunity for us all! Click [here](#) to download the syllabus.
[Register for this program.](#)

Submitted by Maria Bartlett, Andover Garden Club

Goat's Beard (*Aruncus dioicus*), Bugbone (*Actaea racemosa "Brunette"*), Lady Fern (*Athyrium "Ghost"*), Longwort (*Pulmonaria "Majeste"*) border Beth Jakubowski's home, Weston Garden Club and Native Plant ambassador for Middlesex County.

GARDENS TO VISIT THIS SUMMER

Betty Sanders, Medfield MA
(Late May or June)

Bonnie Rosenthal, 7 Old Harbor Lane, North Chatham MA
(July or August), 973-557-6186 (cell)

Suzanne Mahler, 152 Brookwood Road, Hanover MA
(July), 781-878-8039

All private garden tours should be arranged with the home/garden owner prior to any visit. Small Garden Club groups are welcome. Limit 10 people.

[Veasey Hilltop Native Garden](#), Veasey Park, Groveland MA

[Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary Gardens](#), 30 Peck Road, Wales MA

WHERE TO FIND NATIVE PLANTS

[Bay State Perennial Farm](#), 36 State Road (Routes 5 & 10), Whately MA

[Nasami Farms Nursery Native Plant Trust](#), 128 North Street, Whately MA

[New Moon Nursery](#), 910 Kings Highway, Woodstown NJ

(Wholesale only to state and local businesses, schools, and horticultural organizations.)

Don't forget to visit the GCFM website often. You can find other NPC resources, as well as interesting events, webinars, GCFM programs, Schools, Workshops, Flower Shows and Awards.

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