

NATUREWORKS



A Landscape for All Creatures

Greetings!

We are back from the CT Flower and Garden Show in Hartford. What a week we had! Mother Nature cooperated and it was our busiest show ever. We saw lots of our customers and made many new friends. I taught two classes. The first one on growing food packed the room, people were turned away. Luckily, I will be doing a two hour version of that same class on April 2nd. Be sure to download our Winter/Early Spring Class Brochure [click here](#) and check out all the upcoming classes. This is a great time to learn, plan, and prepare for the growing season that is right around the corner.

Speaking of upcoming classes, this Saturday, February 27th we are having an

all day seminar: **A Landscape for all Creatures**. We have a lot of people already pre-registered and walk-ins are welcome. For \$40, you get an "all-day pass" which means you can take SIX classes for less than \$7 per class! We start out with humans. What does that mean? I will discuss how you can organize your yard for the various activities you want to enjoy with your family whether it be growing food, making compost, entertaining, or cooking. Then we will talk about making your yard welcoming for birds, wildlife, pollinators, butterflies, and hummingbirds. We will be bringing all kinds of wonderful books to sell as well as seeds to enhance the habitats in your yard. Of course, there will be handouts and lists galore.



What's blooming in YOUR garden? At Natureworks and at home, I have winter aconite and snowdrops in flower.

What's blooming in your yard this week? I have snowdrops everywhere, winter aconite, Hellebores, and witch hazel. Remember last fall when I kept telling you to plant more early blooming bulbs? Well, NOW is when you truly appreciate the



My 'Arnold's Promise' witch hazel opened in two days after I cut it and put it in a vase for the flower show. The buds are starting to open outdoors this week. It is SO bewitchingly fragrant!

delightful surprise of walking outside and seeing something, *anything* in bloom. Open your calendar to October 2016 and place a note there- **BUY BULBS FROM NATUREWORKS!** By the time autumn arrives, you will have forgotten how flower starved you were in late February and March. Trust me on this. My staff will help you plan a lovely succession of color from early spring bulbs and teach you how and where to plant them. Meanwhile, in the

present moment, I am hoping for an *early* spring. We open for the season on Sunday, March 20th, the first day of spring. The following Sunday is Easter!



Hellebores are one of the best perennials for the shady garden. We have 22 varieties coming in this spring!

Many Hellebores are flowering right now. This is one of the very best, reliable perennials for shade gardens. Some varieties bloom in winter, others in April. The newest hybrids don't set seed so they keep on budding up and flowering for 6-12 weeks. Their leathery, deep green foliage anchors the garden for the entire growing season. Recently, I have been studying a new, cutting edge book: Planting in a Post Wild World. This is one of FOUR books I am reading this winter in order to better understand a new design style I will be experimenting with. (And YES, all of these books will be for sale at our upcoming classes and seminars, stay tuned...) One thing that was discussed in the chapter I just finished, on plants that grow on the forest floor, is that they have very deep, dark green leaves because they produce more chlorophyll than other plants. This is an adaptation to growing in such low light conditions. That explains why the foliage on Hellebores is so rich and dark. If you love Hellebores, let me tell you that we have 22 varieties on order for spring! I would bet that many will be available when we open. Wouldn't they make a superb Easter gift?

Coming up very soon is the CT N.O.F.A. Winter Conference on March 12 & 13. It is the largest organic food and farming conference in Connecticut! Naturally, Natureworks will have a vendor booth where we will be selling lots of organic seeds and other organic gardening supplies. Organized annually by the Northeast

Organic Farming Association of Connecticut, this conference is a "must-attend" event for all farmers, gardeners, foodies interested in sustainability and new ways of growing. Enjoy workshops, a keynote, convivial networking, learning, celebration and feasting throughout the day. REGISTER TODAY:

<http://ctnofa.org/winterconference>

For those of you new to Natureworks, you may not realize that I was on the board of NOFA/CT and was actually the president for a few years back in the 90's. No, I never actually had a farm, but my passion for promoting and teaching about organic growing and my ability to run a meeting and plan conferences got me elected to that honor. Now, in 2016, I am totally thrilled by the amount of organic products finally available. They used to call me that crazy organic lady, but not anymore!



There are so many ways to learn about growing your own food. Grow Day at Natureworks is coming up on March 5th. The CT NOFA conference is March 12th. Grow the Most Food Possible in Your Own Backyard class is on April 2nd.



Can it really be true? Yes. As of Tuesday, spring is 25 days away. We begin the official countdown with this email. Spread the word and tell all your friends that in less than one month, Natureworks will reopen for our 33rd year in business. Until then, we will be traveling from conference to conference, teaching, selling seeds, books, and organic gardening supplies. I hope to see you this Saturday

at the upcoming all-day seminar. Till then...

Nancy

Natureworks is looking for help!

Natureworks is hiring for the spring season. We have openings on our installation crew, our gardening crew, and in our retail store.

If you are interested, please [click here](#) and read the employment opportunities page and follow the instructions *exactly*.

Mason Bees are Awesome NATIVE Pollinators



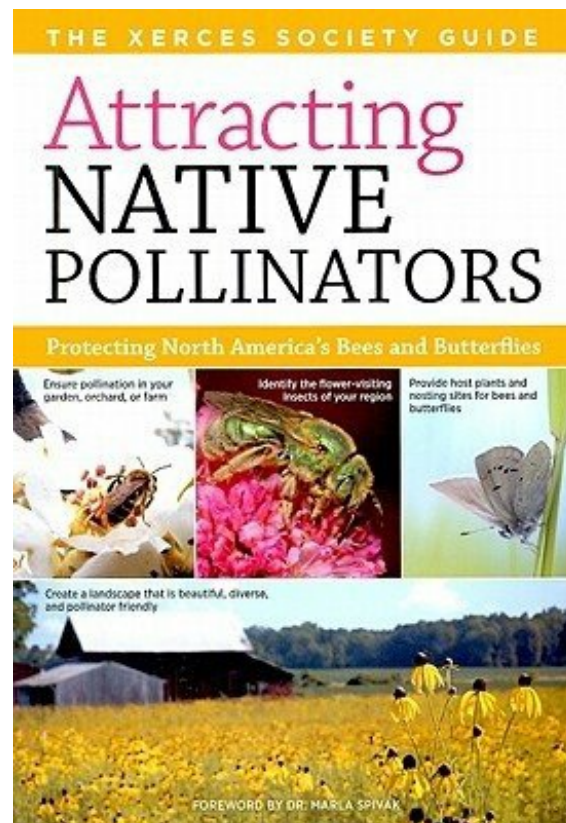
With spring right around the corner, it's time for me to tell you all about the part you can play to increase the number of native pollinators in your own backyard. At Natureworks, we sell mason bee tubes and encourage all of our customers to put them up. Mason bees do not form hives; they are tunnel nesting bees. Each

tube contains 6 -7 eggs that were laid last year in May and June. Because mason bees emerge MUCH earlier than Eastern European honeybees and can fly in much cooler spring temperatures, they are extremely valuable in our home gardens for pollinating fruit trees, blueberries, raspberries, strawberries, and all kinds of important edible crops.

Mason bees are docile and do not sting humans. The tubes should be placed in a southeast or southern spot, either in a dedicated mason bee house (which we sell at Natureworks) or in the eaves of your house, shed, or garage. They can be bundled together very easily. Female mason bees lay eggs in the tubes. Each egg is sealed off in a "cell" and the next egg is laid. She lays 4-5 female eggs in the back of the tube, and then lays 2 male eggs near the entrance to the tube. In March and April, the males hatch first and go out and forage for food- that means they are on YOUR flowers gathering nectar. Then the females hatch and spend the rest of their lives visiting flowers and reproducing.

This Saturday I am teaching an all day seminar called A Landscape for All Creatures. One of the segments is all about our native pollinators. Mason bees are just ONE type of the many that we need to pollinate our crops.

Diane suggested to me that I watch a great little video on mason bees. Click here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xrmGP3ZvNJ8>



This book is MY bible and we will have copies available for sale at Saturday's

seminar and at our retail store when we reopen. For tons and tons of information on native pollinators, visit www.xerces.org

Upcoming Events

Saturday, February 27, 2016 9 am to 3:30 pm

Natureworks Class at Zion Episcopal Church, North Branford

A Landscape for all Creatures \$40 for an all-day pass. Feel free to register on line thru Friday to reserve your spot. Walk-ins are welcome. Learn to create a diverse, organic, sustainable, and beautiful landscape for you and your family.

Saturday, March 5, 2016 9 am to 3:30 pm

Natureworks Class at Zion Episcopal Church, North Branford

Grow Day \$35 all-day pass (must register by 2/29/16) \$40 on the day (walk-ins welcome)

Saturday, March 5, 2016 10 am

March Into Spring Symposium AKA

Hardy Plant Society's "SOUP SYMPOSIUM"

Bethany Covenant Church Fellowship Hall, 785 Mill Street, Berlin, CT

Natureworks will have a vendor booth. For more information, [click here](#).

Tuesday, March 8, 2016, 11:00 a.m. lecture

Stamford Garden Club

Breathing New Life into an Old Garden

Please check with the garden club to see if there is a fee and if the general public is invited.

Saturday/Sunday, March 12 & 13, 2016

CT NOFA Winter Conference Danbury, CT 06810

Western Ct. State Univ. MIDTOWN CAMPUS, 181 White Street

<http://ctnofa.org/winterconference/index.html>

Natureworks will have a vendor booth.

Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 1:00 p.m. lecture

West Haven/Bradley Point Garden Club

Container Gardening...Planting in Grow Bags and other containers.

Please check with the garden club to see if there is a fee and if the general public is invited.



Quick Links Buttons

[Our Website](#)

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[Organic Lawn Care](#)

Hours

Natureworks retail shop is closed for the Winter and will re-open on March 20, 2016 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Class Location

Natureworks classes are held in North Branford at the Zion Episcopal Church. 326 Notch Hill Rd., North Branford, CT. 06471. [Click for a map.](#)

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