

NATUREWORKS



Natureworks is OPEN! Happy Spring!

Greetings!

Spring is here and Natureworks is OPEN for the season! There may be snow outside, but inside our shop and greenhouse, flowers are blooming and all is right with the world. Slowly, ever so slowly, the "great reveal" is taking place in our gardens. Just yesterday morning I looked out at my lawn with a sigh, thinking, it may take forever for that snow to melt. By evening, a HUGE patch of green grass had revealed itself. It was such a dramatic change, even my husband noticed. The bright blue miniature Iris reticulata bulbs are in full bloom in our front shop border- yesterday they were flowering through the snow. Today, the snow is gone! The sun is very strong; snow hasn't a chance against the sun right now. So keep the faith!



I just picked a carload of pussywillows for you to use in your spring decorating. While harvesting them, I couldn't help but be inspired by the birds in my yard. They have been singing their hearts out and flitting about. What do they know that we can't yet believe? They know that spring is here and they are celebrating. You should too...

The shop looks so pretty. My staff outdid themselves this year as they prepared for our grand re-opening. New merchandise fills every surface. Easter is still weeks away, but chicks, eggs, and bunnies can be found everywhere. Ruffled pansies, striking Ranunculus, and spring bulbs perfume the air.

Seeds are taking center stage this week. Our racks are constantly being restocked. Last Saturday we took Natureworks "on the road" to the Master Gardener conference. The excitement in the air was amazing. The most talked about and most popular seed sold? POPPIES! This snowy March



has dramatically widened the window for you to direct sow breadseed poppies. March is the ideal time. As the bare earth reappears, sprinkle poppy seeds everywhere. Then look carefully for the foliage to appear in early May- it is blue green and crinkled and looks a bit like lettuce leaves. You will be rewarded with an amazing display of these magnificent

flowers that will re-seed for you for years to come. Diane likes to mix all the packets together. I sow 6 different kinds in six different places- purple ruffled ones, pale pink ones, doubles, singles... Of course, I have tons of poppies that pop up everywhere from years past. But I am always seeking out the new colors. Bees adore the poppies. I allow them, and the blue flowering herb borage, to fill my raised beds early in the season. This brings in the pollinators for the peas that climb above them on trellises.



Speaking of peas, St. Patrick's Day has come and gone, and nobody was able to sow their peas like the old saying tells us to do. Not to worry. I plant with the phases of the moon so my pea seed sowing day will be the weekend of April 8th and 9th. Peas like to grow their vines when it's cool. Early April gives them plenty of time to climb the trellis before they flower and form peas in June. Be patient. The ground should not be soggy when sowing. Use a soil thermometer. As the snow melts, cover your early planting beds with black plastic to dry them out and warm them up. Besides peas, you can direct sow seeds of lettuce, kale, carrots, radishes, broccoli raab, and a whole lot more. By then, we will also have our organic early season veggie seedlings in stock.



Dahlia tubers are here. It's time to select your varieties for this growing season. They make the best cut flower you will ever meet!

If you are itching to sow seeds, you should start getting organized to sow your tomato seeds indoors (if you haven't already). Tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and tomatillos all need a head start before they are planted outside in late May after the danger of frost has past. This Saturday is **Grow Day**, our annual all-day workshop where we teach you how to grow lots of food from spring until fall. Early registration is over, but walk-ins are welcome. It is held at the Zion Episcopal Church in North Branford from 9-3. If you are planning to grow food this year, come to Grow Day and get organized! Be there! After that, there is one more class left: pruning! I love to teach this class and hundreds of people have taken it. Once you know the basic ground rules, pruning is fun and relaxing. **Details can be found**

below on these workshops and many more exciting events happening at Natureworks in the coming weeks.

The month of March is when our native mason bees begin to emerge from their nesting tubes and start flying, looking for early flowers to pollinate. Be sure to read our new Mason Bee handout on the website [Click Here](#). It explains how to install mason bee houses, how to replace the tubes each spring, and why this particular native bee is such an awesome pollinator. We have everything you need to welcome mason bees to your yard. Natureworks is all about protecting and helping our pollinators and we invite you to join us in this important mission. Our motto is:



Jillian has been working really hard restocking the seed racks

Bee the change you wish to see in the world



by helping our pollinators.



We want the younger generation to also know and love our pollinators too

From organic soaps made in the USA from the finest essential oils, to eggshells (from Diane's chickens!) filled with pansies and set into vintage style egg cups, from cute containers filled with fresh flowering plants to new gardens hats, tools, and gloves, we have just what you need to think spring.



Check out our new organic soaps: Calendula Dandelion, Milk and Mint, Lavender Moon, and Almond Goat Milk

You just have to make time to stop in this week and celebrate with us. See you soon...

Nancy

Succulents Rule



Everywhere I go, every place I look, I see succulents. Why are they so popular? It's simple. They are the perfect plant for today's busy lifestyles. They can be ignored and will survive. They need very little water. They don't mind dry air. They are perfect for beginners. They come in fascinating shapes and textures. And they

are just so darn cute...

In March, our focus is on succulents that can be grown indoors. As the weather warms up, you will see succulents taking center stage outdoors. We will have succulent porch pots of all sizes and shapes. Succulents will be on display on our benches and we will teach you how to add them to rock outcroppings, cracks and crevices, and other tricky spots in your yard. We will teach you to combine them with other heat and drought tolerant annuals to create combinations that will turn heads. Succulents rule!

Gardeners, EDUCATE YOURSELVES!



Classes are held at the Zion Episcopal Church and they are very popular.

Grow Day is THIS SATURDAY!!!

There are two classes left in our 2017 Winter/Early Spring Program.

Grow Day is this Saturday, March 25th from 9-3

- Don't Be Held Back by Small Space Edible Gardens
- For the Love of Seeds: Cost Effective, Bullet Proof Methods for Getting the Most Variety in your 2017 Vegetable Garden
- Edible Gardens of England
- Why Every Organic Farmer uses Row Cover (*and why you should too*)
- Making an Edible Garden Plan

<http://naturework.com/grow-day/>

GROW DAY \$40. Sign up on-line or walk-ins welcome.

...and then the last class

Overcoming your Fear of Pruning - Basic Principles and Practices

Saturday, April 1st from 10:00- noon

At Zion Episcopal church, a scenic five-minute drive from Natureworks. Don't pick up a pair of pruners or, worse yet, an electric hedge trimmer, until you have taken this class! Learn how proper pruning can make your plants healthier, longer lived, and much more floriferous. Read more here: <http://naturework.com/pruning-class/>

Registration Required: \$20

SIGN UP ONLINE, stop in or call 203-484-2748

[Click Here](#) to download the full Class Brochure pdf.
If you'd like to download the registration page alone, [Click Here](#).



Organic seed potatoes of all kinds are in stock now along with floating row covers and many types of cover crops seeds. We have what you need to have the best organic garden ever!

Saturday, April 1st Seeds Made Easy

10am-11am

Plant up an entire 32-cell tray of mixed seeds and learn the A-Z of how to have great success by growing your own organic vegetables from seed.

Fee includes:

- Seed starting set-up including tray, insert, and humidity dome (optional add on of a heat mat)
- An excellent selection of seeds (like heirloom tomatoes, trending peppers, classic Italian eggplant, flowers and more!)
- Organic Mechanics seed starting soil

Registration required:

\$25 fee includes seed starting set up, soil, seeds and fun

\$45 fee includes seed starting set up, a heat mat, soil, seeds and fun

[SIGN UP ONLINE](#), stop in or call 203-484-2748

Sunday, April 2nd Get a Head Start on Dahlias

1pm-2pm

Want a head start on growing dahlias this year? Get them done with resident dahlia fanatic, Kassie Moss. This workshop provides dahlia tubers, organic potting medium, container and all the knowledge you need to be a fellow-dahlia lover. Dahlias are the stars of any cut flower bouquet and so easy to start!

Registration required: \$25

[SIGN UP ONLINE](#), stop in or call 203-484-2748

Saturday, April 8th Lettuce and Alyssum Bowls

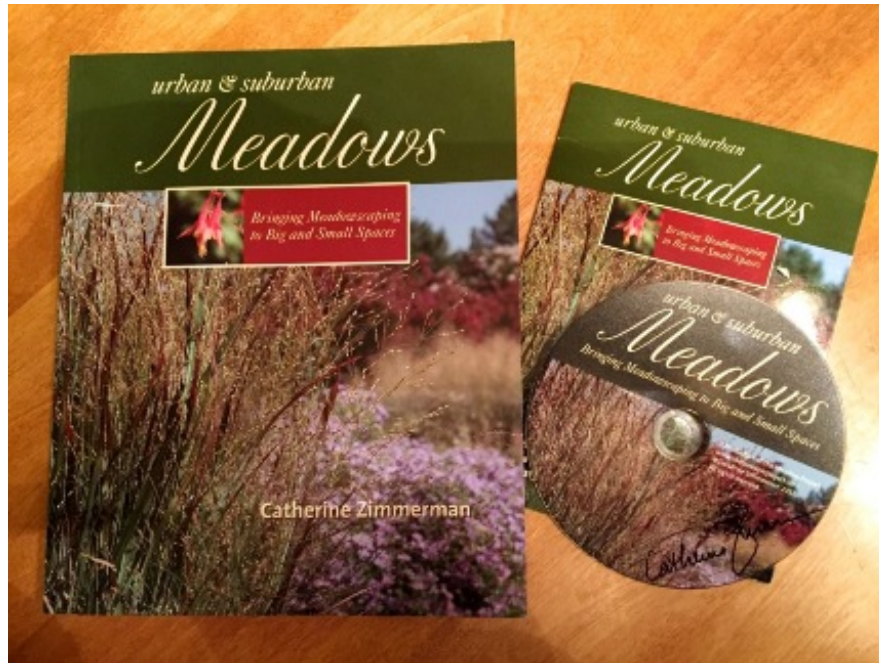
1:00-2:00 pm

Come learn about the different varieties of lettuce we carry and then choose

and plant your own container to cut and cut again for home-grown organic salad.

Registration required: \$25 includes 3 lettuce plants, alyssum flowers, bowl, soil and expert instruction.

[SIGN UP ONLINE](#), stop in or call 203-484-2748



Thursday, April 13th **Urban and Suburban Meadows Movie Screening**
6:30 pm @ the Edward Smith Library, 3 Old Post Rd, Northford (where Rte. 17 and Rte. 22 meet)

Natureworks' first ever movie night! We'll bring the organic popcorn, you bring all your questions for a fun night with a screening of our essential meadow movie guides: Urban and Suburban Meadows with clips of Catherine Zimmerman, Doug Tallamy and more. Screening will be followed by a Q&A with Natureworks Meadow-maker, Diane St. John.

Stop in or call the library at 203-484-0469 to reserve your seat, space limited to 35.

"With over 48 million acres of lawn in the U.S., Urban & Suburban Meadows is a film aimed at helping people just say NO to thirsty, pesticide ridden, energy consuming lawns."

See themeadowproject.com for more about this amazing resource to help bring nature home!

Click a Quick Link for more Information

Our Website	Buy a Gift Certificate
Employment Opportunities	Gardening Classes
Handouts	Landscaping Services
Organic Lawn Care Info.	Natureworks App Details

RETAIL SHOP HOURS

Monday - Saturday 8:30 am - 6:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm



Natureworks Horticultural Services ([map](#))
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