

# NATUREWORKS



Why is Nancy smiling? Because I am standing with Ken Druse and Dan Furman and we are going to be the speakers at the upcoming CT Horticultural Society Symposium on February 6th at the Mark Twain House in Hartford. There are about 20 spots left- register today! Details on this symposium and all the other educational events that Natureowrks will be attending this winter can be found below.

## Planning for Spring!



## Milkweed Seeds are in the house!

At Natureworks, we are doing everything we can to help support monarch butterflies. We now have seeds for FIVE types of Asclepias species, **including common milkweed**. These seeds need a chill period (stratification) to germinate. Stop by on Seedy Sunday, February 7th, and buy your

seeds. Plant them and put them in a cold garage or outbuilding or cold frame for 6 weeks and then they will be ready to sprout. Count on the staff of Natureworks to teach you all about it when you come in to shop.

Along with *Asclepias* species (which are the larval food plants for monarch butterflies), we also sell plants and seeds of the nectar flowers that monarchs and other butterflies enjoy. You can buy mixes or individual varieties of their most-loved flowers such as zinnias, Verbena, black eyed Susans, Mexican sunflowers, *Coreopsis*, cosmos, *Echinacea*, anise hyssop, and so much more.



We also raise and release other types of butterflies. Eastern black swallowtail butterflies use dill, fennel, and parsley as their larval food plants. You guessed it, these are all easily grown from seed as well. My favorite dill is from Seed Saver's Exchange and is called 'Grandma Einck's'. It produces massive flower heads. I let my dill go to seed and find it self sows readily once established in my gardens. Dill flowers are also a really great nectar source for pollinators and beneficial insects.



I usually direct seed zinnias into the garden when the soil has completely warmed up, in mid-late May. We do carry starter plants for many zinnias, but if you are really looking for unusual varieties, seed is the way to go. We have 24 varieties of zinnia seeds on our racks!

## Gardening Classes Begin Soon!



Hot off the press, the 2016 Natureworks Winter/Early Spring Class Brochure is ready.

I am so excited about the many workshops we are offering in the next few months. The first two classes are coming up soon. On February 13, I will be teaching **The Healing Power of Plants and Growing Plants that Heal**. You can now register for classes on line through our Natureworks website. Please [click here](#) to view our web pages.

This year we are putting a special focus on growing plants in your yard that serve a purpose. In fact, we are offering an all day seminar on Saturday, February 27th called A Landscape for All Creatures. I have spent many hours in my home office preparing for this talk. We will learn how to make your yard a welcoming place for birds, pollinators, butterflies, hummingbirds, wildlife *and* your family and friends.

You will see a common theme not only in our weekly emails, but also our Facebook posts and all of the classes and workshops we will be teaching this year.



*[Click for Class Brochure](#)*

## **Places you can find us during the Winter and Spring.**

Some people think we slow down when our landscape crews finish for the year and the retail shop doors close for the Winter, however, there are still many places to Natureworks. Below you will see a list of events. Please check with the organization hosting the event for up to date details and directions. Garden club dates have been included in this list, but some garden club meetings are not open to the public, so please check with them first.



Saturday, February 6, 2016, 8:30 - 4:00

CHS Garden Symposium at Mark Twain House, Hartford

*CHS office at 860-529-8713, connhort@gmail.com*

2016 Theme: Climate Change and the Northeast Gardener

<http://www.cthort.org/>

Natureworks will have a vendor booth and Nancy is speaking about Plants with a Purpose.

Thursday through Sunday, February 18-21, 2016

Connecticut Flower and Garden Show

[www.northeastexpos.com](http://www.northeastexpos.com)

[www.ctflowershow.com](http://www.ctflowershow.com)

Natureworks will have a vendor booth and Nancy will be lecturing more than once so please check the Seminars page for dates/times/topics. You can stop in at Natureworks on Seedy Sunday to purchase \$14 discount admission tickets.

Monday through Thursday, February 22-25, 2016

Three Rivers Community College in Norwich, CT.

New England [Regional](#) NOFA Accreditation Course in Organic Land Care

<http://www.organiclandcare.net/professionals/accreditation>

Nancy will be teaching a class on Day 3 on Planting and Plant Care.

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.

Saturday, March 19, 2016 (no snow date)

CMGA Symposium - Manchester Community College

<http://www.ctmga.org/>

Natureworks will have a vendor booth and Nancy is lecturing about Growing a Wild Garden, Romantic, Sustainable, Sensible Design

Monday, April 4, 2016, 7 p.m. lecture

Glastonbury Garden Club

Organic Gardening, in particular vegetables.

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

Tuesday, April 12, 2016, 1:00 p.m. lecture

Milford Garden Club

Medicinal Herbs

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

**Save 50% or more on Clearance  
Items!**

### **Out with the old, in with the new**

Diane and Amber have gathered up a lot of 2015 merchandise that they want to see OUT OF HERE. When you come in for your seeds on Seedy Sunday, February 7th, be sure to check out these bargains.

## Seeds, seeds, and more seeds...



These are just SOME of the tomato seed varieties we sell!

Every winter I spend many long, lovely hours placing the seed orders for Natureworks. I choose all kinds of veggies, herbs, and flowers for our racks. All of our seeds are untreated. No GMO's. Most are organic, more and more each year. The racks are now fully stocked and await your visit on

### **Seedy Sunday, February 7th, from 9-4.**

It is the ONLY day the retail store is open during the winter and it's a real celebration. After that, we pack up the racks and head up to the flower show in Hartford.



These are some of the new varieties we are stocking this year.

Some seeds should be started soon. Others should be started in mid-late March.

Some seeds can be sown directly in the ground. How do you sort it all out? Come to GROW DAY on Saturday, March 5th. There will be 6 workshops, including one called **Direct Seeding, Self Seeding, Starting Ahead from Seed-Sorting out Your Options**. The link to the class brochure can be found above.



One of the most popular seeds we sell are poppy seeds. Above are 7 types of breadseed poppies seeds that are super easy to grow. The way we do it is to sprinkle the seed directly on frozen/cold soil in March, when the snow goes away. 'Black Swan' is new this year and will sell out quickly. Other seeds to sow on cold soil in March include larkspur, a great annual cutting flower related to Delphiniums.

If you love poppies, you may also want to try some other types. It is easy to direct sow annual poppies such as Iceland, Shirley, Flander's Field, and California types. Some are spring/early summer growers. Others are all-summer bloomers. We find that California poppies LOVE our hot, dry, sunny rock garden by the road and have been self-seeding there for years. They continue blooming for us until late fall.



We have all the supplies you need to start your seeds. We sell ORGANIC MECHANICS seed starting soil, cow pots, trays with covers, Organic Plant Magic compost tea fertilizer, soil thermometers, and, new this year, heat mats.

I hope you can join us on Seedy Sunday to shop and learn and simply gather together with like minded organic gardeners to talk seeds on a winter day.

*Click here to link to our handout.*



## Quick Links Buttons

[Our Website](#)

[Handouts](#)

[Landscaping Services](#)

[Organic Lawn Care](#)

## Hours

Natureworks retail shop is closed for the Winter. We will be open one day in February. Seedy Sunday is February 7 and we will be open from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. After that, we will re-open on the first day of Spring which is March 20, 2016.

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