Happy to be Back!

Greetings!

I just returned from a blessed two week vacation. I started in Vermont and traveled through MA up to the Adirondacks. All along the way, I observed so many beautiful flowers. Vermont and northern New York state are "The Land of Tree Hydrangeas." They were EVERYWHERE, all varieties. The roadsides, trails, and fields were filled with asters. Goldenrod fields, stands of wild perennial sunflowers, ironweed... it was a horticulturalists' delight. I returned home to a garden absolutely overflowing with food. I am pleased to report that the radish and lettuce seeds I planted a week ago popped up! My broccoli is thriving under its floating row cover but the tat soi planted in the open is being eaten by cabbage moth caterpillars. Time to get out the B.T. (Bacillus thuringiensis) Kassie also reported damage from owlet moth caterpillars on the dahlias in the Natureworks gardens AND we found saddleback moth caterpillars (see photo on left) which really sting you if you touch them. Be careful!!

Hydrangea paniculata varieties are SO hardy.
My broccoli under floating row cover is SO perfect. My wheelbarrow garden now has escarole, celery, newly sprouted lettuce, and nasturtiums. Everything is surrounded by pollinator flowers- asters, Rudbeckia triloba, and goldenrod. Heaven.

B.T. is specifically for caterpillars and will not harm any other beneficial insects or us.

I traveled far and wide and visited so many lovely places, but there is nothing quite so lovely as your own garden. And I have TWO gardens to come home to- my private gardens and the Natureworks gardens. Both are lush and thriving. I did see many migrating monarchs in my travels, but back at Natureworks, they are being born at a stunning rate. Today we had FORTY monarch butterflies eclose (emerge from their chrysalis). We are headed off to the Durham Fair for four days with a giant monarch display and that should be very exciting. Here’s the count so far:

- Caterpillars: 39
- J's: 7
- Chrysalises: 120

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<th>Butterflies:</th>
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<td>40 to release when rain stops</td>
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<td>373 tagged and released since 8/29</td>
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<tr>
<td>352 released before 8/29</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL: 931</strong></td>
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Fall officially arrives on Friday, September 22nd. The autumn equinox is when the day and night are once again equal. I am sure that, like me, you are noticing that there is a lot less time to get outside in the evening as the sun is setting so much earlier. With the changing seasons, it’s time to **redecorate your porch for fall**! Autumn is long and lingering in CT and provides us with so many opportunities to sit and enjoy the fruits of our labors. I am a firm believer in weaving perennials into my fall containers and then adding them to my gardens right before Thanksgiving. I especially love colorful foliage plants as
Weigela 'Tuxedo' is reblooming. I love the crisp contrast of the near-black foliage and white flowers. I added accents to marry with all the fall flowers—both annuals and perennials—that can take the shorter days and cooler temperatures of this time of year.

Thursday at 4 pm, Facebook Live will focus on Plant Marriages for Fall. I will demonstrate how to combine plants together with a focus on fabulous fall foliage. If you love plants but wish you could understand design a bit better, this 15 minute lesson should be just the ticket! Remember, if you tune in live, you can ask questions and we will answer them during the session. Otherwise, all of the Facebook Live sessions are archived on the Natureworks Facebook page. We check back for questions and comments often.

This Saturday, I head up to the Durham Fair for the day and at 1 pm I am giving a talk on Planting for Monarch Butterflies in the Discovery Center. The fair is a great way to officially welcome fall. I think it is so cool that the town of Durham closes the schools on Friday of "Fair Week" so all of the kids can enjoy the fair. I have many employees that live in Durham and that have taught me just how much work it is for this amazing town to organize such a huge fair. Last weekend, the fair beautification committee came to Natureworks and shopped for new additions for the butterfly garden that is 46 feet long near the Discovery Center. Diane helped to place the plants and Natureworks donated $100 worth of plants to the effort. Now, as we tag and release the monarchs during the fair, the butterflies will have a garden to immediately begin nectaring. This is the migrating generation and they need LOTS of nectar to make it to Mexico. Do you have enough flowers for the migrating monarchs traveling past your property?
I photographed this magnificent stand of New York ironweed (Vernonia) in the thriving rain gardens at King Arthur Flour in Norwich, Vermont. We make an annual pilgrimage each year. My husband shops, I take photos! The ironweed in my home gardens was visited by monarchs last week.

Do you have enough flowers?

As I write this email, it is raining, a long, steady rain that is perfect for our lawns and gardens. It's been a bit dry and this is just what we need in order to reseed our lawns, release beneficial nematodes, dig up and rearrange perennials, and KEEP ON PLANTING. Fall is a very busy season for the Natureworks installation crews. I also plant lot of shrubs, perennials, and bulbs in October and early November in my home gardens, when I finally have the time. Right now the soil is very warm, and the air has been quite warm too. It's perfect.

This is the second year that this Mammoth mum has been in our garden. Look at all those flowers! We have 11 varieties of our signature perennial mums on our benches right now with more to come as we restock this week.

Enjoy these last few days of summer and embrace the changes as we head into autumn, one of the most beautiful seasons of the year. Stop by soon for a visit and don't forget to check out the magnificent dahlias blooming in our gardens this week. Keep your eye on our Facebook page for monarch butterfly tagging time.
announcements.

See you soon...

P.S. I arrived back from vacation to find an enchanting new Fairy Village display. We have lots of intriguing minitature shrubs, hostas, and perennials that are perfect for your teeny-tiny landscapes. Experience the magic the minute you walk in.

Nancy
P.S.

We've decided to put Sluggo Plus and Complete Disease Control on sale because they're still useful this time of year. Because Sluggo Plus contains both iron phosphate and spinosad, it targets a wider range of pests. It will help target pests that are bothersome in fall, such as earwigs, slugs, snails and more.

Complete Disease Control is one of the best broad-spectrum treatment and preventative organic sprays around. It can be used until day of harvest on your veggies (doesn't get more organic than that) and is even useful for any houseplants, which always benefit from a preventative treatment before coming indoors for the winter.
Soaking Rain=Ideal Time for Organic Lawn Care

Last week I spent 5 days at a camp in the Adirondacks. The lawn hadn't been mowed in quite a while and had turned into a flowering mini-meadow. My sister captured this shot of me lying in the grass, watching 7 painted lady butterflies, a yellow clouded sulphur, a monarch, and tons of bees taking advantage of the rich nectar provided by the red clover and heal-all (Prunella) that was blooming like crazy. I spent many hours relaxing and watching this enchanting habitat.

Our lawn at home has been basically quite dormant for the past few weeks due to warm temperatures and lack of rainfall. These few days of soaking rains means that my husband can finally spread organic fertilizer, scratch up the bare spots, add compost, rake in grass seed, and top it all off with shredded straw.
Deep soaking rain also makes it the ideal time to apply beneficial nematodes to your lawn. They travel through the soil water and seek out grubs, parasitize them, and kill them. They actually kill a lot more destructive insects than just Japanese beetle grubs: 8 types of lawn insects, flea larvae, black vine weevil larvae, fungus gnat larvae, onion maggots, cabbage root maggots, cutworms, carrot weevils, cucumber beetle larvae, and more. In my own edible landscape, I will be applying them to control asparagus beetles that live underground in the larval stage at this time of the year. We have a good supply of beneficial nematodes in our refrigerator but when they are gone, that's it. If you are planning on applying them, NOW is the perfect time.

For a Fabulous Garden...Keep on Planting this Fall!

I really love this time of year. I am filled with renewed energy, the air is cooler, the rains have returned, and I can clearly see all sorts of fun projects that I have been meaning to tackle all summer are now MUCH more possible!

First of all, I need to grab some bulbs and stash them in my back garage. We have so many wonderful, new varieties I am dying to try including an apricot Fritillaria, a creamy white dwarf iris, and a daffodil called 'Banana Daiquiri'. With the addition of Repellex Systemic granular bulb protection to the soil, I can even plant tulips and the voles and deer won't eat them. My first pass at bulb shopping is shown above. The best bulb selection is
Liatris macrocephala available NOW! You don't have to plant them right away but you should buy them soon. This also holds true for our organic seed garlic.

One of my absolute favorite fall blooming shrubs is Lespedeza, or the flowering pea shrub. I cut this to the ground each spring and it grows right back, reaching 5-6' and blooming like crazy in September and October. Being a legume, it is very drought tolerant so it needs little care all summer long. We only stock this plant at this time of year. You can surround it with bulbs which will complete their life cycle before this shrub fills the space.

Another really cool fall blooming perennial is Liatris microcephala, a diminutive form of gayfeather. This blooms for nearly two months, reaching only 12-15" tall. Like all members of the Liatris genus, it is beloved by pollinators and butterflies. I adore its delicacy and love to pick it for bedside bouquets.

When I was in Vermont and New York state, I was bowled over by the giant stands of Aster umbellatus everywhere I went. This was in bloom here in CT in late August and is still in bloom in our gardens now. It certainly is vigorous enough to establish itself along the side of the roadways I traveled. Back at Natureworks, I captured the flowers woven into a bursting pod of Asclepias incarnata, the swamp milkweed, which itself had self-seeded into another type of native white aster.
Coreopsis named 'Sunshine Superman'. This is a form of Coreopsis pubescens that was developed by the famous native plant nursery North Creek. It blooms from summer all the way through October! This form grows only 12-18" tall and can tolerate dry, sandy, poor soils in sun or partial shade. Both the leaves and stems are a bit fuzzy. It is a really durable, underused plant that is a workhorse in the garden.

Another new addition to our fall lineup is Callisia rosea 'Morning Grace'. This also has quite a delicate texture and is covered with clouds of soft lavender pink flowers for many months. If it slows down blooming, cut it back and give it a liquid feed; it will start flowering again. The common name for this native perennial is Piedmont Roseling. How sweet!

A fall garden isn't complete without turtleheads. I grow quite a few different varieties but the one that has survived the test of time (20+ years) in the same spot under the ash tree at Natureworks is our lovely, pink Chelone lyonii. It is called "upland turtlehead", a fact I discovered when researching it as I had always read Chelone loves it wet and it seemed to thrive in tree roots in our gardens. It turns out that Chelone glabra must have wet soil. Chelone lyonii does just fine in dryer conditions. Why is it called turtlehead? Look closely at the flowers. In fact, show the flower to any child and they will spot it immediately!

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Upcoming Events
Cephalanthus 'Sugar Shack' is not only a compact form of buttonbush, it also has excellent fall foliage color.

**Thursdays September 21st and September 28th**
4:00 pm

**Facebook Live!**
Join us online on Facebook where you can ask questions live! This week will be a design session where I will once again focus on **Plant Marriages**. Learn the secrets of how garden designers marry plants together, with a focus on fabulous fall foliage plants combined with flowers. Facebook Live videos are archived on our Facebook page and can be watched at any time. We also welcome you to sit in the audience at Natureworks and watch LIVE and in-person.

**Saturday, September 23rd**
Visit us at the [Durham Fair](#) where we'll be for four days (Sept. 21-24) teaching about butterflies. We'll have an educational booth in the Discovery Center, where Nancy will also be giving a talk about planting for monarchs at 1 o'clock on Saturday. What better way to spend a weekend than learning about Connecticut agriculture, saving butterflies and seeing Pat Benatar perform?!

**Saturday, September 30th**
10-11am
Fall Garden Renovation and Redesign
When the weather cools off, it's time for "plants on wheels!" Join Nancy as she explains how to analyze your current gardens and decide on ways to improve them through rearranging and division in October. She will then teach you the process of how to go about this work in an organized fashion over the next four weeks. Don't miss this FREE design workshop!

CLICK HERE to view/print our September event flyer.

OFF-SITE EVENTS
Tell a friend we'll be in the neighborhood.

98th Annual Durham Fair
September 21 - 24, 2017
The Durham Fair is located at the junctions of Routes 68, 17 and 77 in Durham, CT.
Be sure to stop by the Natureworks Garden Center display and say Hi.
For more information visit http://www.durhamfair.com/

The Wallingford Garden Market
Saturdays in September 9am-noon
LOCATION: Doolittle Park, 78 South Elm Street, Wallingford.
You'll find Natureworks at the Garden Market on Sept. 30.
Click the following links for their web info.:
https://www.facebook.com/wallingfordgardenmarket
https://wallingfordgardenmarket.com/vendors/

Click a Quick Link for more Information

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