



# The PERENNIAL REPORT

# 2010

***D&R Greenway Native Plant Nursery's second growing season brought us a rich crop of plants, fueled ecological restoration projects, and solidified our skills.***

It was a year of trying weather, a year where we met self-set goals even in the face of terrible drought. We bumped up against the limits of our facilities and yet managed to produce 10,000 plants of over 100 species.

We began supplying plants to other non-profits and to state entities for ecological restoration. We developed an exciting new initiative – the Bulk Native Seed Production Project – with regional partners, and received a highly competitive grant. We held two public plant sales and exceeded our income goals for the year, an important step toward the Nursery becoming self-supporting.



“We” are a small staff – Jared Rosenbaum and Ron Chen, with Bill Flemer on special projects. It is the dedication and skill of our over two dozen volunteers that makes the Nursery hum with bountiful life.

## **The Nursery**

D&R Greenway Native Plant Nursery is dedicated to restoring a rich diversity of native flora to the local landscape. We supply local genotypes of indigenous plants for ecological restoration and to the general public.

The Nursery produces over 100 species of native plants, which are essential for native wildlife

and for ecosystem function. These include trees, shrubs, herbs, ferns, and graminoids.

These plants are propagated onsite from genetically diverse seed collected in the New Jersey Piedmont eco-region.



## **The Plants**

Grown from locally-collected seed, our plants represent the unique genetic resources of our region. They have evolved for millenia under the pressures and richness of our local geologies and climate.

Shagbark hickory, cardinal flower, alumroot, blackhaw viburnum, wild bergamot, little bluestem, fringed sedge – these plants suggest the diversity we are preserving and restoring. Our plants are key food and shelter species for local wildlife, and cultural treasures of Native American culinary, craft, and medicinal traditions. They bridge the human and wild worlds and root us, literally, in a deep sense of place.

## **Plants to Partner Organizations**

One of the notable developments this year was the demand for our plants coming from other organizations doing stewardship in the region:

- Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ purchased trees and shrubs for an ecological restoration project at Otto's Farm Park in Hillsborough, NJ
- D&R Canal State Park purchased trees,

shrubs, grasses and wildflowers for a restoration project at Bull's Island. We hope to continue to work with them on the next and larger phase of the project, which involves restoring three acres of old-growth floodplain forest at the tip of the island.

- New Jersey Conservation Foundation purchased *Myrica pensylvanica* for restoration projects on their nature preserves.

## Ecological Restoration Projects

The Nursery is coming into its own as a resource for D&R Greenway's ambitious land stewardship projects. Our land-healing work now has access to local genotypes of plants, tailor-grown for specific areas and habitats.

- Hundreds of plants went to restoring land at our grant-funded Urban Initiatives sites in Trenton and Bordentown.

- Two one-acre deer exclosures in Sourlands core forest areas were reforested with 500 native plants, with grant funding from the Raritan Piedmont Wildlife Habitat Partnership and Washington Crossing Audubon Society.

- Over 300 plants were planted in the grant-funded Carbon Sequestration reforestation and mitigation areas at the St. Michael's Farm Preserve.

- Over 100 plants were used at the Johnson Education Center campus as we continue the process of creating an educational, native plant-based landscape for visitors.

## Bulk Native Seed Production Project

Beginning in 2011, we will be producing bulk seed of thirteen species of native plants at the St. Michaels Farm Preserve. The species include wildflowers such as New England aster and Joe Pye weed, and native grasses such as Indian grass and broomsedge.

The project is an innovative blend of agricultural and conservation techniques and objectives. The 5.25 acres of growing fields will produce seed for a blended native seed meadow mix that is genetically appropriate to the region. The seed mix is applicable to a range of wet, mesic and dry conditions.



The seed mix will be the only native plant seed mix derived from genetically local populations available in the entire northeastern United States. Local ecotypes of native species are the most successfully adapted to conditions within their region.



This project is undertaken in partnership with Greenbelt Native Plant Center, a division of the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. Greenbelt is supplying the genetically robust local ecotypic founder seed upon which the production fields are based, as well as taking an advisory role.

In September 2010, the Bulk Native Seed Production Project was awarded a \$75,000 Conservation Innovation Grant by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Matching funds for the project have been supplied by Bristol-Myers Squibb Company.

## Looking Forward

In 2011, the Nursery will be honing its infrastructure with a greenhouse upgrade and a dedicated potting facility for volunteers. We will begin creating several educational gardens at the Johnson Education Center.

At the St. Michaels Farm Preserve, 13 species

of native grasses and wildflowers will be planted in 5.25 acres of growing fields for the Bulk Native Seed Production Project. Planning will begin for Native Plant Nursery facilities at the Farm Preserve.

### ***The 2010 Season At-A-Glance***

**Plants Grown:** 10,000  
**Species Grown:** 106  
**Total Plant Sales:** \$10,000

#### **Sites Restored With Nursery Plants:**

St. Michaels Farm Preserve  
Sourlands Ecosystem Preserve  
Cat Tail Brook Preserve  
Johnson Education Center  
Cadwallader Park  
Oliver Street Park  
Bull's Island State Park  
Aphawa Preserve (NJCF)  
Otto's Farm Park (Conserve Wildlife)

#### **Grants Received:**

\$75,000 Natural Resources Conservation Service (for Bulk Seed Project)  
\$25,000 Bristol Myers Squibb Company  
\$20,000 Edward T. Cone Foundation



### ***Native Nursery Staff***

Jared Rosenbaum  
*Associate Director of Stewardship*  
Ron Chen  
*Nursery Assistant*  
Bill Flemer  
*St. Michaels Farm Manager*

### ***2010 Native Nursery Volunteers***

Adrienne Fogler  
Alice Dabrowska  
Alyce Hreha  
Carol Critchlow  
Cynthia Sage  
Dirck Benson  
Eric Teitelbaum  
Frances Lafleur  
Gerrit Meaker  
Greenie Neuburg  
Ishrut Batjer  
Jennifer Saltman  
Joel Studebaker  
Justin Aloia  
Lisi Bromley  
Matjorie Steinberg  
Nancy Hunter  
Phyllis Frakt  
Ross Mazur  
Ruth Tomlinson  
Shawn Greenbaum  
Sophie Glovier  
Teresa Licholai  
Tim Patrick-Miller

*...Thank you for your dedication to the natural world!*

**D&R GREENWAY**  
  
**LAND TRUST**