



The Hawthorn

Spring 2022



Echinacea 'Rainbow Marcella' is one of many plants that will be available at the Plant Sale.



Delphinium 'Blue Butterfly' is a gorgeous color.

Spring Plant Sale May 13-14

Merryspring will hold its annual Spring Plant Sale on Friday, May 13, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Saturday, May 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Always a big draw for local gardening enthusiasts, this year's event will feature a wide assortment of perennials, annuals, vegetable seedlings, and herbs. There will also be daylily tubers from the Maine Daylily Society, special shade plants from Fernwood Gardens, and some divisions donated by Merryspring members from their own gardens.

Perennials grown in our greenhouse for this year's sale include stunning cultivars of *Delphinium*, *Anemone*, *Nepeta*, *Filipendula*, *Campanula*, *Echinacea*, *Phystostegia*, and others. Annuals on sale this year include geraniums, *Calibrachoa*, *Angelonia*, *Lobelia*, marigolds, and Coleus, as well as the ever-popular petunias and impatiens for your gardens and flower pots.

Our selection of herbs includes all the favorites, including basil, sage, and rosemary. We'll also have a variety of vegetable seedlings from lettuce and tomatoes to onions and peppers, Merryspring members will receive a 10% discount on all plant purchases. Non-members can take advantage of that same discount by becoming members during the Plant Sale.



Merryspring's Plant Sale always draws a crowd.

And remember, by purchasing your plants at Merryspring, you are helping to support the upkeep of our public gardens and the continuation of our numerous nature-education programs for children and adults.

Volunteers Needed for Plant Sale

Do you have some extra time to help out at this year's Plant Sale? Volunteers are needed to assist customers on Friday, May 13, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., and any time on Saturday, May 14, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. We could also use help setting up tables and arranging plants on Thursday, May 12. If you would like to help out, please call the Merryspring office at 236-2239, send an email to info@merryspring.org, or stop by the Ross Center for more information.

How to Donate Plants

If you have plant divisions, extra seedlings, or other plants you would like to donate for this year's Plant Sale, please drop them off one or two days before the sale. Donated plants should include a note stating type and color. Divisions should be left on the ground next to the greenhouse; seedlings should be left on the potting bench in the main greenhouse. No invasive plants, please, and as weed-free as possible.

Merryspring Nature Center

P.O. Box 893, Camden, ME 04843
 Tel: (207) 236-2239
 Fax: (207) 230-0663
 Email: info@merryspring.org
www.merryspring.org

Mission Statement

Merryspring’s mission is to practice, teach, and advocate sound principles of ecology, conservation, and horticulture in order to protect our natural environment and to provide natural landscapes and cultivated areas for public enjoyment.

Hours of Operation

The park is open free of charge from dawn to dusk every day of the year. Our offices and library are open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., or by appointment.

Membership Levels

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Individual | \$35—49 |
| Family | \$50—99 |
| Friend | \$100—249 |
| Donor | \$250—499 |
| Steward | \$500—999 |
| Conservator | \$1,000—2,499 |
| Partner | \$2,500—4,999 |
| Patron | \$5,000 or more |

Keeping in Touch

You can sign up for our eUpdates at www.merryspring.org to receive the latest news on programs and events. Or you can visit Merryspring’s Facebook page, where you can check on upcoming events. Please go to www.tinyurl.com/merryspring-facebook/.

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Staff

Toni Goodridge, Managing Director
 Brett Willard, Program Director
 Denise DeSpirito, Garden Manager

Explorer Kits Return By Popular Demand

Merryspring Nature Center is looking to have its busiest summer season ever in 2022. Along with the much-anticipated return of the Summer Ecology Camps and six weeks of Free Family Fridays, we will be offering our popular Explorer Kits once again in 2022.

Started in 2020 as a joint program with Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District, the Explorer Kits offer weekly, free take-home programs for children and their families to learn together. Each week brings a new surprise, with all the ingredients and instructions included.

Explorer Kits were exceptionally popular in 2020 and 2021. This year, a total of 30 kits will be available each week for five weeks. Kits will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Each week will feature a new activity, with some returning favorites from past seasons as well as some new surprises. The Kits will be available for pickup starting Wednesday, July 20, at 9:00 am.



Internship Opportunities

Merryspring Nature Center is looking to recruit Summer Stewardship Interns for June 25 to August 18.

Interns must be at least 16 years of age. They will be responsible for identifying and removing invasive plants, and assisting with general stewardship of Merryspring’s trail network. The work will include the use of hand tools to clear trails of brush and debris. Interns must supply their own outdoor clothing, sturdy boots, water bottles, backpacks, and be able to deal with bugs and all types of weather. Merryspring Nature Center will provide training.

If interested, please call (207)236-2239 or email info@merryspring.org.

- Invasive plant remediation
- General trail stewardship
- 16 years of age or older
- 2 days a week from June 25 - August 18
- \$15 per hour

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Sage in bloom at Merryspring.

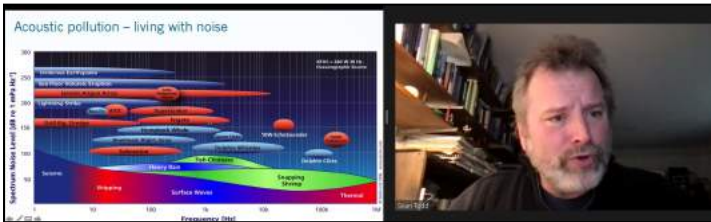
Wish List

Merryspring could use the following items:

- Small air compressor
- 12-foot extension ladder
- Wheelbarrows
- Felco pruners
- Loppers
- New or used garden gloves
- Garden fork
- Motion-activated sprinklers
- Lead-free hoses
- Weed wrench
- Large leaf rake
- Spray wands

If you would like to donate, purchase, or contribute to buying any of these items, please contact the office at 207-236-3164 or send an email to infor@merryspring.org.

Screen Shots from Merryspring's Zoom Webinars



Listening to Whales, Acoustic Pollution with Sean Todd



Environmental DNA with Julia Sunnarborg



Maine Aquaculture Hub with Heather Sadusky



Plant Evolution in Baxter State Park with Robert Gastaldo



Data Reflections—Science Through Art with Jill Pelto

Virtual Talks Are a Big Hit

This year's online Tuesday Talk Series has been a success. A total of 17 talks have been held since January, bringing over 500 virtual guests "to Merryspring." Speakers have included scientists, artists, gardeners, and advocates presenting on subjects as diverse as small mammal behavior and forest ecology, sustainable forestry methods, rare and endangered Maine plants, and the use of computer algorithms to create art based on actual processes.

By using Zoom, we have been able to bring experts from all over Maine into the homes of our members and friends for enlightening and important discussions and presentations. Online talks continue through late May, then we will switch to in-person, outdoor talks .



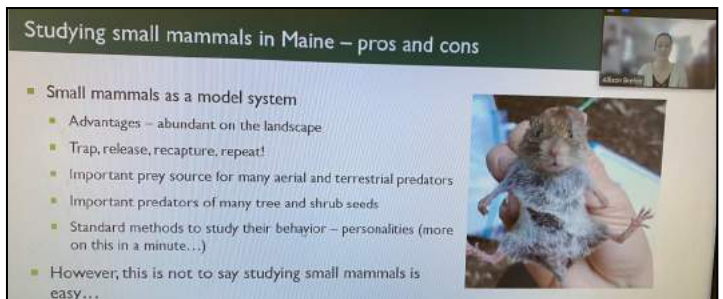
Food Waste in Maine with Susanne Lee



State of Maine's Birds with Nick Lund



Sustainable Forest Management with Alyssa Gregory



Small Mammal Behavior with Allison Brehm



Herbal Bitters for Digestive Health with Melanie Scofield

Summer Ecology Camps Open for Registration

Registration is now open for Summer Ecology Camps, a joint program between Merryspring Nature Center and Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District. The two camps, Eco-Explorers and Little Sprouts, will take place at Merryspring Nature Center from June 27 to July 1 and from July 11 to July 15, respectively.

After two summers with no camps because of Covid restrictions, Merryspring and Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District (KSLWCD) are excited to bring back these popular programs in 2022. Summer Ecology Camps offer exciting, outdoor nature experiences for young children. Through gardening, games, experiments, and observation, campers enjoy an introduction to



Eco-Explorers investigating the Merry Spring.

ecology and the natural world in these half-day camps. Both weeks of camp allow developing minds to get up close and personal with the plants, insects, animals, and natural systems in their Maine backyards.

Eco-Explorers, meant for students ages 7 to 9, will take place the first week, June 27 to July 1, from 8:45 am until 12:00 pm. Little Sprouts, meant for students ages 4 to 6, will take place the second week, July 11 to 15, from 9:00 am until 11:30 am. The cost for these programs is \$120 per camper for Eco-Explorers, and \$100 per camper for Little Sprouts. Both weeks of camp include the cost of daily, themed snacks. Financial aid is offered, with information available upon request.

Parents can sign up online by visiting www.merryspring.org and clicking on the link on the Summer Ecology Camps page.



Little Sprouts finding pollinators in the Herb Garden.

Greenhouse Workshops Spring Ahead at Merryspring

In April, novice and experienced gardeners alike gathered at Merryspring to take part in two gardening workshops led by Merryspring trustee and instructor John Fromer. A third workshop will take place later this year in June.

The two workshops, one on seed starting held on April 2, and another on rooting and propagation that was held on April 16, gave gardeners a hands-on experience in garden planning and preparation.

Huddled in the greenhouse, attendees learned how to select the right seed varieties for Maine gardens, how and when to correctly start seeds, propagate plants from roots and cuttings, and keep plants both healthy and happy before transplanting them outdoors later in the season. Each workshop gave participants their own plants to take home, in the form of newly planted seedlings, as well as some dahlia and lily tubers.



John Fromer presents a Seed Starting Workshop inside the Aileen Lubin Greenhouse.

The third workshop on Saturday, June 4, will cover transplanting seedlings and dividing perennials.

The cost of that program will be \$35, with a discounted rate of \$30 for Merryspring members. All materials are included. Space is limited. Guests may sign up by contacting Merryspring at 207-236-2239 or info@merryspring.org.



John Fromer and guests check out spring growth during a Rooting and Propagation Workshop.

2022 Summer Calendar

Tuesday Talks at Noon



- Jun 7 — Native Flowering Shrubs—*Sharon Turner*
- Jun 14 — Eating Insects for a Sustainable Food—*Bill Broadbent*
- Jun 21 — Gardening for New Mainers—*John Fromer*
- Jun 28 — No Talk (*Summer Ecology Camp Week*)
- Jul 5 — Rose Day—*Susan Shaw*
- Jul 12 — No Talk (*Summer Ecology Camp Week*)
- Jul 19 — How Plants Grow (Botany in Disguise)—*John Fromer*
- Jul 26 — Herb Garden Tour—*Denise DeSpirito*
- Aug 2 — Rain Date
- Aug 9 — Pollinator and Hummingbird Favorites—*John Fromer*
- Aug 16 — Planting Garlic*—*David Fuller*
- Aug 23 — Rain Date
- Aug 30 — Keeping the Garden Blooming—*John Fromer*
- Sep 6 — Maine Citizen Science Initiatives*—*Erynn Call*
- Sep 13 — Invasive Fish Species in Maine*—*Wes Ashe*
- Sep 20 — Planting Bulbs in Fall—*John Fromer*
- Sep 27 — Herb Talk*—*Denise DeSpirito*
- Oct 4 — Putting the Garden to Bed—*John Fromer*

**Denotes online talk via the Zoom platform - please email info@merryspring.org to request a Zoom link to attend. All other talks will be held at Merryspring Nature Center and are free for Merryspring members and \$5 for non-members.*

Free Family Fridays



- July 8—Summer Ecology Walk**—Discover backyard plants, trees, and birds at Merryspring.
- July 22—Bug Safari**—Search Merryspring’s gardens for insects; learn how to identify your findings. Nets provided.
- July 29—Tree Identification Walk**—Learn how to identify native trees by their leaves, buds, and bark.
- August 5—Wildlife Detective**—Use your detective skills to solve nature mysteries. Figure out clues hidden in animal tracks, skins, and skulls.
- August 12—Nature’s Tea Party**—Sample herbal teas made from plants here at Merryspring. Create mixes to take home.
- August 19 – Exploring Owl Pellets**—Learn about Maine's native owls; discover the secrets inside the pellets they leave behind.

Space is limited for all Free Family Fridays. Preregistration required.



Worm Bin Harvest
with *Jock Robie*
Thursday, May 19
6:00—8:00 p.m. Free to all.
Turn kitchen waste into useful soil amendments using worms.



Transplanting Workshop
with *John Fromer*
Saturday, June 5
9:00 p.m. \$35/\$30
Learn how to successfully transplant seedlings outdoors.



Family Night Hike
with *Brett Willard*
Saturday, August 26
8:00 p.m. Free to all.
Among hooting owls, swooping bats, and twinkling constellations, learn about what plants and animals do at night.



Fall Foliage Walk
with *Brett Willard*
Saturday, October 15
10:00—11:00 a.m.
Learn why and how leaves change color on this walk during peak foliage season.

Merryspring Gratefully Acknowledges Your 2021 Contributions

PARTNER (\$2,500—\$4,999) Wendy & Ray Andresen; Doris Salzman.

CONSERVATOR (\$1,000—\$2,499): Anonymous (3); Susan Crane; Dorthea & Charlie Graham; Edie Kyle; Sarah B. Rheault; Meg Barclay & John Scholz; Barton & Priscilla Wood.

STEWARD (\$500—\$999) Harris & Ann Bixler; Laura Beckering & George Cooke; Joanne Fagerburg; Karen Foxwell; Mary Joe Hughes; Val & Christina Kratzman Family; Edith K. Manns; Ann P. Rutherford; Dr. Marion Hayden & Cathy Kay Sears.

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FAMILY (\$50—\$99) Anonymous (1); Leslie & Dean Atwood; Jane & Tom Babbitt; Marisa & Duncan Baskin; Andrea & Maggie Bell; Tabatha Tucker / Beynart Family; Troy & Rachel Bickham; Bebe Bleakley; Martha M. & Sidney Block; Carol Rohl & Gordon Bok; Frank, Michaela &

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INDIVIDUAL (\$35—\$49) Anonymous (1); Claire Adams; Eileen W. Ahern; Lynn Alberi; Rebekah Ambrose; Laura Anthony; Susan Barbour; Barb Bausch; Elizabeth Kononen Berry; Carole C. Black; Nancy Blake; Sandra Bodamer; Nancy Bow; Marilyn J Boyer; Anne Brown; Marjorie W Brown; Gretchen H. Daly; Sheila P. Davenport; Carmel Donoghue; Julianne J. Edmondson; Maureen Egan; Amy Faunce; Sue Fleming; Joan Freiman; Ann Gailey; Perry Gates; Susan Genett; Janet N. Gold; Janet Goss; Bob Grobe; Carol J. Heyer; Shirley Hirst; Dorothy Hokkanen; Frances Holdgate; Katherine Holland; Cathering Horrocks; N. Rebekah Huckle; Dorothy Hughes; Elizabeth Johnson; Julee V. Johnson; Kristin Kalajian; Marcia Kimpton; June Kincade; Richard Krauser; Dorothy Lee; Maria Libby; John Lippman; Carol Loggia; Barbara Malone; Noreen V Marchand; Marjorie E. Maxcy; Angela M. McIntyre; Robert M McKee; Colleen McNamara; Margaret Mednis; Charles Merrill; Erica Merrill; Dennis & Debra Milliken; Marion Mitchell; Donna Mollo; Judy Mullins; Tiffany Nemec; Patricia O'Brien; Sandra Overlock; Paula Page; Cynthia Pearce; Mary Anne Riley; Linda Milliken Roden; Carol Ann Rosa; Aurora Marie Santerre;

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COMPLIMENTARY MEMBERSHIPS: Jasmine Bouchard; Karolyn Buck; Toni & Jesse Clark; Lillian Dailey; Samantha & David Mortlock.

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS: Ellen Began Family; Emily M. Egeland Family; Nancy Eugley; Sharon Baker & Colleen Fitzgerald; Patricia Friese Family; Marla Manz.

GIFTS IN KIND: Jock & Susan Robie; Susan Shaw; Esperanza Stancioff; Lynette Walther.

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS: Denise Hylton.

FOUNDATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT: In 2021, our programs received crucial financial support from a variety of organizations, municipalities, and private foundations. We thank the following institutional supporters for their help during the past year:

Anonymous donors (2); An Environmental Trust, Inc.; Cascade Foundation; Fisher Charitable Foundation; Maine Community Foundation; Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust; Mattina Proctor Foundation; Onion Foundation; Rotary Club of West Bay; The Leonard C. & Mildred F. Ferguson Foundation; Thendara Foundation.

MEMORIAL GIFTS: In memory of Erwin "Bud" Spalding: Wendy & Raymond Andresen; Kristen Lindquist & Paul Doiron; Priscilla & Barton Wood. **In memory of Tom Hopps:** Susan Crane; Kristen Lindquist & Paul Doiron; Diana Rigg; Kathleen Katzenbach & Madalene Hartford Stewart; Richard Stuart. **In memory of Bart Wood:** Anonymous (1); Joelle Albury; Wendy & Ray Andresen; Ann Bex; William & Barbara Buss; Joanne Fagerburg; Harry K. & Nancy M. Fiske; Stephen Ford; Kristen Lindquist; Stephen Ford; Diana Rigg; Frank Todd; Malcolm & Nancy White; F. L. Winterberg.



Merryspring's Daylily Garden in bloom.

2021 Business Support

Merryspring is very grateful for the support the local business community gave us in 2021. If you appreciate Merryspring, we hope you will extend your thanks to these businesses that help fund our work and provide valuable goods and services to our community.

BUSINESS PARTNER (\$1,000 or more): Scholz & Barclay Architecture.

BUSINESS STEWARD (\$250 - \$999): Allen Insurance and Financial; Camden Real Estate; First National Bank; TREEKEEPERS LLC Johnson's Aboriculture.

BUSINESS FRIEND (\$100 - \$249): Endless Summer Flower Farm; Hannaford Super Market.

BUSINESS GIFTS IN KIND: Fernwood Nursery; TREEKEEPERS LLC Johnson's Aboriculture.

Dear Members and Friends of Merryspring

We are fortunate to have so many friends and members of Merryspring who, year-in and year-out, support their Nature Center with gifts of time and money. You are the reason Merryspring exists and continues to serve our Midcoast community.

Merryspring has an annual operating budget of about \$190,000 to cover salaries, educational programs, supplies, utilities, maintenance of our gardens and grounds, and improvements to our woodland trails. As you can see by the pie chart shown here, a major part of our funding comes from member contributions as well as grants and dividends from our endowment.

So, as we continue moving ahead in 2022, we wish to thank all of you listed on these pages for your contributions in 2021, and we hope you are able to continue supporting your Nature Center again this year.

On behalf of the Merryspring trustees and staff, THANK YOU.

Ray Andresen
President, Merryspring Board of Trustees



P.O. Box 893
Camden, ME 04843



Reserve Merryspring for Your Event

Remember to think of Merryspring when you or your friends are planning a wedding, memorial service, meeting, or other special event. Each year several weddings, receptions, and meetings take place at Merryspring. Conveniently located yet away from the noise and bustle of the towns of Camden and Rockport, Merryspring offers stunning gardens and an outdoor hexagon perfect for small ceremonies. A well-tended lawn bordered by flower beds filled with spectacular color from June through September will accommodate a tent for up to 200 guests. And the meeting room inside the Ross Center is spacious and airy.

