

The Hawthorn

Spring 2023



Achillea millefolium 'Terracotta' is one of many plants featured at the Plant Sale.



Pollinators will love 'Sugar Buzz Blue Moon' bee balm among many other pollinator—friendly plants available at the Plant Sale.

Spring Plant Sale May 12-13

Co-Sponsored by

Merryspring will hold its Spring Plant Sale on Friday, May 12, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Saturday, May 13, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Our 2023 Plant Sale will feature a diverse assortment of annual and perennial plants. We'll also have a variety of vegetable seedlings including lettuce, onions, peppers, and more than ten varieties of tomatoes.

Among this year's annuals are colorful snapdragons, graceful lobelia, stunning begon-

ias and salvia, as well as the everpopular petunias and impatiens for your gardens and flower pots. Perennials grown in our greenhouse include pollinatorfriendly cultivars of *Delphinium*, *Anemone*, *Nepeta*, *Monarda*, *Papaver*, *Echinacea*, *Digitalis*, and others. Our selection of herbs includes all the favorites, including basil, sage, and rosemary.



Annuals, perennials, vegetables, and herbs line the tables for easy shopping among the gardens at Merryspring.

This year's sale will also include

some special guests – classic hostas and other shade plants from Fernwood Nursery and those wonderful dahlias from Endless Summer Flower Farm! Some divisions donated by Merryspring members from their own gardens will also be available.

Shoppers will also have the opportunity to check out the Merryspring Garden Benches and place an order for their own 3-foot, 4-foot, or 5-foot cedar bench. Raffle tickets

will be on sale for a chance to win a gift certificate from Plants Unlimited, Seasons Downeast, or Guini Ridge Farm & Garden Center.

Merryspring's Plant Sale is generously co-sponsored by <u>Camden Riverhouse Hotel</u>. All purchases at Merryspring will help to support the upkeep of our public gardens and continuation of our 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 12, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., and any time on Saturday, May 13, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. We could also use help setting up tables and arranging plants on Thursday, May 11. 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 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 John Fromer, Program Director Denise DeSpirito, Garden Manager

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Merryspring Garden Benches to Order

If you have ever seen the beautiful white cedar garden benches at Merryspring and thought of having one in your own garden or to give as a gift, now is your chance. We will be taking orders through mid-May to give to Kevin Zimmerman of Quality View Woodworks in Thorndike, who replicated our very popular original design two years ago and is willing to build more to order. This is an exclusive offer through Merryspring.

The cedar benches come in three-, four-, and five-foot lengths and cost \$210, \$235, and \$255, respectively. They are durable, comfortable, and attractive, and the native white cedar only gets prettier as it ages to drift-wood gray. Anyone interested can come to Merryspring during daylight hours to see how they have weathered over two years, try them out, and place an order if you wish while you're here.

Come Enjoy the Daffodils



Daffodils make way for daylilies.

The Maine Daylily Society's display garden is full of daffodils right now, so bring a picnic and enjoy the flowers!

Daylilies and daffodils make great neighbors. Daylily foliage is sprouting up in the garden, along with the many daffodil varieties. The club has worked to bring a wide variety of unusual daffodils to the spring

garden. Most of the Merryspring audience is aware that daffodil foliage has to mature before cutting or pulling. Meanwhile the daylilies push up beside it, masking the foliage, yet allowing for a pleasant coexistence. As the daylilies start to bloom in mid-July, the daffodil foliage is yellowing and can be cut or flattened and left to dry.

Inside this issue:	_
Plant Sale	1
Volunteers, Donations	1
Cedar Garden Benches	2
Come Enjoy the Daffodils	2
Endowment Fund	2
Webinar Photos	3
Summer Camps	4
Explorer Kits	4
Watercolor Artists	4
Events Calendar	5
Contributors List	6-7
Thank You	7
Reservation Information	8



Hosta Garden at Merryspring.

Endowment Fund Ensures Our Future

Merryspring has a permanent Endowment Fund to ensure that future generations will continue to enjoy the wonders of nature being exhibited and taught at your Nature Center. If you would like to make a bequest that will increase this fund, please consult your financial and legal advisors on what method would be in your best interest and would fulfill your wishes. For more information, please call (207) 236-2239 or email info@merryspring.org.

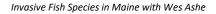
Screen Shots from Merryspring's Zoom Webinars

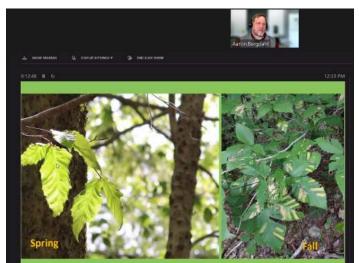


Resilience in Maine's Coastal Habitat with Mike Burke

What is an Invasive?

- Any species that is not native to a water is "invasive".
- Fish that are native to Maine can be invasive if moved.
- Invasive fish that are new to Maine are considered "exotic".





Beech Leaf Disease with Aaron Burgdahl



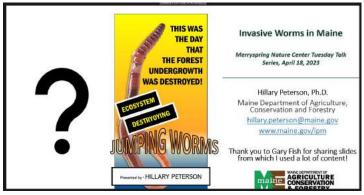
Tourmaline: Maine's State Gem with Myles Felch

Zoom Talks

This year a total of 16 talks have been held since January, bringing over 400 virtual guests "to Merryspring." Speakers have included scientists, artists, gardeners, and advocates presenting on subjects as diverse as The Rockland Bog, Winter Garden Planning, Invasive Worms in Maine, Repurposing Marine Plastic, and others. Online talks continue through late May, then we will switch to in-person outdoor talks.



Ten Reasons Why Birding in Maine is Weird with Bob Duchesne



Invasive Jumping Worms in Maine with Hillary Peterson

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 26 to June 30 and from July 10 to July 14, respectively.

Merryspring and Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District (KSLWCD) are excited to offer these popular programs in 2023. Summer Ecology Camps offer exciting outdoor nature experiences for young children. Through gardening, games, experiments, and observation, campers enjoy an introduction to ecology and the natural world in these halfday 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 26 to June 30, from 8:45 am until 12:00 pm. Little Sprouts,



Little Sprouts plant the Children's Garden.

meant for students ages 4 to 6, will take place the second week, July 10 to 14, 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 on request.

Parents can sign up online by visiting www.knox-lincoln.org/ecology-camp.



Explorer Kits

Merryspring Nature Center, in conjunction with KLSWCD, will be offering the popular Explorer Kits once again in 2023. Explorer Kits offer weekly free take-home projects for children and their families to learn together. Each week brings a new surprise, with all the ingredients and instructions included. A total of 30 kits will be available each week for five weeks on a first-come, first-served basis. Each week will feature a new activity, with some returning favorites from past seasons. The Kits will be available for pickup starting Wednesday, July 19, at 9:00 am.

Watercolor at Merryspring

This year, Program Director John Fromer asked Nancy Glassman's art students to paint a new image for our Plant Sale poster. Kristin Heller's was chosen from among the talented works (see poster). Merryspring is fortunate to have a wonderful teacher like Nancy whose work has been featured in galleries and shows around the state and country.



Nancy (seated) and her students learn the types of flowers in the arrangement they are about to paint.



2023 Summer Calendar

Tuesday Talks at Noon



May 30	Opening the Perennial Garden—John Fromer
Jun 6	Please the Birds and Bees—Gary Fish
Jun 13	Creating a Medicinal Moon Garden—Denise DeSpirito
Jun 20	Artist Talk—Eric Darling
Jun 27	No Talk (Summer Ecology Camp Week)
Jul 4	No Talk (Holiday)
Jul 11	No Talk (Summer Ecology Camp Week)
Jul 18	Growing Cut Flowers (workshop following)—John Fromer
Jul 25	Summer Birds—Don Reimer
Aug 1	Herb Garden Tour/Talk—Denise DeSpirito
Aug 8	Design and Perennial Longevity—John Fromer
Aug 15	Companion Planting—John Fromer
Aug 22	Relocating Wild Animals—Maynard Stanley
Aug 29	New England Natives—John Fromer

Preparing the Garden for Fall and Winter—John Fromer

All talks will be held at Merryspring Nature Center and are free
for Merryspring members and \$5 for non-members.

Native Bees and Pollinators—Jennifer Lund

Herbs for Aging Well—Denise DeSpirito

Fall Blooming Flowers—*John Fromer*

Pruning Fruit Trees—Jason White

Sep 5

Sep 12

Sep 19

Sep 26

Oct 3

Free Family Fridays



July 7—Summer Ecology Walk—Discover backyard plants, trees, and birds at Merryspring.

July 21—Bug Safari—Search Merryspring's gardens for insects; learn how to identify your findings. Nets provided.

July 28—Tree Identification Walk—Learn how to identify native trees by their leaves, buds, and bark.

August 4—Wildlife Detective—Use your detective skills to solve nature mysteries. Figure out clues hidden in animal tracks, skins, and skulls.

August 11—Fairy Village—Create tiny little fairy houses or great big ones using natural ingredients at hand in the woods.

August 18 – Exploring Owl Pellets—Learn about Maine's native owls; discover he secrets inside the pellets they leave behind.

Space is limited for all Free Family Fridays. Pre-registration 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.



Wild Mushroom ID Workshop with Greg Marley Saturday, August 19 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. \$70M/\$75NM Learn to identify local mushrooms with a master guide.



Family Night Hike
with John Fromer
Saturday, August 26
8:00 p.m. Free to all.
Owls, bats, and more—learn what
plants and animals do at night.



Seed Saving
with John Fromer
Tuesday, September 9
1:00—3:00 p.m. \$30M/\$35NM
Learn the basics of drying, collecting, and storing seeds.



Fall Foliage Walk
with John Fromer
Saturday, October 14
10:00—11:00 a.m. Free to all.
Learn why and how leaves change
color during peak foliage season.

Page 6 The Hawthorn Spring 2023

Merryspring Gratefully Acknowledges Your 2022 Contributions

PATRON (\$5,000+) Francis J. O'Hara, Jr.; B. Kay Ouradnik; Doris Salzman

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Watercolor by Cindy Lucas

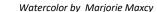
Sinclair; Cyrene Slegona; Mary Kate Small; Mariella Smith Masters; Shane Snowdon; Tace Sofia; Elizabeth Stanley; Alicia Stevenson; Cathy Straka; Jan B. Taft; Michelle Terry; Sandra Thomas; Joanne Vangel; Cornelia Walton; Priscilla Weatherwax; Suzanne Weaver; Deanna L. Webster; Katrinka Wilder; A Anthony Wilson; Kristine Wright; Thomas Zumwalt.

COMPLIMENTARY MEMBERSHIPS: Roxanne Morse.

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GIFTS IN KIND: Wendy & Ray Andresen; Jeff Esche; Dominic & Liz Gioia Family; Richard Lermond; Marjorie E. Maxcy; Rick Sawyer; Jean English & Dennis M. Sidik; Carla Skinder; Sharon Turner.

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS: Jeannie Harsha.



FOUNDATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT: In 2022, 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 (1); Bangor Savings Bank; Bangor Savings Bank Foundation; Camden Rotary Club; Davis Conservation Foundation; Fisher Charitable Foundation; Maine Timberlands Charitable Trust; Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust; Onion Foundation; Rotary Club of West Bay; The Aldermere Foundation; The Leonard C. & Mildred F. Ferguson Foundation; The Reny Charitable Foundation; Town of Camden.

MEMORIAL GIFTS: In memory of Lynette Dickey O'Hara: Cathy Anthony; Patricia Anderson; Kathy Bertolino; Ann & Rick Bresnahan; Donna Bruton; Sari R. & Vance Bunker; Lisa Burgess; Mark Buron; Liana Dickey; Carolyn DiPesa; Frank & Sandra Fogg; Rebecca Ford; Jennifer Heater; Eugene & Jeanne King; Betty Maddocks; Sharon Hanley; Francis J. O'Hara, Jr., Monika & Thomas Rokes; Kristin Selesnick; Kelly & David Smith; Frank & Amy Stearns; Sherry Terrio.

In memory of Faith P Getchell: Lisa R. Burgess; David Ellenbogen; Ann M G Gray; Patricia Sewall; Ronald S & Leslie A Stoodley.

In memory of Bart Wood: Anonymous (1); Jane & Tom Babbitt; Dale K. & Douglas A. Bruce; Stephanie Scott Kumble; Carla Skinder.

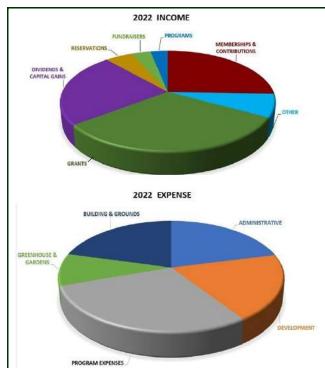
2022 Business Support

Merryspring is very grateful for the support the local business community gave us in 2022. 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; Camden National Bank; First National Bank; TREEKEEPERS LLC Johnson's Arboriculture.

BUSINESS FRIEND (\$100 - \$249): Hannaford Super Market.



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 \$225,000 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 2023, we wish to thank all of you listed on these pages for your contributions in 2022, 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.





