



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Native Plant Trust Hires Director of Public Programs, Bess Paupeck

October 26, 2022

Media Contact:

Bess Paupeck, Director of Public Programs, Native Plant Trust

[bpaupeck@NativePlantTrust.org](mailto:bpaupeck@NativePlantTrust.org); 508.877.7630 x3302



(Framingham, MA) Native Plant Trust, the nation's first plant conservation organization and the only one solely focused on New England's native plants, announces the hire of Bess Paupeck, as Director of Public Programs. In her role at Native Plant Trust, Bess oversees a department offering approximately 200 programs per year throughout New England, ranging from events, courses, workshops, field trips and a range of other programs that focus on botany, plant conservation, ecological horticulture and gardening. The department also oversees the native plant certificate programs, which includes in-person and online courses as well as webinar offerings.

"We are delighted Bess has joined our staff at Native Plant Trust, where she will be instrumental in building exciting new opportunities for education and engagement throughout the region," commented Debbi Edelstein, Executive Director. "Bess's vision, deep experience in community and programming, passion for engaging learners at all levels and building partnerships will enable us to share our expertise in New England's native plants with many more audiences."

"I am very excited to join the team at Native Plant Trust," noted Paupeck. "I have worked as a program producer, exhibition designer and curator in the art-science space at museums and universities, and am excited for this opportunity to bring this perspective to an organization focused on environmental issues. Since joining Native Plant Trust, I've been inspired by the dedication, passion, and deep knowledge of my colleagues for the science, conservation, and promotion of native plants. Building on the strong bases of programs in botany, horticulture and biodiversity, we'll be working toward connecting this knowledge with new horizons in the art-science sphere. I am also working to increase our outreach and education on the crucial issues surrounding native plants and supporting a sustainable ecological future for all members of society."

"Through our programming I hope to lay out the welcome mat for all. I am constantly energized by the possibilities for impact within the organization, and the myriad ways our mission touches every part of our world. I look forward to continuing Native Plant Trust's legacy of exceptional and creative educational programs."

Prior to joining Native Plant Trust, Paupeck served in roles at Harvard University, the MIT Museum, the Boston Museum of Science, the Somerville Arts Council and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. She received a BA in American Studies/Fine Art/Art History from George Washington University, an MA in Public Humanities from Brown University, a Certificate in Non-Profit Management from Harvard University, and a Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies from Tufts University.

For more information about Public Programs at Native Plant Trust, please visit [www.NativePlantTrust.org](http://www.NativePlantTrust.org).

## ABOUT NATIVE PLANT TRUST

Native Plant Trust is the nation's first plant conservation organization and the only one solely focused on New England's native plants. We save native plants in the wild, grow them for gardens and restorations, and educate others on their value and use. We are based at Garden in the Woods, a renowned native plant botanic garden that attracts visitors from all over the world. From this flagship property in Framingham, Massachusetts, 25 staff and many of our 1,500 trained volunteers work throughout New England each year to monitor and protect rare and endangered plants, collect and preserve seeds to ensure biological diversity, detect and control invasive species, conduct research, and offer a range of educational programs. Native Plant Trust also operates a nursery at Nasami Farm in western Massachusetts and manages six sanctuaries in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont that are open to the public. Native Plant Trust is among the first organizations worldwide to receive Advanced Conservation Practitioner accreditation by London-based Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), which included an endorsement by an International Advisory Council representing six continents. Please visit [www.NativePlantTrust.org](http://www.NativePlantTrust.org).

###