



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve Expands Production of Pollinator Friendly Native Plants

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve is working harder than ever to make the native plants in their collection available for purchase and planting in landscapes throughout the region. Each spring and fall they offer hundreds of responsibly grown native plants including rare species, pollinator plants, meadow and woodland species, host plants for butterflies, and more. Thanks to recent upgrades and expansion of their growing facility, plus the addition of a Curator to their staff, they are gearing up to offer an even greater selection of native plants for purchase throughout the entire growing season, from spring through fall.

Propagating and selling native plants is an important part of the Preserve's mission to promote the conservation and use of plants native to the region. By doing so the Preserve is not only helping to proliferate native species, the proceeds from each sale are used to fund their diverse educational programs. If you shop for native plants at the Preserve this season you may notice something new. Every plant that was propagated from the Preserve's collection now bears a quality seal on the pot. That seal lets you know that the plant you're taking home was propagated with pride from the Preserve's collection. Each plant bearing the seal is grown without the use of neonicotinoids or other harmful chemicals, making them people and pollinator friendly. It's your chance to take home a piece of the Preserve and nurture it for your own enjoyment.

The Preserve has an on-going initiative to expand on the already comprehensive list of species that they grow, thanks in part to the efforts of Curator Jason Ksepka. Jason joined the staff in summer 2015 and has been working feverishly ever since to acquire new species. That process involves seed and plant exchanges with mission related organizations as well as collecting from wild populations. All wild collecting is done under supervision of and with permission from the appropriate state agencies. The end goal is to add 30 species of PA natives to the Preserve's collection, and make them available for future Nursery sales. Of the new species that Jason has acquired, he is particularly proud to have seeds of green comet milkweed (*Asclepias viridiflora*) from a private property in Somerset County, NJ. This species is an important food source for monarch butterfly larvae and will be added to the Preserve's meadow. Jason will share the full inside story of his work in the field to acquire new species at a special lecture for Preserve Members on Friday, May 13 from noon to 1 p.m. Members also get the first opportunity to shop for the full selection of native plants immediately following Jason's lecture.

About Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve: Established in 1934, Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve is a 134-acre nature preserve, botanical garden, and accredited museum working to inspire the appreciation and use of native plants by serving as a sanctuary and educational resource for conservation and stewardship. Managed by Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve Association, a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit. For further information, visit www.bhwp.org and www.facebook.com/BowmansHillWildflowerPreserve. Follow us: Twitter (@Bowmans_Hill_WP) and Instagram (@wildflowerpreserve).