



News Springs Eternal

October 2008

Real-time Research at the Farm Native Ecosystems Research at YSF

Yellow Springs Farm is committed to the advancement of scientific research related to native plant communities and their importance and interactions in our environment. We are currently collaborating with the University of Delaware to study insect preference and visitation rates for native plant species versus their genetically modified counterparts. Native plants that are

genetically modified or cultivated exhibit different traits versus the native species, such as extended bloom time, modified colors and/or height variations. We will keep you updated on our findings.

In addition, Nate Nazdrowicz a Ph.D candidate in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware is conducting surveys of springhouses in Chester and Delaware Co. PA, and New Castle County, DE, to determine the long-tailed salamander population presence or absence. Previous studies indicate that long-tail salamanders use springhouses as a winter refuge for reproduction. Since there are a limited number of spring houses, and not all spring houses have salamanders, Nate is studying water quality variables to determine local factors that could affect distribution.



Our springhouse seems to have above average numbers of long-tail salamanders, according to Nate. We thank Nate for including YSF in the study, and look forward to seeing the final results.



West Chester University has a new Outdoor Classroom!

On Wednesday, Sept. 3, West Chester University's Outdoor Classroom located outside of the Schmucker was complete. Certified as a National Wildlife Federation Backyard Habitat, the Outdoor Classroom will be used for research and general enjoyment.

Plants were purchased from Yellow Springs Farm Native Plant Nursery and were planted with help from the WCU Biology Club. All of the species used are native and attract pollinators like bees and butterflies; some species include Joe Pye Weed, Purple Coneflower, various grasses, and Anise Hysop (an excellent butterfly attracter).



September Open House 2008



Thanks to all who attended our September Open House weekends. This is the first year we offered two weekends in September. Given the storm during the first weekend, this second weekend worked out well so that many of our loyal customers and first-time visitors could join us, and see this season's plants.

US Congressman Jim Gerlach and PA Rep. Curt Schroder also both visited Yellow Springs Farm for our Fall Open House and Plant Sale in September. Both local officials support the Farm's efforts to conserve energy and receive grants to partially fund our new solar panels. We also thank PA State Senator Andy Dinniman who wrote letters of support for the Farm. This wasn't a partisan event, but we are grateful to these public servants for their attention and interest what we do. We simply want to spread the word that solar power is contributing to the grid ,as well as supplying power to Yellow Springs Farm."



Yellow Springs Farm has supported local artists since we started selling native plants in 2002. We love having artists show their work among the plants, and especially enjoy the opportunity to have artists work in the landscape during our Farm events. Rhoda Kahler of West Chester showed

her garden artworks in clay. Both functional and decorative, the works embrace Rhoda's great imagery and skill with glazes and forms.

It was also inspiring to see Jan Crooker work on her landscape painting during our September plant sales. Jan is from Kutztown, PA and a member of MAPAPA (Mid-Atlantic Plein Air Painters Association). Visit www.janCrooker.com to see her beautiful works of art.



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