

From: "Nancy Beaubaire" <beaubaire@bhwp.org>

To: <PABIODIV@webmail.upb.pitt.edu>

Subject: PABIODIV: Plant Stewardship Index: New tool for land conservationists and property owners

Date: Tue, 29 Mar 2005 20:09:56 -0500 (EST)

Dear Conservationist,

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve is proud to announce the debut of a Plant Stewardship Index, which the Preserve developed to evaluate the Piedmont plant communities and habitats of the Delaware Valley Region. The Index provides a practical and standardized tool for assessing land areas, including open space, public lands and private property. This is the first time an Index such as this has been created for the Delaware Valley Region with a focus on educating professionals and the general public alike. This new assessment tool will help land conservationists, land managers and property owners determine the relative ecological quality of plant communities by rating habitats in standardized numerical terms. Through use of the Index, property managers and owners will be able to evaluate the effectiveness of prescribed management practices, identify the need for a management plan and monitor management or preservation of a property. The Index includes 900 native, naturalized and invasive plants as well as selected threatened and endangered species.

The Preserve will offer the following educational programs to inform land managers and property owners how to use this new and innovative tool:

- An Introductory Workshop to explain the Index, its use and to offer general tips on identification of species growing in the Delaware Valley region
- Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve's Knowing Native Plant series of classes on spring ephemerals, shrubs, ferns, meadows, asters, trees and winter botany.
- A Field Workshop on a selected property with experts demonstrating use of the Index, sampling, taking specimens and identification of plants

Sign up for the full program (all three of the above-listed programs) or the Introductory Workshop only. Both options include a copy of the Index and a packet of information on its use. The Introductory Workshop will be held on Saturday, April 2 from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve. Pre-registration accepted; walk-ins welcome for the Introductory Workshop only. The fee for the Introductory Workshop only is \$80. The fee for the full program is \$300 for Preserve members and \$350 for non-members. The field workshop will be held in the summer of 2005, with the date to be announced. Availability in the Preserve's plant classes and the field workshop may be limited. Knowing Native Plant classes also are offered individually by the Preserve. For more information, to pre-register or if you are unable to attend the Introductory Workshop but are interested in obtaining the Index, contact Daniel Elinich at the Preserve (215) 862-2924, [elinich@bhwp.org](mailto:elinich@bhwp.org). For a detailed course outline and Knowing Native Plant class description and dates, visit <http://www.bhwp.org>, go to "Latest News" on the homepage and select "Plant Stewardship Index" or contact Daniel Elinich (see above)

The Preserve is located at 1635 River Road (PA Rt. 32), 2.5 miles south of New Hope, Pennsylvania and convenient to I-95.

Please share with interested colleagues!

Nancy Beaubaire, Director of Communications  
Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve  
P.O. Box 685  
New Hope, PA 18938  
215-862-2924 (phone)  
215-862-1846 (fax)  
[beaubaire@bhwp.org](mailto:beaubaire@bhwp.org)