



Native Plant Gardens = Natural Beauty Three Gardens Designed by Nanette Masi

Tuesday, August 14, 2012

10:00 AM – 12:30 PM Amesbury, MA

Featuring native plants, natural garden design brings a taste of the wilderness to urban, suburban, and commercial settings by attracting a variety of birds, butterflies and other wildlife. And once established, native plant gardens require fewer inputs (fertilizer or water) which benefit the environment while saving on maintenance costs. Join Nanette Masi for this behind the scenes tour demonstrating the natural beauty of three of her designed gardens.

- Nanette's private gardens: Though overrun with invasives when the property was purchased in 1994, Nanette was hooked by the natural setting; a freshwater tidal marsh, a stream, and overlooking the Merrimac River. The reclamation started with small foundation plantings in 1995, when native plants were scarce. Now there are small shade gardens, a sunny meadow-based garden, a vegetable garden with a grape-covered pergola, and a steep front hillside of clay where invasives continue to taunt.
- 2nd Garden: Nanette's first residential design was a narrow condo backyard project. The property was transformed from a struggling, uneven lawn to a pleasing garden with a bubbling stream, mini pond, and visiting frogs. Along with many native perennials, a dwarf, flowing Japanese maple was included in the design at the owners' request. To add depth and a sense of enclosure, trellises were attached to the fences on either side. Over time the garden has evolved to fit the owners' lifestyle and children.
- 3rd Garden: A recent design, this property is carved out of a steep knoll with close to a 1:1 slope within 10 -15 feet off one side of the house. The rear of the property slopes down steeply to a series of granite terraces, and wide granite walkways with curves and beach stone ribs as spacers. Creative stonework was installed by the talented mason, Adam Bennett of Colonial Stoneworks, with input from the visionary property owner.

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For more information: ela.info@comcast.net or (617) 436-5838

Nanette Masi, M.Ed. shares her love of nature, photography, and education through her landscape design firm 'Back to Nature'. Nanette's mission is to help people connect to the natural world and to learn organic methods of gardening for their own health and the health of their community. With degrees in Botany, Ecology, & Science Education, an OLCP certificate through NOFA and years of organic gardening and design experience, Nanette has been a guiding force in the creation of wildlife habitat gardens throughout the region.



CEUs are being sought for this presentation.