



Nantucket Conservation Foundation

Register now online!

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 Nantucket Conservation Foundation

2017 Race for Open Space!
"JOG IN THE BOG"
Saturday, July 8
5K Run, 2 Mile Walk

New Location:
Milestone Cranberry Bog
220 Milestone Road

New Start Times:
Registration opens at 7:30 AM
Walkers start at 8:45 AM
Runners start at 9:00 AM

Gardening with Native Species

The [Nantucket Biodiversity Initiative](#) and its member organizations, including the Foundation, produced a comprehensive guide to [Landscaping with Native Plants on Nantucket](#). Take advantage of this helpful information and incorporate some of these species into your landscape or garden design this season!

Native plants not only safeguard our island's fragile ecosystem, but are easier to care for due to their natural suitability. Let us be your guide in letting you know which perennials, such as the woodland sunflower or yellow wild indigo are key in attracting important pollinators like butterflies and bees. Plant something with edible value, such as highbush blueberry, beach plum, and elderberry. Use the information on ideal site conditions and 'best use codes' (groundcover, wind and salt spray tolerant, habitat restoration, etc.) to plant your garden in the most beautiful and effective way possible.

FACT:
The actual number of plant species (both native and non native) and hybrids that call Nantucket home is over 1,324!



Top: Highbush Blueberry; Bottom: Beach Plum

Invasive Spotlight: Garlic Mustard

What is an [invasive species](#)?

Invasive species are non-native weeds that rapidly reproduce and out-compete native species. Globalization, trade, and commerce have accelerated the spread of invasive species on Nantucket and around the world. Invasive plants have lower food and habitat value for our native insects and wildlife.

Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)

Garlic mustard is a persistent and tenacious small white-flowered plant. Its presence as a problematic invasive has increased over the past 5-10 years.

How can I help?

This ferocious little plant may take up to ten years to eradicate. Hand-pull these weeds, roots and all, and put them in their entirety into a plastic bag. Bring the sealed bag to Nantucket's Environmental Park (also known as the landfill) to be placed in the invasive plant dumpster for composting.



Want to know more? Check out our [science blog](#)

Properties Maintenance: Squam Farm

With over 9,000 acres entrusted to our care, the Foundation has a full-time crew in its [Properties Maintenance Department](#) dedicated to maintaining our land guided by science, and in keeping with the island's open space traditions. For example, our 210-acre Squam Farm property, bordering Squam Swamp, is characterized by meadows and low fields and surrounded by woodlands. Representative of its historical farming use, our Maintenance Department performs regular mowing and brushcutting to maintain this landscape. The Foundation also used [sheep grazing](#) as a management tool on this property for ten years (2005-2015).

[Visit Squam Farm](#)



If you see one of our tagged horseshoe crabs, please report the tag number, location, date, and time you saw it!

Horseshoe Crab Spawning

FACT: Horseshoe crabs are relatives of spiders and scorpions and are over 350 million years old!

These ancient creatures are threatened by overharvesting and habitat loss of their spawning ground due to development. Our Science Department and staff from other island groups are part of a region-wide effort to monitor the species for localized population declines. Our team performs spawning surveys and places numbered tags on horseshoe crabs at Madaket's Warrens Landing and in Monomoy during the high season for spawning (April-June).

[Learn more about Horseshoe Crab Monitoring](#)
[Volunteer with our Science Staff](#)

Be Responsible Land Users

Tick & Lyme Awareness

Spring has sprung, and it seems we all come to life after a long winter - unfortunately, deer ticks do too. Please be wary of these inconspicuous creatures and use precautions when visiting our properties!

*Ensure that you, your children, and pets stay on designated pathways
Always check for ticks after spending time outside*

[Further Information on Ticks](#)

Neighborhood Watch

If you see something unusual or illegal happening on one of our properties, please give us a call: 508-228-2884!



Looking for More Ways to Get Involved?

- [Support us!](#) Join or renew a membership, make a memorial or gift donation, or make a gift to our Land Fund
- Check [Volunteer Opportunities](#) with the Science & Stewardship Department



Be on the Lookout for the [Mornings for Members 2017](#)
Schedule - Coming Soon!

Support Us

Explore our Website

Nantucket Conservation Foundation | 508-228-2884 | info@nantucketconservation.org

[Visit our Science Blog](#)

Enjoying our properties? Let us know! Write or tweet at us and be sure to follow our Instagram!

