Native Plant Conservation Campaign
A National Native Plant Society for the United States

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Network of Affiliate Native Plant Organizations

51 Affiliate native plant science & conservation groups represent >250,000 native plant enthusiasts!
NPCC implements the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation Target 16

“Networks for plant conservation activities established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels”
NPCC Goals

★ Strengthen & Unify the U.S. Native Plant Conservation Community
★ Fight Plant Blindness
★ Support & Defend Native Plant Science & Conservation

© Julie Anne Hopkins
Strengthen National Communication & Collaboration

- NPCC Website
  PLANTSOCIETIES.ORG
- NPCC News
- National online leaders forum
- Conference calls
- Connect with broader environmental community
- National conference …..

Arkansas Native Plant Society
FIGHT PLANT BLINDNESS!

Is this just a picture of an Elephant?

“inability to see or notice .. plants in [the] environment.”
When was the Last time YOU Generated Oxygen & Food?

The Miracle of Photosynthesis!
Progress?

Endangered Species Day

- African Wild Dog
- Black Rhino
- Guam Micronesian Kingfisher
- Mountain Gorilla

Third Friday in May every year
Progress!

Pollinator Gardens & Landscapes

Well-meaning groups (names withheld to protect the careless) distributed “pollinator species” more or less at random.

Now starting work with native plant societies and experts to verify that species are locally adapted & appropriate.

Photos © Doug Tallamy
PROMOTE AND DEFEND NATIVE PLANT SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION!

Pine Barrens Gentian (NJ) © Michael Hogan

Calochortus plummerae (CA) © Ileene Anderson
NPCC Programs Include

- Equal Protection for Plants
- Ecosystem Services
- Important Plant Areas

See more at PLANTSOCIETIES.ORG

Get Out The Vote for Plants and Science!

Pinewoods Lily (AR) © Michael Weatherford
Equal Protection for Plants

Curates and distributes plant conservation information

Statement supporting equal protection under Endangered Species Act – signed by 77 groups @ 2018

Native Plant Conservation Campaign

Barriers to Native Plant Conservation in the United States:
Funding, Staffing, Law

NPCC, 2002
Plants make up > 50% of listed species, but they receive < 5% of endangered species funding

Plants are Second Class Conservation Citizens!
Ecosystem Services

The processes by which the environment produces goods and benefits often taken for granted, such as clean water, fertile soils, timber, habitat for wildlife and fisheries, and pollination

– Ecological Society of America
Ecosystem Services Program

Curates and distributes information on social and economic value of native plant communities and ecosystems

Produces articles, fact sheets, brochures, media, elected officials, etc.

Water Purification Services:
Protected watersheds in the Catskill Mountains purify and deliver 1.4 billion gallons of water to nearly 9 million people in New York each day.

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Storm Protection Services

>$625 million in property damages prevented during Hurricane Sandy by native plant communities along Northeast U.S. coast - UC Santa Cruz et al., 2016

Global value of ecosystem services = up to $145 trillion/year – Costanza et al., 2013
Kenya’s Greenbelt Movement has planted > 50 million trees to control erosion, provide food & fuel, sequester C, empower women, & buffer climate change.
Native Plant Communities
Ecosystem Services & Climate Resilience

- Food, Fiber & Medicine
- Climate Moderation
- Pest Control
- Carbon Capture
- Oxygen Generation (photosynthesis)
- Recreation
- Buffer Storms
- Wildlife Habitat
- Surface Water Capture
- Water Purification
- Flood Control
- Groundwater Recharge
- Soil Fertility
- Erosion Control
- Carbon Storage
- Pollinator Habitat

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Important Plant Areas

Natural Areas of Great Botanical Significance
(Target 5 GSPC)
U.S. Important Plant Areas Partnership

NPCC, BGCI – U.S., PCA – NECC, CNPS, and more....

Blackland Prairies, AR © M. Weatherford
**Uses of IPAs:**

- Prioritize natural areas for conservation & restoration
- Conserve rare plant species & communities
- Research
- Educate public & policymakers on beauty & diversity of native plants *(Fight Plant Blindness!!)*
- Promote work of native plant organizations
IPA Showcase

Highlight beauty & diversity of native plant communities (Fight Plant Blindness!)

Build constituency for native plants

Highlight role of plant organizations in identifying & protecting IPAs

Build support for national IPA database
Important Plant Area Showcase

- Redwood National Park, CA
- Shoe Factory Road Prairie Preserve, IL
- Blackland Prairies, AR
- New Jersey Pine Barrens
- Sandsage Prairie, KS
- Shawnee National Forest, IL
- Middle Fork Barrens Natural Area, AR
- Long Savanna – National Heritage Priority Site, NJ
- Butler Cirque, CO
- Blackland Prairies, AR
- Long Savanna – National Heritage Priority Site, NJ
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- New Jersey Pine Barrens
- Sandsage Prairie, KS
- Shawnee National Forest, IL
- Butler Cirque, CO
International Important Plant Areas

- Middle Atlas Alpine IPA, Morocco
- Jasper Hill Farm IPA, UK
- Glosgrockner IPA, Austria
- Plantlife
- IUCN

Royal Botanic Gardens
State of the World’s Plants 2017
NPCC Goals

- Strengthen & Unify U.S. Native Plant Conservation Community
- Fight Plant Blindness
- Support & Defend Native Plant Science & Conservation
That is all great – but it is not enough today.
Attacks on Science

- Withdrew from Paris Climate Agreement
- Disbanded scientific committees
- Replaced agency staff with oil & gas professionals
- Attacked Endangered Species Act and NEPA (environmental review law)
- Etc. etc. etc. etc. .........
Turn Public Opinion Into Public Policy *(aka Democracy)*

- Majority in every state: U.S. should participate in Paris Climate Agreement – *Yale Climate Note, May, 2017*
- 62% say government doing too little on environment – *Gallup, March, 2018*
- 76% western voters identify as conservationist in 2018 (up from 63% in 2016) – *State of the Rockies, January 2018*
Get Out The Vote!

- Online voter registration (< 2 minutes)
- Endangered Species Coalition & others
- Outreach at Botanic Gardens, zoos, high schools, festivals, conferences...

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Nonpartisan Voter Pledges

Be visible & hold elected officials accountable!

Pledge to Be a Voter:
I, __________________________, pledge to be a voter. I will vote in the election and recruit others to be 100% voting in:

- My household
- My workplace
- My faith community
- My organization
- Other: ______________________

Endangered Species Coalition

GET ALERTS & UPDATES

your email address

Wildlife and Plant-Lover's GOTV Toolkit

Toolkit will help you prepare for elections. And if you want to do this website will walk you through it.

Participate in Your Democracy!

Register to Vote  Environmental Voter Pledge  Voting Resources for U.S. Elections

Sign the Environmental Voter Pledge

“I pledge to be a consistent voter, and I will always prioritize environmental issues.”

Thank you for joining voters across the country who are standing up to demand environmental leadership!
Positive Initiatives

- 2015 National Seed Strategy: mandates locally adapted native plants
- “Botany Bill”: >30 House sponsors
- Global Strategy for Plant Conservation
- Growing Attention to Plant Blindness
- Important Plant Areas
So - How Can I Help?
Get Involved with NPCC!

- Sign up for NPCC News!
- Speak Out for Plants! Visit NPCC Action Center
- Share NPCC brochures!
- Contribute photos, expertise, $$, time
- Add new Affiliates!

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hosted by CNPS
Turn Public Opinion into Public Policy – VOTE!

Save Plants.
Save the Planet.
Save Ourselves.

Register, Vote, Tell Your Friends!

Native Plant Conservation Campaign

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