

Plant Cataloging with the Westport Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

Basic Botany Student: Elizabeth Hubert
Dates Completed: 6/3/24 – 9/26/24
Total Hours Served: 15.00

Project Location: Westport Woods Conservation Park,
573 Adamsville Road, Westport, MA 02790
Project Supervisor: Nate McCullin, Stewardship Manager
Supervisor Contact: nate@westportlandtrust.org

WLCT's Mission

The Westport Land Conservation Trust is a non-profit, tax-exempt, charitable corporation with a mission to:

Acquire and preserve natural resources, farmland and wildlife areas for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations

to preserve and protect historic sites

to educate the public about the wise use of natural resources

and to work with other organizations having similar purpose.

As one of the last surviving coastal farming communities in Massachusetts, Westport has a unique variety of landscapes, from the East and West Branches of the Westport River to neighboring farmlands, quiet woodlands, pristine beaches, and fertile marshes. All who know Westport appreciate these landscapes and their irreplaceable contribution to the town's agricultural heritage, natural beauty, and traditional way of life.

Project Scope

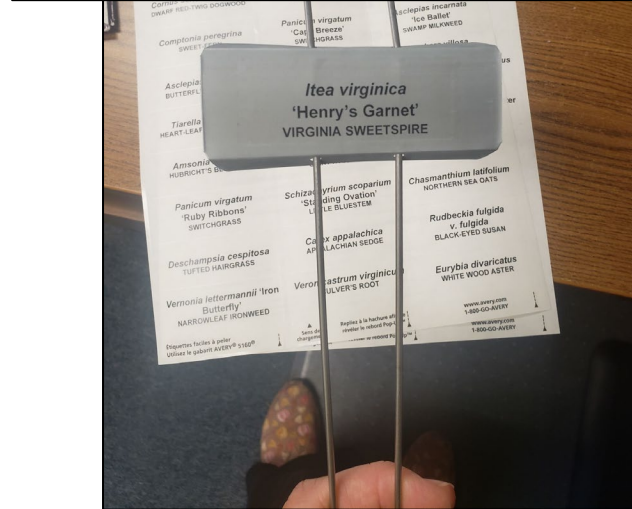
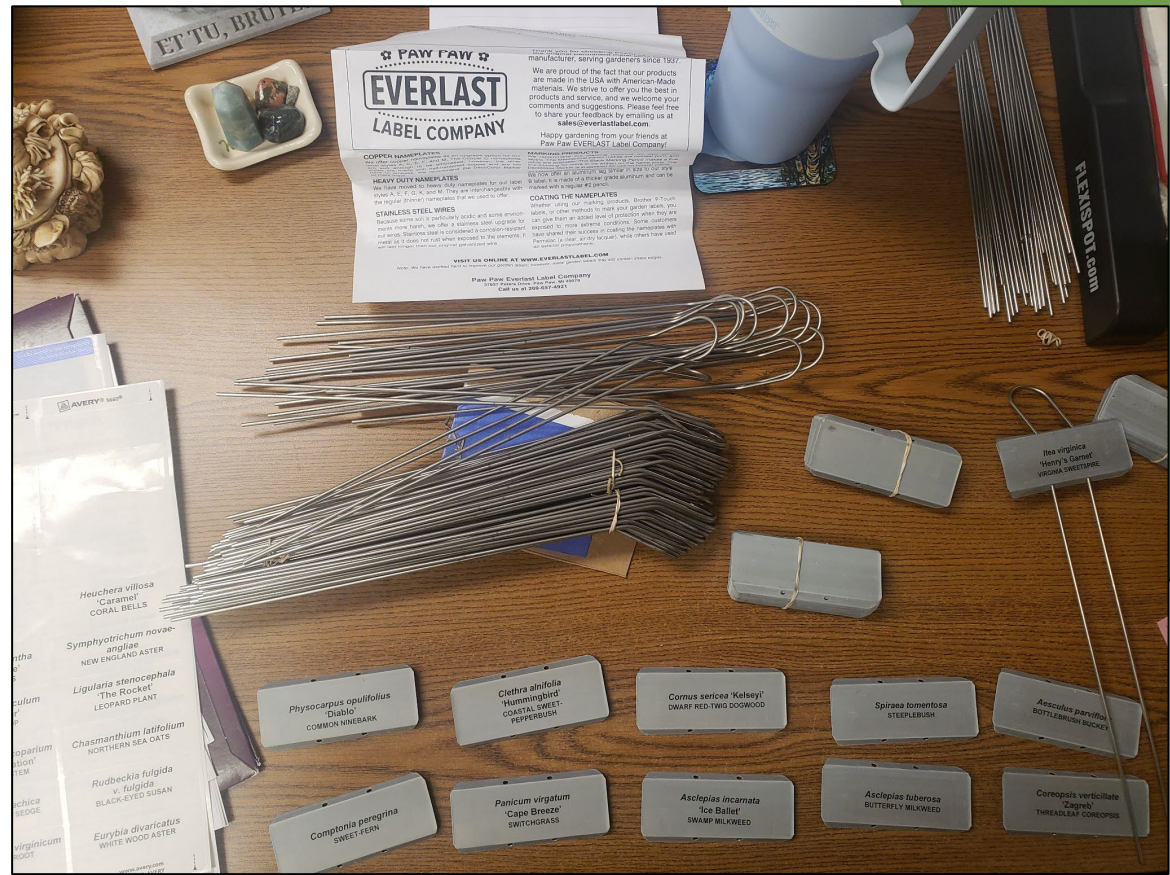
- Land Stewardship and Outreach Manager, Nate McCullin, envisioned an educational “Discovery Garden” located at Westport Woods Conservation Park
- Tuesday Trail Team (TTT) performed the work of clearing and installing plants between 2022 and 2024, the latter involving a very extensive pollinator garden surrounding the office – a historic house –at the forefront of the property.
- A TTT volunteer assisted Nate with botanical labels for the plants installed in 2023, but more labels were needed after the large 2024 plantings.
 - An inventory system was becoming necessary as well
- <https://westportlandtrust.org/2024/04/03/garden-ing-for-conservation-education/>



Tuesday Trail Team plant shrubs in the Discover Garden, May 2023. Photo: Greg Stone
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Beginning Process: Research and Labels

- The label template from 2023 was used for 2024 labels
- Initial time was spent researching common names using the invoices from Sylvan Nursery, where WLCT purchased all of its plants.
 - Invoices showed Latin and cultivar names only (notated sample shown on right)
 - GoBotany, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, and Missouri Botanical Center databases were used to find common names from Latin and cultivar names
- Nate selected both native and naturalized plants, which will be used for general enjoyment as well as for some of WLCT's educational programs.



Quantity	Unit Price	Ext. Price	Item Description
15	6.50	157.50	Asclepias incarnata 'Ice Ballet'
15	10.50	157.50	Asclepias tuberosa 'Butterfly Weed'
9	8.00	72.00	Coreopsis verticillata 'Threadleaf Coreopsis'
15	9.25	138.75	Heuchera 'Caramel' Coral Bells ← check species
15	6.00	100.00	Tiarella cordifolia 'Heart-leaf Tiarellas'
15	8.00	120.00	Heuchera 'Palace Purple' Coral Bells ← check species
3	8.00	24.00	Aster novae-angliae New England Aster
15	8.00	120.00	Desmodium illinoense 'Nubricht's Bluebeard'
9	8.00	72.00	Asclepias 'Black Queen' Sand Dipsos ← check species
15	8.00	120.00	Ligularia stenocephala 'The Rocket' Leopard plant ← check common name



Intermediate Process: Signage Assembly

- ▶ Once research was completed, labels were manually created based off of the annotated Sylvan Nursery plant records.
 - ▶ These annotations were saved for the creation of a database of all plants installed per year.
- ▶ Genus, species, and any applicable cultivars were printed onto clear Avery mailing labels
 - ▶ If a cultivar was applicable, it was written as such:
Itea virginica
'Henry's Garnet'
VIRGINIA SWEETSPIRE
 - ▶ Some cultivars required a little extra research! Especially a few dogwoods with similar common names. Nate emphasized simplicity for property visitors, so the most common names were used.
- ▶ The metal plant labels were assembled and organized by genus before being installed as there were many installations of certain plants, such as *Comptonia peregrina*, Sweet Fern



Final Process: Installation & Cataloging

iNaturalist was used to catalogue all plants that received a label.

This catalogue can be found by navigating to *573 Adamsville Road, Westport, MA* in the map function on iNaturalist.

Please note that the attached pictures do not include the entirety of this cataloging project.



Solidago serotina
RUSTY LEAF BLISS



Eurybia divaricata
WHITE WOOD ASTER



Andropogon scoparius
SMOOTH BROOMS



Asimina triloba
PINEAPPLE



Arctostaphylos uva-ursi
BEARBERRY



Comptonia peregrina
SWEET FERN



Coreopsis verticillata
ZEPHYR



Spiraea bush
Coral Bells



Spiraea bush
Coral Bells



Heuchera
Coral Bells



Heuchera micrantha
"Palace Purple"
CORAL BELLS



Heuchera
Coral Bells



Added Bonus: a Handy Database

- ▶ It became obvious quickly that a database would be *extremely* helpful for tracking the various genera and species growing in the WLCT Discovery Garden.
- ▶ Using the previous year's template info, as well as the current year's plant data, a database was created in Microsoft Excel, which can be used to reference exactly which genera and species are growing at Westport Woods.
 - ▶ The number of plantings done were also captured; however, any subsequent offspring from new plants were not included.
- ▶ For the Advanced Botany Certificate, it has been proposed to WLCT to create an Herbarium of Flora of Westport and Surrounding Communities, which would be used for educational programs offered by the organization.
 - ▶ This database will be a useful tool in the creation, and continual updating, of that Herbarium by WLCT Volunteers and Citizen Scientists!
 - ▶ Please consider checking out the Flora of Westport (MA) and Surrounding Communities project on iNaturalist to add to this conversation!
<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/flora-of-westport-ma-and-surrounding-communities>