Impact Project Report

Master Naturalist uses art to teach people about native wildflowers

Issue

Seeing is believing, but that can be hard when it comes to native wildflowers. Over the course of a year, the Margaret Reid Chapter of the NC Native Plant Society (NPS) does many public outreach and education events, all without the benefit of live plants. Master Naturalist Cynthia Woodsong helped solve that problem by creating a display garden from paper.



Project

Woodsong began by working with the NPS staff to learn about the types of questions they encounter from the public at events, as well as the types of native species they recommend for home gardeners. Working from this information, she used her artistic skills to create a tray of eight life-size, native wildflowers made from paper.

She also researched and developed a set of talking points that NPS staff and volunteers can use when they are showing these paper plants to the public. She included growing requirements, botanically significant aspects of the plants, and where people can find the plants to purchase.

Woodsong presented the paper garden to the Reid Chapter at the NPS annual picnic, where she addressed the gathering and provided information about the Master Naturalist program (pictured, right).

Cynthia also teaches paper botanical workshops at the North Carolina Botanical Garden.



Student

This project is the work of Cynthia Woodsong

Impact Projects

Beyond classwork, a key feature of the Master Naturalist Volunteer program is the Impact Projects students develop. These projects integrate course concepts and benefit a Partner Organization.

Highlights

Partner Organization

Native Plant Society, Margaret Reid Chapter

NCMasterNaturalist.org | Program@NCMasterNaturalists.org

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