

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Contact Information**

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Penny Road Elementary School was the thirteenth site to be honored as a certified North Carolina Native Plant Garden. Tom Harville, NC Native Plant Society president, presented Penny Road Elementary School's principal, Mark Barbar, with the certificate. Mr. Barbar stated "We are honored to receive this prestigious certification from NC Native Plant Society! We are so thankful for the opportunity to have a native plant garden program to add to our Science curriculum here at Penny Road Elementary"!

The NC Native Plant Garden installation began in Fall 2007 and was completed in early Spring 2008 by the Penny Road Elementary School students under the leadership of Ann and John Sykes, PTA Building and Grounds Co-Chairs. John Sykes said "The students have been very active in learning about NC Native Plants and have enjoyed maintaining the gardens".

The NC Native Plant Certification Program, developed and administered by NC Native Plant Society has only awarded 15 certifications since the program started in 2004. "By certifying Penny Road Elementary School's NC Native Plant Garden, we can ensure that our children and grandchildren are participating in a project that sparks a lifelong interest in NC Native Plants" says Tom Harville. "The students will appreciate this beautiful state even more by having a hands-on, real world experience with native plants. We are proud to be apart of this program at Penny Road".

The North Carolina Native Plant Society was formed in 1951 by a group of individuals appreciative of native plants throughout the state and region. The purpose of the Society is to promote enjoyment and conservation of native plants and their habitats through education, protection, propagation and advocacy. For more information about programs in which your community, schools, and citizens can participate, contact NC Wildflower at: North Carolina Native Plant Society, C/O North Carolina Botanical Garden, CB 3375, Totten Center, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3375 or visit [www.newildflower.org](http://www.newildflower.org).