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Dr. Margaret Conover is a botanist and science educator who teaches and lectures throughout Long Island including Stony Brook University, the New York Botanical Garden, the Nature Conservancy, and the New York Center for Teacher Development.

As a Fulbright Fellow to Australia, she conducted dissertation research on the leaf venation patterns of the lily family. Dr. Conover is co-founder of the Long Island Botanical Society and currently serves as newsletter editor. She is a 2007 graduate of the Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Program and serves on advisory committees to Suffolk County 4-H and a number of local parks and preserves.

For the last 30 years, Dr. Conover has been a leader in informal science education, first as program director of the Museum of Long Island Natural Sciences at Stony Brook University, and later as Executive Director of the Science Museum in Shoreham, NY. In this capacity she has created dozens of science learning experiences for school groups, organized a symposium on rain forest ecology, and founded a national network for museum professionals of small science centers.

Together with friends and colleagues, Dr. Conover recently founded a not-for-profit organization: **Sciencenterprise**, which aims to produce interactive science learning experiences through partnerships between individual educators and scientists. Under the umbrella of this not-for-profit, Dr. Conover owns and operates a small business: **Chia Power**, which is dedicated to the promotion of the use of chia seeds for fun and food.

Dr. Conover is available to give presentations, including workshops and field trips, on the following:

- ❖ Leaf venation patterns in the flowering plants
- ❖ “Botany 101”
- ❖ Long Island Botany
- ❖ Weeds: Invasive plant species of terrestrial ecosystems
- ❖ The history of botany education
- ❖ Chia: the Mexican Miracle Seed

Recent audiences include: Suffolk County Science Teacher’s Association, Suffolk County 4-H, New York City Schools Urban Advantage Program, Brooklyn Botanical Garden Education Department, Three Village Garden Club, and the Long Island Botanical Society.

For more information, visit one of Dr. Conover’s weblogs:

<http://chia.typepad.com/botany/> and www.chiativity.org