

Notes from ...

# ...the farm



**RAISE THE ROOF:** *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas fir) roof timbers were recently installed for the Native Plant Center. These beautiful beams, which will remain exposed on the interior, will be topped with several layers of various materials, resulting in a roof system over one foot thick that has tremendous insulating qualities. Construction is on track for June 1, 2009 opening.

In the Pioneer Valley, autumn's sunny yet cool days were great for our plants to bulk up their reserves for winter. The Nasami team spent the fall preparing the plants for their winter rest. Many plants were starting to slumber; some were just starting out in the world. We potted 3,400 *Solidago sempervirens* (seaside golden rod) in plugs. They're destined for a restoration of a beach on Ram Island in Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts. These plants will provide nesting habitat for the endangered roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*). Half the population of world's roseate nest on two tiny islands in Buzzard's Bay—Ram and Bird Islands.

Since the groundbreaking in June, we have enthusiastically greeted every step in the construction of the Native Plant Center (NPC). Seeing it framed out was especially exciting. A great addition to both the Nasami campus and the Valley, the NPC will house a retail sales area, staff offices, a seed bank, and a large classroom/seed processing room, which will be used primarily for the Society's educational outreach. The new workshop will store nursery and sanctuary equipment, while the newly renovated tobacco barn will house nursery production supplies.

Built to meet LEED-certification criteria, the NPC features revolutionary, energy-efficient systems making their debut on the construction scene. Components as simple as a special rubber strip between the concrete foundation and walls, and a new tape barrier on every joint in the plywood will make the building so efficient that we will be able to "heat it with a candle." These are just a couple of the innovations I look forward to sharing with you when we welcome you to the NPC in the summer of 2009. 🌱

—RON WIK, NURSERY BUSINESS DIRECTOR