

# Midwest Native Plant Conference Agenda

July 31-Aug 2, 2026, Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning on the grounds of the Mt. St. John Nature Preserve  
 Conference Documents can be found online <https://www.midwestnativeplants.org/midwest-native-plant-conference>

<b>Friday</b>	<b>Registration Opens</b>		
12:00 pm Vendor Registration Opens	Sponsor, Vendor & Exhibitor Registration opens. Vendor sales open to attendees all weekend.		
1:30 pm Attendee Registration Opens	Attendee Registration Opens		
2:00-3:00 pm Outdoor Walk	<i>Natural History, Flora, &amp; Fauna Tour of Mt. St. John</i> , Michele Bunker, Tara Poling, Austin Miller, Debbie Karr. Two guided walks.		
2:00-3:00 pm	<i>Adventures in Native Plant Triaing and Propagation</i> , Dani Parisi		
3:30-4:30 pm Roncalli - Presentation	<i>Pawpaw: The State Fruit of Ohio</i> , Don Cipollini		
<b>4:30-6:30 pm Social - Fireplace Lounge</b>	<b>Social &amp; Cash Bar until 6:30 pm</b>		
<b>5:30-6:30 pm Dining Room</b>	<b>Dinner Shifts - Flora 5:30 pm - Fauna 6:00 pm</b>		
7:00 pm Roncalli - Announcements	Welcome, Midwest Native Plant Society, Inc. & Marianist Environmental Education Center		
7:30 pm Roncalli - Presentation	<i>Climate-Ready Canopies: Using Publicly Available Tools to Guide Tree Selection</i> , George Coombs		
9:00 pm Outdoor Activities Meet outside at the front entrance.	Sounds of the Night Walk -Lisa Rainsong & Wendy Partridge	General Nature Prowl-Jim McCormac	Mothing & Night Insects - Kim Banks
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Saturday Native Plants &amp; Artisan Sale, open to the public, 10:00 am - 5:30 pm</b>		
<b>8:00 - 9:00 am Dining Room</b>	<b>Breakfast 8:00 am - 9:00 am</b>		
8:00 am Silent Auction Opens- Fireplace Lounge	Silent Auction benefits Ohio River Foundation <b>Must Be Present to win! Bidding closes 5:30 pm.</b>		
9:15 am Roncalli	Welcome and Announcements		
9:30-10:30 am Roncalli - Presentation	<i>Our Relationship to the Land: Aldo Leopold and His Journey to the Land Ethic</i> , Jennifer Sterling		
10:45-11:45 am Breakout Session 1	<b>Breakout Session 1 – Indoor sessions to vendors, exhibitors and volunteers.</b>		
Indoor -	<i>Hiding in Plain Sight: The Magic of Camouflage, Mimicry &amp; Hidden Figures in Nature</i> , Judy Semroc		
Indoor -	<i>Sustaining Native Insects with Soft Landings</i> , Patty Shipley		
Indoor -	<i>Growing a Moon Garden</i> , Courtney Denning		
Indoor -	<i>Native Grasses- The Foundation of Every Great Pollinator Garden</i> , Jennifer Smith		
Outdoor Tour - Meet outside front door	<i>DIY Growing Native Plants: MEEC Nursery Tour</i> , Michele Bunker		
Outdoor Walk - Meet outside front door	<i>Native Tree Walk</i> , Tom Kimmerer		
Outdoor Walk - Meet outside front door	<i>General Nature Walk</i> , Kim Banks		
Outdoor Walk - Meet outside front door	<i>The Long and Short of it: Native Shrubs &amp; Vines</i> , Tom Borgman		
<b>Noon-1:00 pm Lunch - Dining Room</b>	<b>Lunch Shifts - Flora 12:00 pm &amp; Fauna 12:30 pm</b>		
1:30-2:30 pm Breakout Session 2	<b>Breakout Session 2 – Indoor sessions to vendors, exhibitors and volunteers.</b>		
Indoor -	<i>Hiding in Plain Sight: The Magic of Camouflage, Mimicry &amp; Hidden Figures in Nature</i> , Judy Semroc		
Indoor -	<i>Sustaining Native Insects with Soft Landings</i> , Patty Shipley		
Indoor -	<i>Growing a Moon Garden</i> , Courtney Denning		
Indoor -	<i>Native Grasses- The Foundation of Every Great Pollinator Garden</i> , Jennifer Smith		
Outdoor Tour - Meet outside front door	<i>DIY Growing Native Plants: MEEC Nursery Tour</i> , Michele Bunker		
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Outdoor Walk - Meet outside front door	<i>The Long and Short of it: Native Shrubs &amp; Vines</i> , Tom Borgman		
3:30-4:30 pm Indoor,	<i>What is This Tree Doing?</i> Tom Kimmerer		
3:30-4:30 pm Indoor,	<i>The World of Native Plants and Birds</i> , Tom Hissong		
<b>4:30-6:30 pm - Social - Fireplace Lounge</b>	<b>Cash Bar until 6:30 pm. Silent Auction bidding closes 5:30 pm.</b>		
<b>5:30-6:30 pm Dinner - Dining Room</b>	<b>Dinner Shifts - Flora 5:30 pm &amp; Fauna 6:00 pm.</b>		
7:00 pm Roncalli - Announcements	Centerpiece Raffle & Silent Auction Winners		
7:30 pm Roncalli - Presentation	<i>How to Love a Forest</i> , Ethan Tapper		
9:00 pm Outdoor Activities Walks meet at the front entrance.	Sounds of the Night Walk -Lisa Rainsong & Wendy Partridge	General Nature Prowl-Jim McCormac	Mothing & Night Insects-Kim Banks
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Conference Ends - Thank you for Joining Us!</b>		
<b>8:00-9:00 am Dining Room</b>	<b>Continental Breakfast and Room Checkout 7:30 am - 8:30 am</b>		
9:00 am Field Trips	Fill water bottle, grab snacks, map, and then head out to your field trip location.		

**UNLESS SPECIFIED, ALL KEYNOTE PROGRAMS AND SUNDAY FIELD TRIPS ARE FOR ATTENDEES ONLY.**