

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**Neil Diboll**  
**Prairie Garden**  
**Design Principles**

Neil is a consulting ecologist and President of Prairie Nursery and has over 40 years of experience in prairie establishment and restoration. He will share his expertise in creating prairie meadows and gardens to help you establish native wildflowers and grasses on your property.



**Heather Holm**  
**Native Predatory Wasps:**  
**Their Role as Pollinators and**  
**Beneficial Insects**

Heather Holm is a pollinator conservationist and award-winning author. Heather's expertise includes the interactions between native pollinators and native plants, and the natural history and biology of native bees and predatory wasps.



**Bill Finch**  
**Why the South is the Future of**  
**Midwestern Forests, Grasslands**  
**and Gardens**

Bill Finch is founding director of the Paint Rock Forest Research Center, which partners with The Nature Conservancy to develop cutting edge forest research on a 4000-acre Nature Conservancy preserve in northeast Alabama.

## FEATURED SPEAKERS

- ❖ Dr. Kellen Calinger
- ❖ Jim McCormac



## Our Mission

Our mission is to connect people and nature by promoting native plants. These plants play a crucial role in restoring habitats and the natural food chain for wildlife. By planting native plants, including trees and shrubs, we can help strengthen lost biodiversity and restore our land to a healthy and functional ecosystem. We are dedicated to advocating for the conservation of natural areas to protect and preserve intact ecosystems.

## CONTACT US

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Midwest Native Plant Society



## MIDWEST NATIVE PLANT CONFERENCE

August 1–3, 2025  
Bergamo Center  
Beavercreek, OH

# MIDWEST NATIVE PLANT CONFERENCE AGENDA

## Friday

12:00 pm: Vendor Registration Opens

1:30 pm: Attendee Registration Opens

2:00-3:00 pm: **Native Plant Propagation** - Roncalli (Indoor)

3:30-4:30 pm: **Tree Treasures: The Folklore, Myths, Magic and Wonder of Trees** - Roncalli (Indoor)

3:30-4:30 pm: **Outdoor Walk:** Tour of the Native Landscaping at Bergamo Center

4:30-6:30 pm: **Social & Cash Bar** - Fireplace Lounge

**Dinner Shifts:** 5:30 – Flora Room 6:00 Fauna Room

7:00 pm: **Announcements** - Roncalli

7:30 pm: **Keynote Speaker Bill Finch: Why the South is the Future of Midwestern Forests, Grasslands and Gardens** - Roncalli

9:00 pm: **Outdoor Activities** (meet at front entrance):

- **Firefly Walk** – Matthew & Christa Speights
- **Sounds of the Night** – Lisa Rainsong & Wendy Partridge
- **General Nature Prowl** – Jim McCormac
- **Mothing & Night Insects** – Kim Banks

Other Events TBA.



## Saturday

*Saturday Native Plants & Artisan Sale, open to the public,  
10:00 am- 5:30 pm*

8:00-9:00 am: **Breakfast** - Dining Room

8:00 am: **Silent Auction** - Fireplace Lounge  
**Benefits Western Reserve Land Conservancy:**  
<https://wrlandconservancy.org>

**Bidding closes 6:15 pm. Must Be Present to Win!**

9:15 am: **Welcome & Announcements** - Roncalli

9:30-10:30 am: Keynote Speaker Heather Holm **Native Predatory Wasps: Their Role as Pollinators and Beneficial Insects** - Roncalli

10:45-11:45 am: **Breakout Session I:**

**Indoor Programs:**

- **Designing Intentional Wild Spaces**, Brooke Medlin – Roncalli (Indoor)
- **Common Asters Encountered in Ohio**, Mark Wessel – Darby (Indoor)
- **Rain Garden Rundown**, Sarah Meadows – Saragossa (Indoor)
- **Art Program: Designs in Nature & Nature Journaling**, Bill Whorrall – Hoelle (downstairs)

**Outdoor Programs** (meet outside front door):

- **DIY Growing Native Plants: MEEC Nursery Tour**, Michele Banker
- **Basic Invasive Plant Identification & Control, Session I**, Tom Borgman
- **Matrix Design with Grasses & Sedges**, Michael Keeler
- **Birds, Bugs & Botany: Take a Walk on the Wild Side**, Judy Semroc

**Lunch Shifts:** 12:00 – Flora Room 12:30 – Fauna Room

1:30-2:30 pm: **Breakout Session II**

**Indoor Programs:**

- **Designing Intentional Wild Spaces**, Brooke Medlin – Roncalli (Indoor)
- **Common Asters Encountered in Ohio**, Mark Wessel – Darby (Indoor)
- **Rain Garden Rundown**, Sarah Meadows – Saragossa (Indoor)
- **Art Program: Designs in Nature & Nature Journaling**, Bill Whorrall – Hoelle (downstairs)

## Saturday - (Cont.)

**Outdoor Programs** (meet outside front door):

- **DIY Growing Native Plants: MEEC Nursery Tour**, Michele Banker
- **Advanced Invasive Plant Control, Session II**, Tom Borgman
- **Matrix Design with Grasses & Sedges**, Michael Keeler
- **Birds, Bugs & Botany: Take a Walk on the Wild Side**, Judy Semroc

3:00-4:00 pm: **Seeing the Light: A New Way of Understanding Ecosystems**, Bill Finch - Roncalli (Indoor)

3:00-4:00 pm: **The Flowering Times, they are a 'changing**, Dr. Kellen Calinger - Darby (Indoor)

4:15-5:15 pm: **Autumn Gold: The Goldenrods**, Jim McCormac - Roncalli (Indoor)

4:30-6:30 pm: **Social & Cash Bar** - Fireplace Lounge  
**Silent Auction bidding ends 6:15 pm**

**Dinner Shifts:** 5:30 – Flora Room 6:00 Fauna Room

7:00 pm: **Announcements** - Roncalli

7:30 pm: **Keynote Speaker Neil Diboll: Prairie Garden Design Principles** - Roncalli

9:00 pm: **Outdoor Activities** (meet at front entrance):

- **Firefly Walk** – Matthew & Christa Speights
- **Sounds of the Night** – Lisa Rainsong & Wendy Partridge
- **General Nature Prowl** – Jim McCormac
- **Mothing & Night Insects** – Kim Banks

Other events TBA.

## Sunday

*Conference Ends - Thank you for Joining Us!*

8:00 – 9:00 am: **Continental Breakfast & Room Checkout** - Dining Room

9:00 am: **Field Trips Depart**

Fill your water bottle, get your snacks and maps, and then head out to your field trip.