



GARDEN U 2026

Growing Native In Your Own Backyard

Saturday, March 14, 2026
8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The St. Croix Valley Master Gardeners invite you to their annual Garden U conference: Growing Native in Your Own Backyard. Enjoy engaging sessions on native plant design, pollinators, homegrown national parks, and new Midwest plant introductions. Registration includes conference materials, lunch, and access to the vendor show.



Conference Agenda

8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	Registration/Continental Breakfast/Vendor trade show open
9:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Welcome & Announcements
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Designing and Incorporating Native Plants into Your Yards and Gardens
10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Break
11 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Planting for Pollinators: Creating Habitat to Protect and Conserve Our At-Risk Pollinators
12 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.	Lunch, vendor trade show
1:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.	Introduction to Homegrown National Parks
1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Fresh Finds: New Plant Introductions and Native Selections for Midwest Gardens
2:45 p.m. - 3 p.m.	Closing, door prizes, raffle, evaluation

Location

 **Northwood Technical College Conference Center**
1019 S Knowles Avenue, New Richmond, WI
-OR- Save the travel and attend online live via Zoom.

Registration

 **\$55 (\$39.71 for 62+)**
Visit bit.ly/gardenu2026
-OR- Scan the QR code



Growing Native In Your Own Backyard

Session Descriptions

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Designing and Incorporating Native Plants into Your Yards and Gardens

Diana Alfuth, Horticulture Outreach Specialist, former Education Specialist, UW-Extension

No matter the size of your yard and gardens, you can incorporate native plants and all the benefits and beauty they offer. This presentation will cover a step-by-step process to design your landscape, and how to include, choose and combine native plants to create beautiful spaces for people and wildlife to enjoy.

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Planting for Pollinators: Creating Habitat to Protect and Conserve Our At-Risk Pollinators

James Wolfin, Sales Representative, Twin City Seed Co.

This workshop examines how residents can best design and manage their yards to promote the conservation of our at-risk pollinators. From project planning, to principles of design, project types, and installation this workshop covers a breadth of content with the hope of making DIY projects feel attainable to attendees. This workshop draws heavily on the teachings of the Lawns to Legumes, a Minnesota State pollinator conservation program.

1:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Introduction to Homegrown National Parks

Margaret Smith, Executive Director, Trumpeter Swan Society and Wisconsin Master Gardener

Discuss the importance of your individual garden for protecting nature right now, and how to sign up and get your garden twinkling as a firefly location on the Home Grown National Parks (HGNP) map. Margaret will showcase some of the native plants in her garden (a relaxed "messy" but lively garden) to inspire what you can do!

1:45p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Fresh Finds: New Plant Introductions and Native Selections for Midwest Gardens

Johanna George, landscape designer and horticulturist, Bailey Nurseries

Join Bailey Nurseries' Johanna George for a look at what's new and noteworthy in the world of shrubs and perennials. She'll showcase recent introductions from Bailey and their nationally recognized brands—First Editions® Shrubs & Trees and Endless Summer® Hydrangeas—along with regionally adapted native selections increasingly available at local garden centers. Drawing on her years of experience as a horticulturist and landscape designer in the Upper Midwest, Johanna will share practical insights on how these plants can thrive in our climate while supporting resilient, beautiful landscapes.

Program notes:

- Lunch and snacks are included in your registration fee. A filtered water filling station is available – feel free to bring your own water bottle for the day. **If you have dietary restrictions, please email wendy.loy@NorthwoodTech.edu no later than March 6.**
- Vendors will be on hand and there will be information on how to find answers to your garden questions, plus interactive demonstrations.
 - There will be on-site garden tool sharpening available. See event webpage for details regarding fees, drop-off of tools, etc.
- The St. Croix Valley Master Gardeners' will have raffle items which support their grant programs for community garden projects and horticultural scholarships.
- In case of inclement weather, check the college webpage at www.NorthwoodTech.edu
- Online registration is encouraged. **Registration deadline: March 6, 2025** (Lunch not guaranteed for registrations received after this date.)



REGISTRATION FORM

For Continuing Education (non-credit) Courses

Last Name First Name M.I. Former Last Name (if applicable) Date of Birth

Student ID No. No student ID, or don't remember? Provide Social Security No.
*Why do we ask for SSN? NorthwoodTech.edu/SSN

I've taken classes at Northwood Technical College and/or WITC in the past.

Email address (required as email is primary method of communication by the college) Home phone Cell phone

Home address City State ZIP Highest grade COMPLETED (K-12)

Resident of (check one): Township Village City County School District where you live Last high school attended

The following information is required for state and federal reporting purposes and will be kept confidential.

Gender: Male Female **Ethnicity:** Hispanic/Latino origin? Yes No

Race (check all that apply): American Indian/Alaska Native Asian Black/African American Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander White

Highest Credential Earned

<input type="checkbox"/> No Credential	<input type="checkbox"/> Some college credit	<input type="checkbox"/> 2yr Diploma	<input type="checkbox"/> Baccalaureate
<input type="checkbox"/> GED	<input type="checkbox"/> Short-term diploma or certificate	<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Degree	<input type="checkbox"/> More than Baccalaureate
<input type="checkbox"/> HSED	<input type="checkbox"/> 1yr Diploma	<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Degree	<input type="checkbox"/> Student Declined/Unknown
<input type="checkbox"/> High School Diploma		Plus Additional Credential	

OFFICE USE ONLY

Term

Received by

Date registration entered

It is your responsibility to contact Northwood Tech to officially drop a class. If you decide to drop, you should do so immediately as a single day can affect your refund amount. A full refund will be given if you notify Northwood Tech prior to the first scheduled class meeting.

CLASS NO.	CATALOG NO.	CLASS TITLE	LOCATION	START DATE	CLASS FEE
MC 401	47-001-410	Garden U	New Richmond	March 14, 2026	\$55, 39.71 (62+)
MC 402	47-001-410	Garden U	Online Live	March 14, 2026	\$55, 39.71 (62+)
Once registered for a course(s), you have created a liability with Northwood Tech and a promise to pay.					TOTAL

A full detailed Annual Security Report can be located at the following link: www.northwoodtech.edu/annualsecurityreport

Online registration is highly encouraged at bit.ly/gardenu2026. Registration deadline: March 6, 2026 (Lunch not guaranteed for registrations received after this date.)

PAYMENT METHOD:	<input type="checkbox"/> Check/money order payable to Northwood Technical College CK # <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash
	<input type="checkbox"/> Agency bill (complete section above)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card No. <input type="text"/>	Exp. Date <input type="text"/>
	(Mastercard/Visa/Discover)	Security Code <input type="text"/>
Name on Card <input type="text"/>	Cardholder Signature <input type="text"/>	



Northwood Tech
1019 S Knowles Avenue,
New Richmond, WI, 54017

Saturday, March 14, 2026

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In-Person at New Richmond Conference Center

-OR-

Online Live via Zoom

REGISTER

Visit the event page at:
bit.ly/gardenu2026



Thank you to our conference sponsor.



Scan the QR code to visit the event page.