

REGISTRATION & FEES

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

WGCF CLUB: _____

Other organization, if applicable:

_____ \$30

Make check out to St. Croix District
and send to:

Susan Johansen

1141 168th St.

Dresser, WI 54009

To register using a credit card,

go to:

**[www.wisconsin-garden-club.org/
news--events.html](http://www.wisconsin-garden-club.org/news--events.html)**

To cover processing fees, \$32.00

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

July 26th!

GARDEN TOURS

NINA KOCH

Nina Koch is a board member of Tropical Wings. Their mission is to support habitat conservation for birds and insects. Since moving to her new home, she has worked to make her front yard a pollinator garden by eliminating most of the non-native plants and expanding each garden with pollinator friendly plants. Nina now has over 30 species of native plants growing throughout the front yard.

LIZ USBORNE

Purchased in 2017, Liz's yard has sun to full shade areas. Liz eliminated invasive plants, removed the rock mulch over landscape fabric exposing compacted soil. Over 100 native species were then added to heal and improve the soil plus create habitat to attract toads, salamanders and other creatures. A mid-story shrub layer is being restored to anchor each bed and provide additional bird habitat.

MEGEN HINES

Megen Hines is a proud "learn-as-you-grow" native plant convert who jumped into native gardening about five years ago and never looked back. Armed with YouTube, Facebook groups, and a willingness to experiment, she started by planting plugs in a stubborn patch of lawn, and quickly caught the native plant bug. Since then, she's been happily swapping traditional landscaping for habitat, winter sowing seeds in milk jugs, and adding new life to the yard, including a northern red oak tree. Today, her garden hosts nearly 70 species of native flowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees. A lifelong learner and enthusiastic plant enabler, Megen loves helping others get started with natives, whether through sharing plants with family and friends, community education or planting native gardens at her work at the Menomonie City Hall.

**THE ST. CROIX DISTRICT OF THE
WISCONSIN GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION
PRESENTS**



Keystone Plants - Helping All Species Thrive

**FRIDAY, Aug. 7, 2026
8:30 to 4:30**

Holtby Hall,
Rassbach Museum
1820 John Russell Rd.
Menomonie, WI

Keystone Plants: Helping All Species Thrive - Friday, August 7th

THE DAY'S SCHEDULE:

- 8:30 - Registration & treats
Ways & Means Table
- 9:00 - Opening Remarks
- 9:15 - Keystone Plants: Helping All Species Thrive - John Muetz
- 10:15 - Morning Break
- 10:30 - Gardening with Natives: Sean VanderWaal
- 11:30 - Lunch
Native plant giveaway & plant sale
- 1:00 - Panel discussion:
Your questions answered.
John Muetz & Sean VanderWaal & Megen Hines
- 2:00 - Tour 3 nearby gardens
utilizing/incorporating native plants

Registration includes:

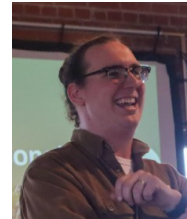
- Speakers
- Nicole's Nibbles - Stuffed potatoes, various toppings available.
- Tours
- 4 FREE native plants sourced from Dragonfly Gardens. Dragonfly will have a variety of plants available for purchase as well. Dragonfly is located at 491 HWY 46, Amery, WI.
- Plants available through Habitat Plant Nursery (Sean VanderWaal) also.

THANK YOU!

KEYSTONE PLANTS: HELPING ALL SPECIES THRIVE

John Muetz

John Muetz is a Naturalist and Educator at Beaver Creek Reserve. At the reserve, he manages the native plant gardens on the property, and oversees the annual native plant sale. He also manages the educational sugar bush, and runs the Beaver Creek maple syrup operation, welcoming student groups and visitors to learn the historic art of maple sugaring. His gardening goal for the year is to grow all of his 1 year old son's favorite vegetables. He is very excited to speak to you today about the important role that native trees, shrubs, and perennials play in bolstering biodiversity in your own backyard. John is also participating in the panel discussion.



DESIGNING WITH NATIVES

Sean VanderWaal

Native plants can create landscapes that are both ecologically valuable and beautifully designed. In this workshop, we'll explore how to intentionally incorporate them into spaces of any size. You will learn practical plant selection strategies, how guild plantings build resilient plant communities, and why keystone species (especially goldenrods and asters) are essential for pollinators and late-season color. Participants will leave with clear design ideas and plant recommendations they can confidently implement at home. Sean is also participating in the panel discussion.



Sean serves as the Program Director and Instructor for the Landscape, Plant, and Turf Management Program at Chippewa Valley Technical College. He earned a degree in Agricultural Education from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and has extensive experience in landscape design and installation. Sean and his wife operate Habitat Plants Native Nursery, where they are committed to producing high-quality, regionally appropriate native plants.

PANEL MEMBER

Megen Hines

Megen's hands on gardening experience in her own yard gives her a wealth of knowledge about planting and growing natives. She enthusiastically shares her love of natives and what she has learned with others.



Megen is the Environmental Program Coordinator for the city of Menomonie and is also sharing her yard with us this afternoon.

This event financially supported by:

- St. Croix District Garden Clubs
 - Botany Belles & Beaus - Baldwin area
 - Lake Wissota Garden Club - Chippewa Falls
 - Willow River Garden Club - New Richmond
- Wisconsin Garden Club Federation
- Eau Claire Garden Club
- Hudson Home & Garden Club
- St. Croix Valley Bird Club
- Tropical Wings

Artwork by Mickie Schmaltz