



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS

Gardening School

Course 3

Series 21

Factors That Influence Plant Growth
New Plant Development and Evaluation
Container Gardening: Outdoor
Houseplant Basics
Native Trees and Shrubs

In-person

April 17-18, 2026

Friday 8:30 AM– 4:15 PM

Saturday 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Harbert Community Church
6444 Harbert Road Sawyer, Michigan



Gardening School Course 3 is sponsored by:



Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.



NGC Central Region



River Valley Garden Club, Inc.



Location



Sawyer, Michigan is located in the southwest corner of the state.

This charming small town is home to a local craft-brewery, several restaurants, the Sawyer Home & Garden Center (a destination garden center), antique stores, and Warren Dunes State Park.

The Harbert Community Church
is on the corner of Harbert Road and
Three Oaks Road, conveniently
located just 1.5 miles from the Sawyer
truck stop at I-94 exit #12.





Suggested Overnight Accommodations

This area has many more hotels and Airbnb options.

This is a listing of a few close by:

Inn at Union Pier

9708 Berrien Street Union Pier, MI 49129

269-469-4700

5 miles to Harbert Community Church

Gordon Beach Inn

16220 Lakeshore Road Union Pier, MI 49129

269-469-0800

6 miles to Harbert Community Church

Comfort Suites

2633 W. Marquette Woods Road Stevensville, MI 49127

844-617-6519

13 miles to Harbert Community Church

Tru by Hilton

2683 W. Marquette Woods Road Stevensville, MI 49127

888-650-0113



Curriculum

Friday, April 17

8:30 AM – 9:00 PM

Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Factors That Influence Plant Growth

Dr. Todd Barkman, WMU Professor of Biological Sciences

11:00 AM -11:15 PM Break

11:15 AM – 12:45 PM

New Plant Development and Evaluation

Dr. Todd Barkman, WMU Professor of Biological Sciences

Friday's schedule is continued on the next page



Curriculum

Friday, April 17th continued

12:45 AM – 1:30 PM Lunch

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Container Gardening – Outdoor

Amanda Hyman, WMU Greenhouse Specialist

3:00 PM – 3:15 PM Break

3:15 PM – 4:15 PM

Houseplant Basics

Amanda Hyman, WMU Greenhouse Specialist

Note to Master Gardeners: Master Gardeners may apply to their local MSU Agent for CE credit on Friday or Saturday.



Curriculum

Saturday, April 18th

8:30 AM – 9:30 PM

Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Growing Mushrooms

Kevin Keen, Owner, Harbor Country Mushrooms

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM Break

Travel to Warren Woods State Park

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Teaching Tour Warren Woods

Steve Sass, Indiana Nature LLC

Saturday's schedule is continued on the next page



Curriculum

Saturday, April 18

12:00 PM – 12:45 PM Lunch

12:45 PM – 1:15 PM

Review of Teaching Tour

Steve Sass, Indiana Nature LLC

1:15 PM – 2:15 PM

Native Trees and Shrubs

Steve Sass, Indiana Nature LLC

2:15 PM – 2:30 Break

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Exam Review and Closing Remarks

Note to Master Gardeners: Master Gardeners may apply to their local MSU Agent for CE credit on Friday or Saturday.



Cost

Registration Fee: \$60

Non-Member Fee: \$75

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: APRIL 3RD

Cancellations prior to the registration deadline will incur a 10% fee.

No refunds after the registration deadline

Payment will be accepted on-line when you register.

If you are unable to pay on-line, you may request to pay by check

Please email Ronalee Polad: rpolad@migardenclubs.org



Optional Exam

For Consultants Certification

All Michigan Garden Clubs (MGC) members who successfully complete all four courses with exam results at 70% or higher will qualify for title of National Garden Clubs (NGC) "Gardening Consultant."

The exam will be conducted by remote computer submission. The exam will be emailed to participants on April 20th, and completed submission is due no later than 11 p.m. on April 28, 2026.

There will be 40 questions on material covered in classroom. This optional exam may be completed with open book/notes and submitted online.

Nonmembers may complete the courses and the exam, join an MGC garden club within a year from the last course, and become an NGC "Gardening Consultant."

All MGC Gardening Consultants also automatically become a member of the MGC Michigan Consultants Council at no cost.

There is also an option of continuing education to renew an NGC "Gardening Consultant" title every five years.



Important NGC Forms

for Consultant Certification

All attendees seeking credit for this program must have an NGC Form 6 or 7 on record with the MGC School State Chair.

If this is your first course, fill out a Form 6, or your first Refresher, fill out a Form 7. Follow the links below:

NGC Form 6

[Click here for NGC Form 6](#)

NGC Form 7

[Click here for NGC Form 7](#)

Submit your completed Form 6 or Form 7 via email to:

Michele Armstrong

marmstrong@migardenclubs.org

If you are from out of state, please request an official record from your State School Chair.

Note: All lectures and tours must be attended for credit to be given. If you have a disability and need accommodation, please contact the local chair before registration to facilitate accommodation.



Committee

Elizabeth Palulis, Local Chair

Peg Cullen

Kathryn Gotz

Lisa Johnson

Mary Wood

Michigan Garden Clubs

MGC President: Lisa Robinson

District Director: Lori Dillenbeck

MGC Gardening School Chair: Michele Armstrong

Michigan Consultants Council District 3B Rep: Heather Catania

Registration: Ronalee Polad

Brochure: Deb Harvey



Contact Us

All communication with registrants will be via email:

Michele Armstrong

marmstrong@migardenclubs.org

Elizabeth Palulis

evpalulis@yahoo.com

Please add these email addresses to your contacts
so that our communications with you does not go to your spam folder.

For further information on all NGC Schools

Please visit the websites below:

Michigan Garden Clubs (MGC)

www.migardenclubs.org

National Garden Clubs (NGC)

www.gardenclub.org



Join Us!

There are several MGC garden clubs
in the Southwest Michigan area.

Please go to:

Migardenclubs.org

and click the "Join Us" tab
on the ribbon near the top of the page.

become a member



Register

If you wish to register, please click on the green box below.
You will be re-directed to Michigan Garden Clubs website
to complete your registration.

Register for
Gardening School
Course 3
by clicking here

By clicking the registration box, you acknowledge
that you understand the information presented
in this brochure, and wish to register.

*Note: Any photos taken at this event may be used
in upcoming informational and promotional materials.
If you do not want your photo used,
please notify the School Registrar when you check in.*