



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS

Gardening School

Course 4

Series 21

Outdoor Identification of Plants
Plant Classification and Nomenclature
Specialized Styles of Gardening
Invasive Bugs and Worms
Pruning Techniques
Techniques for Growing Woody Ornamentals

In-person

September 18-19, 2026

Friday 8:30 AM- 4:15 PM and Saturday 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Harbert Community Church
6444 Harbert Road Sawyer, Michigan



Gardening School Course 4

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:

Quality Inn Sawyer

12850 Super Dr, Sawyer, MI 49125

269-336-4022

1.8 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, September 18

8:30 AM – 9:00 PM

Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM – 12.15 PM

Outdoor Identification of Plants

Dr. Todd Barkman, WMU Professor of Biological Sciences

12:15 PM - 1:00 PM Lunch

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Plant Classification and Nomenclature

Dr. Todd Barkman, WMU Professor of Biological Sciences

2:00 PM – 2:15 Break

2:15 PM – 4:15 PM

Specialized Styles of Gardening

Amanda Hyman, WMU Greenhouse Specialist



Curriculum

Saturday, September 19

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Invasive Bugs and Worms

Bob Bruner, Purdue Extension Exotic Forest Pest Specialist

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM Break

10:15 AM – 11:45 AM

Pruning Techniques

Dr. Sara Tunis, Faculty Director of Sustainable Horticulture

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Saturday's schedule is continued on the next page



Curriculum

Saturday, September 19
continued

11:45 AM – 12:30 PM Lunch

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Techniques of Growing Woody Ornamentals

Linda Whitlock, Secret Gardens, LLC

2:15 PM – 2:45 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: SEPTEMBER 4, 2026

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@migardencclubs.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 September 21, and completed submission is due no later than 11 p.m. on September 29, 2026.

There will be 50 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: Mandy Dixon

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.



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.*