Gardening for Nature Conference
Creating Sustainable Landscapes for the Home, School and Business

Registration Fee: Stewardship Network Members $35 • Nonmembers $45
Lunch and Refreshments are included (provided by Calvin Catering).

Pre-registration is required as space is limited to 60 participants.
Enrollment Deadline: Wednesday, June 4, 2014.

Sorry, but registration at the door is not available.

To register: Visit The Stewardship Network Web page www.StewardshipNetwork.org
and locate the West Michigan Cluster Web page by clicking on the ‘CLUSTERS’ tab
along the top of the Web Site.

As you register, please indicate your intended Concurrent Session Track:
• Educator
• Homeowner, Business, Ground Managers

Continuing Education Credits offered by Kent ISD.

With Support from:

Calvin College Ecosystem Preserve
Bunker Interpretive Center
1750 E Beltline Avenue
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 14, 2014

For more information contact:
Michael Bruggink
Co-Liaison West Michigan Cluster
616-803-5353
wmc@stewardshipnetwork.org
Program Agenda

8:00–8:30 a.m. Registration
8:30–8:45 a.m. Welcome and Introduction
8:45–9:45 a.m. Growing Native Plants, America’s Roots In Your Garden
   Steve Keto, Natural Areas and Preserve Manager, Western Michigan University
9:45–10:00 a.m. Break
10:00–11:00 a.m. 2 Concurrent Sessions
   Best Native Plants for Your Habitat Garden and Where to Get Them
   Melanie Manion, Natural Resources Management Supervisor, Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission.

For Educators

Considerations When Developing a School Habitat Garden – What We Learned
   Panel of local teachers:
   Sue Blackall, Sparta Public
   Shannon Goodwin, Kentwood Public
   Janet Staal, Blandford Nature Center

11:00–11:15 a.m. Break
11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m. 2 Concurrent Sessions
   Elements of a Habitat Garden
   Mark Fitzpatrick, Director, Ada Township Parks and Recreation Department

For Educators

Using Native Plants in the Curriculum – Michelle Serreyen, Interpretive Naturalist, Lake St. Clair Metropark Nature Center
12:15–1:00 p.m. Box lunch
1:00–4:30 p.m. 2 Mobile Workshops
   Around the Town Native Garden Bus Tour – From commercial landscapes to private backyards, explore a variety of native plant gardens in an urban setting.
   For Educators

Using Native Gardens as Outdoor Classrooms – From food web activities to nature art projects, discover a variety of hands on ways to use native plant gardens to enhance learning. This workshop will take place throughout the many native gardens on Calvin’s campus.
   Michelle Serreyen, Interpretive Naturalist, Lake St. Clair Metropark Nature Center and Jeanette Henderson, Program Manager, Calvin College Ecosystem Preserve

PRESENTERS

Mark Fitzpatrick
Director of Ada Township Parks & Recreation Department

Program: Elements of a Habitat Garden
Planning and design are essential for successful outcomes. This program will cover the fundamental elements of a “habitat garden” and provide creative ideas for developing a plan for your property including resources to aid in the design and personalization of your own site.

Mark Fitzpatrick is the Director of Ada Township Parks & Recreation Department. He holds a M.S. degree in Natural Resources Management from MSU and has a distinguished career history in land management and environmental education.

Steve Keto
Natural Areas and Preserves Manager, WMU

Program: Growing Native Plants, America’s Roots In Your Garden
Over the last 30 years, gardening with native plants has gone from a niche hobby to mainstream landscape design. Steve will draw on his 26 years of experience propagating native plant species to help gardeners avoid pitfalls and capitalize on the potential of native plants in the garden. Steve will highlight how growing native plants brings rich history, pharmacology, aesthetics and wildlife value to the landscape, and expands a gardener’s plant palette for every garden space.

Steve Keto is a graduate of MSU with M.S. degree in Poultry Science and B.S. degrees in Wildlife Management and Animal Science. He has worked as a commercial propagator of North American Native Plants for 20 years. In 2008 Steve joined the WMU, Landscape Services Department and in 2012 was promoted to Natural Areas and Preserves Manager where he is responsible for over 400 acres of University property. He is a frequent speaker on many environmental topics and provides regular tours, volunteer and educational programs for customers of all ages.

Melanie Manion
Natural Resources Management Supervisor

Program: Best Native Plants for Your Habitat Garden and Where to Get Them
“If you build it, they will come.” It is true that native plants can quickly attract wildlife into your landscape; however, not all native plants are created equal. This program will discuss native plants based on their success in establishing, aesthetics in a formal garden, and value to wildlife. We will also discuss the resources available to help get you started.

Melanie Manion works for Ottawa County Parks and is responsible for coordinating the protection, stewardship and restoration of natural resources on park properties and for the development of a comprehensive parks volunteer program. She holds a B.S. in Biology and Environmental Science and a M.S. in Conservation Biology from Central Michigan University.

Michelle Serreyen
Interpreter, Lake St. Clair Metropark Nature Center

Program: Using Native Plants in the Curriculum
In this session, participants will be given tools and ideas for incorporating Michigan native plants (and their ecosystems) in K–12 education. For each grade level, the corresponding GLCEs are aligned with topics that can be used to explore the biology, ecology and uses of Michigan native plants.

Michelle Serreyen is an interpretive naturalist at Lake St. Clair Metropark in Harrison Township and has given many programs on native plants for the Nature Center, school garden groups, Master Gardeners, as well as professional development workshops for educators. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in science education at Wayne State University.