



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Third Presentation in the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County  
Centennial Lecture Series**

**What the Earth Asks of Us:  
Indigenous Environmental Philosophy for our Common Future**

As a celebration and showcase of 100 years of Steuben County and Cornell University expertise, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County is offering a Centennial Lecture series about some of the hot topics of our region. The third presentation will be held **Thursday, June 14 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** at the Glenn H. Curtiss Museum, 8419 State Route 54, Hammondsport. It is titled **What the Earth Asks of Us: Indigenous Environmental Philosophy for our Common Future.**

Our presenter will be Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer, Environmental Biology Professor at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Drawing on her life as an indigenous plant scientist, a teacher, a writer and a mother, Dr. Kimmerer will lecture on topics found in her award-winning book *“Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants”* in which she shows how plants—asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash and sweetgrass—offer us gifts and lessons, even if we’ve forgotten how to hear their voices. In traditional ecological knowledge, plants are regarded not only as persons, but as among our oldest teachers. If plants are our teachers, what are they teaching us, and how can we be better students? In a rich braid of ecological science, indigenous philosophy and literary reflections that range from the creation of Turtle Island to the forces that threaten its flourishing today, she explores and celebrates the material and cultural gifts of plants and our responsibilities for reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world.

Although we are showered with the gifts of the Earth, we are embedded in a society which relentlessly asks “What more can we take from the earth?” In order to move toward sustainability, isn’t the question we need “What does the Earth Ask of Us?” This talk explores the ways in which humans can reciprocate the gifts of the Earth, in return for all we are given.

Dr. Kimmerer will be offering a book signing at the event and donating the proceeds to CCE-Steuben. The presentation is free, but space is limited so please reserve your seat by calling 607-664-2300.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County began in Steuben County on February 1, 1918 as part of the Steuben County Farm Bureau. The two groups parted ways in 1956 so CCE-Steuben could pursue a strictly educational direction. The Cooperative Extension system in Steuben County continues today to build strong communities with educational resources and local partners in the areas of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Financial Management, Nutrition Education, and 4-H/Youth Development. We envision a county in which residents sustain health competence and success for another 100 years.

*Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities*

*Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.*