

CREATE AND CULTIVATE

REGISTRATION is in the Vanderlyn Hall Cafeteria entrance — watch for our signs! Parking is available in Lot C, with extra parking in Lot E. Hot beverages and breakfast items will be available at our Incredible Edibles Table.

Everyone will gather in the Quimby Theater at 9:00 am to begin the day with our Keynote Speaker, Kim Eierman, founder of EcoBeneficial LLC, ecological landscape designer, environmental horticulturist and author.

THE MARKETPLACE, with many local garden vendors, will be open during the lunch break and throughout the day. Please note, some vendors aren't able to accept credit cards (cash or checks OK). Visit the Ask a Master Gardener table where volunteers will be on hand to answer gardening questions.

SUNY ULSTER is located on Cottekill Road, just off Rte. 209 in Stone Ridge. Turn at Davenports Farm Stand, corner of Cottekill Road and Rte. 209.

PRE-REGISTRATION is \$60 per person and must be received by April 1.

This entitles each participant to select up to four separate classes throughout the day. It's important to pre-register to insure that all classes listed will be offered. Be sure to indicate on the pre-registration form your first and second choices for each time slot. We will try to place everyone in their first choice, but class size is limited and we may need to place you in another class. Registering early will help you avoid this. Registration at the door will be \$65.

Due to the nature of Garden Day, **NO REFUNDS** will be issued. Please find someone to take your place if you cannot attend after registration is submitted. If you have special program access needs, call 340-3990 x335 before or by April 1.

LUNCH: You may bring your own lunch or a box lunch can be pre-purchased when you register. See online registration form for details.. Lunch is prepared by Stone Soup, Kingston, and contains one 1/2 wrap, a side salad and dessert. One-half wrap filling choices are: portobello, tomato, spinach and fresh mozzarella, or curried chicken salad, or turkey, cheddar cheese and cranberry chutney. All lunches come with a small green salad and cookie. Gluten free options are available. You must **PRE-ORDER AND PREPAY** with your online registration.

Please note that the cafeteria will not be open. Beverages, breakfast and other food items will be available for purchase in the dining hall area.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL COURTNEY AT 845-340-3990 X335.

*Choose four classes from the list of 16 plus
Keynote Speaker Kim Eierman*

- ★ **FOUR-SEASON GARDENING IN THE HUDSON VALLEY**
- ★ **MAKING A MEADOW: A WORK IN PROGRESS**
- ★ **CREATING A BACKYARD POND: THINGS I WISH I WOULD'VE KNOWN SOONER**
- ★ **DOWN THE GARDEN PATH**
- ★ **BORDERS FOR THE EDGES OF YOUR PROPERTY**
- ★ **THE EVOLVING GARDEN**
- ★ **DORMANT TO DAZZLING: THE SEASONAL JOURNEY OF FLOWER BULBS**
- ★ **FUNDAMENTALS OF GARDEN DESIGN**
- ★ **THE LIVING SOIL: FOUNDATIONS FOR HEALTHY GARDENS**
- ★ **DESIGNING FOR BEAUTY AND BIODIVERSITY IN YOUR SHADE GARDEN**
- ★ **EVERLASTING FLOWERS: PRESERVING YOUR BLOOMS FOR YEAR-ROUND ENJOYMENT**
- ★ **VEGETABLE GARDENING: FROM SEED TO HARVEST**
- ★ **SPACE TO GROW**
- ★ **COMPOST: 'BLACK GOLD' FOR YOUR GARDEN**
- ★ **ORNAMENTAL GRASSES AND SEDGES**
- ★ **HOW PLANTS PERCEIVE AND RESPOND TO THE WORLD**

2026 GARDEN DAY SATURDAY, APRIL 11

CREATE AND CULTIVATE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Kim Eierman

Beyond Sustainability:
Using Our Landscapes as a
Source of Environmental Change

8:30 am-4 pm
SUNY Ulster
Vanderlyn Hall
Stone Ridge
Presented by Cornell
Cooperative Extension
of Ulster County
Master Gardener Program

ULSTER.CCE.CORNELL.EDU/GARDENDAY2026



CREATE AND CULTIVATE

Beyond Sustainability: Using Our Landscapes as a Source of Environmental Change

Our environment has never been more fragile, but our traditional landscapes are escalating the problem. Kim Eierman explains how the design choices we make, the plants we select, and the maintenance practices we use, can transition traditional landscapes into healthy ecosystems filled with life.

Kim Eierman is the Founder of EcoBeneficial LLC (ecobeneficial.com). Based in Westchester County, she is an ecological landscape designer and environmental horticulturist specializing in native plants. Kim teaches at the New York Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, The Native Plant Center and Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

Kim speaks in the U.S. and Canada on many ecological landscape topics. She also provides horticultural consulting and ecological landscape design to residential, municipal and commercial clients, including landscape architects and engineers. Kim Eierman is the author of the book, *The Pollinator Victory Garden: Win the War on Pollinator Decline with Ecological Gardening*.

Session One 10:15 to 11:15

Four-Season Gardening in the Hudson Valley

Victoria Coyne, Garden Designer

Is a true four-season garden in the Hudson Valley possible—even through icy winters and unpredictable springs? Absolutely. In this inspiring class, Vickie shows home gardeners how to design landscapes that evolve beautifully year-round. Through vivid examples, smart plant combinations, and striking vignettes, you'll learn to layer structure, foliage, and seasonal stars for lasting beauty in every season.

Victoria Coyne has designed landscapes for over 40 years, inspired by gardening with her mother. After earning a degree in Ornamental Horticulture from SUNY Ulster, she founded Victoria Gardens in 1986. The business expanded to a Rosendale nursery, garden center, and gift shop in 2003, and with stepdaughter Donna Waddell joining as partner in 2024,

Victoria Gardens will continue serving Ulster County for years to come.

Making a Meadow: A Work in Progress

Sarah Holsted and Courtney Churchill, MGVs

Creating a thriving meadow may look effortless in pictures, but behind every stretch of waving grasses and pollinator-friendly blooms lies a story. We'll take you inside the continuing journey of two meadow projects, sharing the adventures and the misadventures that shaped them along the way. We'll also talk about design and plant choices that could supplement or stand in for a meadow.

Sarah Holsted gardens in New Paltz, NY. She grew up in the South watering her mother's gardenias. She believes that every yard has the potential to nurture an ecosystem and that we can all be good stewards of the food web.

Courtney Churchill has worked for CCE Ulster since 2019 and is the Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator. Courtney is a lifelong gardener who grew up in Ulster County. She is passionate about tomatoes and preserving flowers/plants for crafting during the cold winter months.

Creating a Backyard Pond:

Things I Wish I Would've Known Sooner

Michael Piedmonte, MGV

A pond in the backyard brings an interesting dynamic to the garden. With a little bit of planning, energy and grit, adding a pond will bring a new level of excitement to your gardening experience.

Michael Piedmonte is a retired teacher. He started his backyard pond 30 years ago and it provides him with a constant source for tinkering, improvement and wonder.

Down the Garden Path

David Thiergartner, MGV

Join us as we explore some of the world's most influential and beautiful gardens. The journey down the path will delve into 10 gardens from California to Europe. Each garden will be examined for the contributions it has made influencing garden design, sustainability, bio-diversity, as well as mental and physical health. And of course—the beauty they share with all of us.

David Thiergartner is an award winning Interior Designer and owner of an architectural interior design firm as well as an avid gardener. He is recognized for his understated elegant interiors. David has designed luxurious interiors throughout the country and his work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *House Beautiful* and numerous publications.

Session Two 11:30 to 12:30

Borders for the Edges of your Property

Cecily Frazier, MGV

This class focuses on practical borders for real-world needs—not flower beds. Whether you want privacy, noise reduction, food, wildlife control, or to screen a view, we'll cover mixed and single-species options, plant choice, size, and sun or shade needs. We'll also address soil, water, growth time, maintenance, cost, and regulations to help you design a border that works.

Cecily Frazier has been an organic gardener for over 50 years. Focused on restoring natural balance, she learned to use beneficial insects for pest control and now fills her garden with native plants. Insects need them to survive—and we need insects to thrive.

The Evolving Garden

Marge Bonner and Ellen DeLong, MGVs

Learn how the Cornell Demonstration Garden, located at SUNY Ulster, began and evolved over the past 25 years. You'll find out how a simple nine bed garden, focusing on xeriscape principals evolved into our present demo garden with a rain garden and pollinator meadow. See how the garden progressed, how practices changed over the years and how we are still learning.

Margaret (Marge) Bonner has been a Master Gardener for 25 years, gardening since childhood. After growing gardens in Africa and Asia, she now tends 17 acres near the Catskill Preserve, cultivating vegetables, herbs, and unusual fruits. Her landscape has evolved toward native shrubs, reflecting her ongoing learning as she oversees the Cornell Demonstration Gardens.

Ellen DeLong considers herself a second-generation Master Gardener Volunteer, having followed her father's lead by joining the program after retirement. She has been a gardener her entire life—first learning at her father's side, then as a forestry student, and finally as a Master Gardener Volunteer, where for the past 13 years she has been mentored by an impressive group of knowledgeable and passionate experts.

Dormant to Dazzling:

The Seasonal Journey of Flower Bulbs

Dottie DeMarco, MGV

This class explores bulbs beyond spring, revealing their four-season potential indoors and out. Learn what true bulbs are, how they grow, and what they need to thrive. We'll share

design ideas for year-round color and interest, plus tips for care, pests, and common problems.

Dottie DeMarco is a lifelong gardener from Marlboro NY. She founded Dottie Leaf Plant Co. to immerse herself in her growing passion and to offset her busy travel and work schedule. She continues to perfect all-season growing in her greenhouse. Dottie became a MGV in 2024.

Fundamentals of Garden Design

Barbara Londa and Barbara Troan, MGVs

In this class participants will learn about the basic elements and principles of garden design. Understanding your site, choosing the style of your garden, creating a focal point, using pathways to lead the eye and adding structure to the design are all components that will be covered. Principles, such as unity, balance, and contrast influence the overall design but using elements, like color, form, and texture, can make an ordinary garden into an extraordinary one.

Barbara Londa's love of nature began in childhood. A CCE Master Gardener Volunteer since 2010, she focuses on landscape design, permaculture, and native plants. She chairs the New Paltz Rotary Park committee, volunteers with Mohonk Preserve Meadow Guardians, and serves on the Board of Local at Heart. Barbara and her husband built a fossil-fuel-free home, and operate the Gunks EcoLodge to promote sustainable living.

Barb Troan has been a Master Gardener Volunteer since 2016 and has a keen interest in Garden Design. She has multiple flower gardens and a raised bed vegetable garden. Learning through trial and error has been an ongoing challenge. Embroidery, reading and baking are other hobbies she enjoys.

studio creating handmade tiles and nature inspired pottery.

Designing for Beauty & Biodiversity in Your Shade Garden

Charlene Benson and Catherine Pietrow, MGVs

Low sunlight doesn't have to limit your garden. Learn how to assess shade conditions, design layered plantings that support birds and bees, and discover standout native flowering shade plants and foliage. Bring a rough map of your shade area and leave with a pollinator garden plan.

Charlene Benson has 25 years of gardening experience in Brooklyn and the western Catskills. She specializes in bird and bee-friendly gardens, and woodland and shade plants.

Catherine Pietrow has gardened for 40 years, learning first from her grandmother in Tennessee. She grows perennials, vegetables, and herbs in her Rhinebeck gardens and is dedicated to making the earth greener while sharing her love of gardening.

Everlasting Flowers: Preserving Your Blooms for Year-round Enjoyment

Dawn Hubbell and Courtney Churchill, MGVs

This class explores pressing and drying techniques to turn garden plants into lasting keepsakes. Learn how to source, harvest, preserve, store, and create with flowers and foliage for year-round enjoyment.

Dawn Hubbell has been a CCE Master Gardener Volunteer since 2020 and has tended edible and ornamental gardens for over 20 years. She is the author of the garden blog Thistle Be the Day and, in 2022, became a farmer-florist, launching her cut-flower business, Whistling Bee Farm & Florals.

Vegetable Gardening: From Seed to Harvest

Skip Carlson, MGV

This introductory class for Hudson Valley beginners covers vegetable garden planning, easy crops, frost dates, planting seeds and seedlings, seasonal care, and harvesting. This class emphasizes practical, low-stress techniques tailored to our regional climate and growing conditions.

Skip Carlson, together with his wife Diane, own a small farm market farm in Palenville, NY. They grow berries, vegetables, shiitake mushrooms and, of course, heirloom tomatoes. They are also a supplier of tomato seeds for Fedco-Seeds.

for vegetable and flower gardening, using basic DIY tools, materials, and labor. Learn to create spaces that grow with you and your ecosystem year after year.

Shannon Smith has 16 years of growing experience in community gardens, woodland sites, and an urban yard. Her interests include vegetables, landscape design, native restoration, composting, and local history. She now works with a nonprofit supporting local farms.

Compost: 'Black Gold' for your Garden

John McCormick, MGV

This introductory composting class covers why and how to compost, what to add, and how to keep piles hot and productive so that your garden can benefit from this valuable soil conditioner. Learn about bin options for any situation and be prepared to spend time outdoors in the garden.

John McCormick has been a CCE Master Gardener since 2008. His gardening education began on a Westchester farm market and continued while working for Accocella's Landscaping during his studies at SUNY New Paltz. Now an expert pruner, he also runs H&R McCormick Tax Preparation.

Ornamental Grasses and Sedges

Diane Backus, MGV

Ornamental grasses and sedges are easy to grow, long-lasting, and resistant to most pests and diseases. Best of all, they offer visual interest throughout multiple seasons from spring through winter. They provide texture, movement, or seasonal color for any garden. Discover which ones will work in your garden.

Diane Backus has been a Master Gardener for 11 years, with a lifelong love of gardening passed down from her family. She has tended her perennial garden for over 40 years and enjoys sharing both her knowledge and plants. A goal of hers is to visit a botanical garden in every state—so far, 28 gardens in 17 states.

How Plants Perceive and Respond to the World

Janine Connell, MGV

This is an exploration of classic and cutting-edge research on plant senses and perception. We'll examine how plants detect day length, interpret and transmit chemical signals, respond to sound, and how these discoveries connect to the long and sometimes controversial history of studying plant intelligence.

Janine Connell has over ten years of gardening experience, has been a farmhand and landscaper, and became a Master Gardener in 2021. She is most often found eagle watching, in her garden, or warring with stiltgrass and mugwort at her home in the Hudson Valley.

Session Four 3:00 to 4:00

Space to Grow

Shannon Smith, MGV

Design ideas and techniques for establishing protected beds

★ Register Online ★

ulster.cce.cornell.edu/gardenday2026

Need help registering? Help is available at the CCE office, 232 Plaza Road, Kingston, NY 12401

WE ARE UNABLE TO TAKE REGISTRATION OVER THE PHONE.

You may bring your own lunch or a box lunch can be pre-purchased when you register. See online registration form for details.

BOX LUNCH:

1/2 wrap, salad, dessert

Select one wrap

★ Portobello, tomato, spinach and fresh mozzarella

★ Curried chicken salad

★ Turkey, cheddar cheese and cranberry chutney

★ GF Portobello, tomato, spinach and fresh mozzarella

★ GF Curried chicken salad

★ GF Turkey, cheddar cheese and cranberry chutney

NO REFUNDS

Registration fee: \$60

Registration with lunch \$73

REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED

BY APRIL 1, 2026

Garden Day Questions?

Call Courtney at 340-3990 ext 335

KEEP THIS FORM FOR YOUR PERSONAL RECORDS

Garden Day Class Handouts

You will receive electronic files for all the Garden Day classes in an email about one week before Garden Day. As part of our efforts to reduce paper use, printed handouts will not be included in your registration packet. Please save and refer to this email.

9 A.M. KEYNOTE ADDRESS—QUIMBY THEATER SELECT 1 FOR FIRST CHOICE AND 2 FOR SECOND CHOICE IN EACH OF THE FOUR SESSIONS

Session One 10:15 to 11:15

FIRST CHOICE SECOND CHOICE

FOUR-SEASON GARDENING
IN THE HUDSON VALLEY
VICTORIA COYNE

1 2

MAKING A MEADOW:
A WORK IN PROGRESS
SARAH HOLSTED &
COURTNEY CHURCHILL

1 2

CREATING A BACKYARD POND:
THINGS I WISH I WOULD'VE
KNOWN SOONER
MICHAEL PIEDMONT
DOWN THE GARDEN PATH
DAVID THIERGARTNER

1 2

Session Two 11:30 to 12:30

FIRST CHOICE SECOND CHOICE

BORDERS FOR THE EDGES
OF YOUR PROPERTY
CECILY FRAZIER

1 2

THE EVOLVING GARDEN
MARGE BONNER & ELLEN DELONG

1 2

DORMANT TO DAZZLING: THE
SEASONAL JOURNEY OF
FLOWER BULBS
DOTTIE DEMARCO
FUNDAMENTALS OF
GARDEN DESIGN
BARBARA LONDA & BARB TROAN

1 2

Session Three 1:45 to 2:45

FIRST CHOICE SECOND CHOICE

THE LIVING SOIL: FOUNDATIONS
FOR HEALTHY GARDENS
BARBARA BRAVO

1 2

DESIGNING FOR BEAUTY &
BIODIVERSITY IN YOUR
SHADE GARDEN
CHARLENE BENSON & CATHERINE PIETROW

1 2

EVERLASTING FLOWERS:
PRESERVING YOUR BLOOMS
FOR YEAR-ROUND ENJOYMENT
DAWN HUBBELL & COURTNEY CHURCHILL

1 2

VEGETABLE GARDENING:
FROM SEED TO HARVEST
SKIP CARLSON

1 2

Session Four 3:00 to 4:00

FIRST CHOICE SECOND CHOICE

SPACE TO GROW
SHANNON SMITH

1 2

COMPOST: 'BLACK GOLD'
FOR YOUR GARDEN
JOHN MCCORMICK

1 2

ORNAMENTAL GRASSES & SEDGES
DIANE BACKUS

1 2

HOW PLANTS PERCEIVE &
RESPOND TO THE WORLD
JANINE CONNELL

1 2

SCHEDULE

8:30-9:00 A.M. CHECK-IN

9:00-10:00 A.M. KEYNOTE SPEAKER

10:15-11:15 A.M. FIRST CLASS

11:30-12:30 P.M. SECOND CLASS

12:40-1:35 P.M. LUNCH BREAK

1:45-2:45 P.M. THIRD CLASS

3:00-4:00 P.M. FOURTH CLASS

Your final schedule with class locations will be available at check-in on April 11, 2026 at the Vanderlyn Hall cafeteria entrance. The schedule inside this form is in its final form, but may be changed based on pre-registration.



**Cornell Cooperative
Extension
Ulster County**



[ULSTER.CCE.CORNELL.EDU/GARDENDAY2026](http://ulster.cce.cornell.edu/gardenday2026)