

SPECIAL EVENT: Back to School with Go Native U
Westchester Community College in partnership with The Native Plant Center

Your Native Garden as Refuge

Friday, September 25, 2026

Register for one, two, or all three courses. Call (914) 606-6830 to register.

JUMP-START YOUR CERTIFICATE!

Enjoy serenity and wellness in your landscape through design, plant wisdom, and wildlife observation. Create and nurture spaces that inspire reflection and an awareness of nature.

Schedule

Designing Your Garden for Wellness	10 am–12 pm
Lunch (on your own)	12–12:45 pm
The Lives of Butterflies	12:45–2:45 pm
Break	2:45–3 pm
Native Herbals	3–5 pm



NEW! Designing Your Garden for Wellness IN-PERSON

Outdoor spaces can be areas of serenity, relaxation, and well-being. Find out some little-known scientific facts and ancient ideas for designing meditative areas such as determining a power spot on your property, shaping walkways to encourage movement, and which species is considered the “tree of peace.”

CE-GRDN 2160, CLA 100 (park in Lot #4), \$60. Jan Johnsen. #80036

Jan Johnsen is principal of Johnsen Landscapes & Pools. Her award-winning designs blend current and traditional approaches learned from studying and working in Japan, Hawaii, and Kenya. She is the author of Floratopia, Gardentopia, Heaven Is a Garden, and The Spirit of Stone and writes an online newsletter, [Gardentopia](#).

NEW! The Lives of Butterflies IN-PERSON

Explore the natural history of butterflies—their origins, adaptive behavior, and lifecycles—and their intricate relationships with native plants. Learn how to identify the diversity of butterfly species and groups.

CE-SCI 2067, CLA 100 (park in Lot #4), \$60. Rick Cech. #80024

Rick Cech is the principal author and photographer of Butterflies of the East Coast: An Observer's Guide. His photography has been widely published and exhibited. Regarded as a regional expert on butterflies, Rick leads nature trips, gives presentations, and teaches at Yale University, The New York Botanical Garden, and throughout the country.

Native Herbals: Their History and Uses IN-PERSON

Learn the history and medicinal uses of our native flora, including goldenrod, spicebush, and boneset. Students will make their own remedy to take home. Meet in the Lady Bird Johnson Demonstration Garden on campus; park in Lot #1. CE-GRDN 2082, \$60. Clare Pierson. #79956

Clare Pierson has been studying herbal medicine since 1993 and teaching since 2004 in venues around Westchester County, including at Westchester Community College, Stone Barns Center, Bethany Arts Center, and Rockefeller State Park Preserve. She conducts weed walks, lectures, and medicine-making classes for gardening groups, civic organizations, and scout groups, and sells her herbal creations at the Pleasantville Farmers Market, the Teatown plant sale, and the Herb Society Fair.