Native Plant Festival & Sale

Activities

9:00 am
Guided Nature Walk with NYS Master Naturalist Volunteer Pete Saracino

10:00 am
Presentations Begin (see schedule to the right)

Native Plant Sale
Local Vendors
Conservation Organizations

2:45 pm
Guided Wildlife Drive Tour with Audubon's Fred Leff

LUNCH available from
Big Awesome BBQ Food Truck

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge
3395 US-20, Seneca Falls, NY

Presented by Friends of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex

Presentations

10:00 am in the Visitor Center
Janice Wiles, Go Native! Perennials Growing for Native Plant Seed to Rewild Our Landscapes

11:15 am in the Visitor Center
Molly Jacobson, SUNY ESF Restoration Science Center
Native Plant/Pollinator Relationships in Action!
Followed by a Bug Sweep Activity outside the Visitor Center

1:00 pm in the Visitor Center
Krissy Boys, Finger Lakes Native Plant Society
Building a Pollinator Garden in CNY

1:45 pm under the Tent
Krissy Boys, Finger Lakes Native Plant Society
Demonstration: Seed Handling Techniques & Plant Propagation

Saturday, September 20

FRIENDS of the MONTEZUMA WETLANDS COMPLEX

Bee Smart: Grow Native! Native Plant Festival and Sale

Saturday, September 20, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, 3395 US-20, Seneca Falls, NY
Sponsored by: The Friends of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex

Fall is an excellent time to plant native trees, shrubs and perennials so please join us for fun, food and flowers at the third annual Grow Native! Native Plant Festival and Sale. This year the focus is on native plants and pollinators.

Festivities begin at 9 am with a guided nature walk around the refuge with **NY State Master Naturalist Volunteer, Pete Saracino**.

At 10 am native plant and pollinator presentations begin **with Janice Wiles from Go Native! Perennials** in Skaneateles. Learn about the efforts in place to boost the native plant seed supply. Janice will also share updates on the latest efforts to scale up the production of native plants in NY State and explain how she is working to rewild for habitat and future seed sourcing.

Then join **Molly Jacobson from SUNY ESF Restoration Science Center** at 11:15 to discover the fascinating and diverse interactions between native plants and native pollinators here in the northeast, including how you can support them in your own backyard. Afterwards, follow Molly outdoors for a walk to see these plant-pollinator relationships in action!

Hang around for the 1 pm presentation with **Krissy Boys from the Finger Lakes Native Plant Society** and learn how to build the all-inclusive pollinator garden for the native bee species most in need. Krissy will discuss plant propagation protocols and then head out for a workshop where she will demonstrate how to start your own seeds and proper seed-handling techniques.

And more…

- "Meet the Biologist" - Stop by for a chat with our very own Refuge Biologist, Linda Ziemba. Linda will be available to answer your "Refuge" questions throughout the day on the Visitor Center deck.
- Out on the lawn, make sure to visit:
    - Seneca County Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners, Wild Ones/HGCNY and Finger Lakes Native Plant Society to get more gardening and composting tips,
    - Native plant vendors and local artisans
    - Big Awesome BBQ food truck for lunch followed by a treat from Cayuga Lake Creamery
    - End the day with a birding tour along the Wildlife Drive with Audubon's Fred Leff.

This fall take a walk on the wild side and enjoy a fun-filled "day of discovery" at the Refuge!
"Come for the flowers, stay for the fun!"

Vendor/Organization List as of 8/11/25

Sarah Sutton – Spicebush Swallowtail Nursery spicebushswallowtail163@gmail.com
Deanna English – Grow Wild Native Plant Nursery
Stephanie Reeves – Wild Meadow Greenhouses
Molly Jacobson – SUNY ESF Bee Campus
Montezuma Winery
Stacy Jordan Photography
Nichole Keator (Photography)
"Sweetcakes by Laurie"
The SERRV Shop (at the Presbyterian Church in Geneva) -products from around the world
Renee's Homemade Bagels
Travesty Knits

Cayuga Lake Creamery
Big Awesome BBQ Food Truck

Organizations
Seneca County Cornell Cooperative Extension/Master Gardeners
Montezuma Audubon Center and Seneca Meadows Audubon Education Center
Wild Ones/HGCNY Chapter
Cayuga Lake Watershed
Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge -Invasive species
Kristen Moore- Moore Dirty Boots Founder/Educator; SUNY Oswego-Rice Creek Naturalist