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## “Plant Lady” Sally Cunningham to host native plant gardening talk in Niagara Falls

On Wednesday, October 4 at 7pm, the Western New York Land Conservancy is hosting a special talk at the Niagara Falls Public Library with featured speaker, Sally Cunningham. Sally is the author of the nationally popular gardening book “Great Garden Companions,” and is well known in Western New York from her regular segments on Channel 4 News and articles in the *Buffalo News*.

Sally will describe the critical importance of native plants and she will share ways that all Western New Yorkers can use natives in their own yards and gardens, just as the Land Conservancy is doing in the Niagara Gorge. “I still think native plants carry a stigma,” Sally said. “People think they’ll be messy. Not true! I’ll show you some beauties and how to put them together in your yard. Even more important, I’ll show you how you can help a chickadee, spicebush swallowtail butterfly, or honey bee, and how to host other beneficial insects (the ones that prey on your pests). Nature needs our help.” This event is a part of the Land Conservancy’s multi-year ‘Restore the Gorge’ project, which will maintain and enhance wildlife habitat in the remarkable Niagara Gorge.

“The Gorge is home to many unique ecological communities and is one of the most biologically diverse places in the Great Lakes,” said Nancy Smith, Executive Director of the Western New York Land Conservancy. “This is a great chance for us to start a conversation with the people who live in Niagara Falls about the importance of the gorge and the role that they, as neighbors, play in its health.”

A few lucky attendees will come away with native plant door prizes and Sally welcomes all questions!

This event is free and open to the public, but advanced registration is requested. Please sign up online at [plantladyniagarafalls.eventbrite.com](http://plantladyniagarafalls.eventbrite.com) or call (716) 687-1225.

The Western New York Land Conservancy is a regional, not-for-profit land trust that permanently protects land with significant conservation value in Western New York for future generations. The Land Conservancy envisions a future in which meadows, forests, farmlands, wildlife habitat, and scenic beauty are cherished and protected as part of the landscape and character of Western New York. The Land Conservancy is accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission and is one of 1,700 land trusts nationwide, including 90 in New York State. Land trusts have protected 40 million acres over the last 20 years. For more information on upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, or the mission of the Western New York Land Conservancy, please call (716) 687-1225 or visit [www.wnyc.org](http://www.wnyc.org).

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