

Boone County Master Gardener February Minutes

Thursday, February 19, 2026

Attendance: *Barb Wych, Jennifer Crider, Sarah Kellogg, Carl Swanson, Nancy Stetter and Jan Saglier*

Volunteer Gateway

Kelli will be in contact if there is paperwork due.

Give Pulse

Travel time: To a volunteer activity is reported as volunteer hours. Travel to attend a continuing education event does not count toward the required continuing education hours and should not be reported. Tracking hours: You may continue to enter your hours into Give Pulse, use the Give Pulse app on your phone, or write your hours on the form attached and turn into the office for us to enter your time.

State MG Advisory Committee Opening

Applications due by 4/15/26. <https://extension.illinois.edu/mg/state-advisory-committee>

Help Desk

Bobbi, Barb and Minoo will answer off season help desk questions.

2026 schedule

Elaine: 2nd and 4th Tuesday

Carl: 2nd and 4th Thursday

Judy: 1st and 3rd Thursday

Barb: 1st, 3rd, and 5th Monday

Speakers Bureaus

3/5/26, 6:00pm Gardening for Pollinators Tenley at Ida Library

3/12/26, 6:00pm Gardening with Natives Tenly at Ida Library

4/1/26, 6:00pm Swallowtail in Illinois Brianne at Ida Library

4/28/26, 6:00pm Beneficial Insects Bobbi at Ida Library

5/4/26, 6:00pm The Native Alternatives for Landscape Grasses and Sedges Brianne at Ida

5/14/26, 6:00pm Sustainable Gardening Practices Tenley at Ida Library

2026 Planning

Ida Library

We have bimonthly Speakers Bureaus planned for March, April and May.

Pam McClain will be taking care of the gardens when Sandie retires. She would be interested in having a **MG program at the garden**.

Late June or July Ida has requested an Heirloom Seed/Seed History program for the 250th year of American Independence: **Jennifer has agreed to do a program for Ida and Cherry Valley Libraries. Dates TBD.**

Their summer reading program is titled **Plant A Seed Read. Date TBD for program.**
Seed swap is 3/19 from 12-2pm

Perry Elementary School, Grade 5

Amber Fultz is interested in **a lesson on prepping a garden bed and proper seed planting one day and help with seed planting another day.**
She also requested a tree specialist to know if they have any trees older than the school.

Caledonia Elementary Art and Nature After School Group

Brianne and Pam did a program with the students from 2-3:15pm on Feb 18. **The art teacher was very happy with the program and will suggest it to other teachers.**

Social Connections, formerly Keen Age Center

Interested in programming. Stephanie Meyers, activities coordinator, inquired about three programs that Tenley is already working on for the library. **Thoughts on same programs but during the day or offer different programs.**

Emma Lischalk is having a Garden Meditation Day on Wed. May 6 at noon for 15 participants. She would like the program **Floriography: The Meaning of Flowers** and to have each participant make one or two newspaper seedling pots to take home.

Cherry Valley Library

Winnebago Extension has given permission to set up programming. The library is looking for **programming from June to August currently. June or July will be Seed History by Jennifer, date TBD.**

Buchanan Street Garden (Lead 1 Pat, Lead 2 Minoo)

Know More, Grow More Grant, Plant request sent to BNHS Ag Dept. Workday has moved from Monday to Tuesday evening. Tentative clean the garden day will be Saturday, May 2 from 10:00am to Noon. **If you are interested in helping with the garden let me know and I will include you in our scheduling poll to find a day and time that works for all to make a plan of work.**

NASR

Idea submitted to make seed paper. Peggy Anesi has offered to train the trainer on making paper (Tentative date being May 14 at 1pm at Russell Woods Forest Preserve) **If you are interested in helping with NASR let me know and I will include you in our scheduling poll to find a day and time that works for all to make a plan of work.**

Big Thunder (Lead Barb)

Workday will be Thursday morning. Start date TBD. If anyone is interested in helping Barb make cordage for the garden, let her or I know. Thank you.

Got Kidz Daycare (Lead Pat)

They are requesting one program a month for June, July, and August. Best days are Monday and Wednesday. Date TBD

Boone County Conservation District Summer Camp (Lead Pat)

One morning program, date TBD. Camp runs the last week of June through the first week in August.

Field Trips

- Ball Seeds, Unit wide Field Trip, Tour schedule opens May 1st. First choice of dates is Friday, August 14th and second choice is Monday, August 17
- Maura Flanary Home Garden Tour, Poplar Grove. Ask Bobbi to contact for details.

Belvidere Farmers Market

Talked about doing one market a month and to brainstorm ideas for a “draw” like tomato tasting, infused water with herbs and a fruit or vegetable, demonstration, ...

Kinder Fest

NREC, 8am – 3pm, program is 10am – 2pm. Dates are Thursday, April 16; Friday, April 24; Wednesday, April 29; Tuesday, May 5; Wednesday, May 6; RAINDATE Thursday, May 7.

Farm Stroll

Sunday, October 4, 10am – 5pm. MG table at one or two of the farms. Program information and an activity/craft.

Pumpkin Smash

Belvidere Park District would like us to partner with them to have a Pumpkin Smash, probably the first Saturday in November. Details to come.

Next meeting: March 19 at 9:00am

Upcoming Events of Interest:

Gardeners Pathway Feb 28, 2026, 7:30am-3pm at DeKalb County Farm Bureau, \$50

<https://extension.illinois.edu/events/2026-02-28-gardeners-pathway-artisan-market>

**Group of MG (Carl, Judy, Nancy, Barb, Elaine) going to Gardeners Pathway if you would like to meet at extension and carpool

Pruning Young Shade Trees March 3, 2026, 1:30-2:30pm Four Seasons Gardening Webinar.

<https://extension.illinois.edu/events/2026-03-03-pruning-young-shade-trees>

Gardening for Pollinators March 5, 2026, 6:00pm at Ida Library. MG Tenley.

Master Naturalist Volunteer Training, Mondays March 30-June 1 at Kickapoo Mud Creek Nature Conservancy in Oregon. Cost \$250. Pre-register by March 13. Contact Connie at cahandel@illinois.edu

Gardening for Food, Flowers, & Fun March 14, 2026, 9am-12pm at NIU Rockford Conference Center

Preregistration \$20, At the door \$25. <https://registration.extension.illinois.edu/start/gardening-for-food-flowers-fun-2026-rockford>

Gardening with Natives March 15, 2026, 6:00pm at Ida Library. MG Tenley.

Wild Neighbors: Coyotes March 21, 2026, 9-10:30am at Boone County Conservation District, Free Peggy Anesi presenting. Registration required. Limited seating.

<https://registration.extension.illinois.edu/start/wild-neighbors-coyotes>

Ready, Set, Grow March 28, 2026, 8am-1pm at Sauk Community College, \$25

<https://extension.illinois.edu/events/2026-03-28-2026-readysetgrow-gardening-workshop>

Rock Valley Garden Center 785 N. Bell School Road, Rockford. Always has free to low-cost events year-round. <https://www.rockvalleygardencenter.com/education.html>