

Boone County Master Gardener March Agenda
Thursday, March 19, 2026
9AM

State MG Advisory Committee Opening

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

Help Desk

Bobbi, Barb and Minoos will answer off season help desk questions.
2026 schedule

Speakers Bureaus

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

5/6/26, Noon, Floriography: The Meaning of Flowers at Social Connections, Brianne

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

2026 Planning

Ida Library

MG program in the garden

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. Heritage Woods of Belvidere is interested in program.

Their summer reading program is titled Plant A Seed Read. Date TBD (? Week of June 8th) for program.

Seed swap is today, 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.

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.

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. Bobbi Beneficial Insects 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.

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) Prep indoor projects during free time at help desk?

Big Thunder (Lead Barb)

Workday will be Thursday mornings. 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, Pam, Brianne)

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

Boone County Conservation District Summer Camp (Lead Pat, Brianne)

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.

Nature Fest

NREC, 9am-2:30pm, May 16th, can volunteer for full or half day.

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 will be Thursday, April 16, at 6:00 – Volunteer Appreciation Night

We will be having a guest speaker. This will be our only meeting in April.

Upcoming Events of Interest:

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

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-readyssetgrow-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>