



## Master Gardener Bookworms Stephenson County Master Gardeners 2019 Reading Schedule

### 2019

#### January 2019

Shey Lowman: *Elizabeth and her German Garden*, Elizabeth von Arnim

Wonderful, semi-autobiographical story about gardening in the 1800s and surprisingly contemporary. A glimpse into being an independent woman back then.

#### February 2019

Carol Ahrens: *Digging Deep: Unearthing Your Creative Roots Through Gardening*, Fran Sorin

Goodreads Author. If you're yearning to get out of the rut you're in and cultivate more meaning and connection in life, *Digging Deep* offers encouragement and the tools to make it happen.

#### March 2019

Joan Oliver: *The Orchid Thief*, Susan Orlean

"A modern classic of personal journalism, *The Orchid Thief* is Susan Orlean's wickedly funny, elegant, and captivating tale of an amazing obsession. Determined to clone an endangered flower—the rare ghost orchid *Polyrrhiza lindenii*—a deeply eccentric and oddly attractive man named John Laroche leads Orlean on an unforgettable tour of America's strange flower-selling subculture, through Florida's swamps and beyond, along with the Seminoles who help him and the forces of justice who fight him." Amazon.com

#### April 2019

Ruth Eilers: *Emily Dickinson's Gardens: A Celebration of a Poet and Gardener*, Marta McDowell

"You are invited to enter this place of solace, where bees lazily buzz among the blossoms, where stray cats doze in the summer shade, and where Emily Dickinson drew much of her inspiration, filling her famous poems with the flowers she so adored. In *Emily Dickinson's Gardens*, author Marta McDowell guides poetry and gardening lovers alike through an in-depth exploration of the words and flowers of America's most beloved poet." From the cover.

#### May 2019

Wilma Faerber: *The Lost Garden: A Novel*, Helen Humphreys

War in England 1941, girl leaves city to garden in the country and grow food for the war effort.

#### June 2019

Jill DeGraw: *In the Garden with Jane Austen*, Kim Wilson

"This book strolls through the sorts of gardens that Jane Austen would have known and visited... With lush photos, social history, excerpts from the novels, information on her life, and period drawings, this book brings Georgian and Regency gardens and Jane Austen's world to life." (Barnesandnoble.com)

#### July 2019

Barb Schaefer: *Fifty Plants that Changed the Course of History*, Bill Laws

"A beautifully presented guide to the plants that have had the greatest impact on human civilization. Entries feature a description of the plant, its botanical name, its native range and its primary functions--edible, medicinal, commercial or practical. Concise text is highlighted by elegant botanical drawings, paintings and photographs." Amazon.com

#### August 2019

Joan Oliver: *Green Thoughts: A Writer in the Garden*, Eleanor Perenyi

A classic in the literature of the garden, *Green Thoughts* is a beautifully written and highly original collection of seventy-two essays.

#### September 2019

Shirlee Iverson: *Bean Blossom Dreams: A City Family's Search for a Simple Country Life*, Sallyann J. Murphey

"Sallyann J. Murphey and her husband did what a lot of us have dreamt of but never quite built up the courage to do. In 1990, Murphey, who was a successful BBC producer, and her husband, Greg, a commercial photographer, left their high stress, hectic life in Chicago and moved to a dilapidated 40-plus-acre farm in Brown County, Indiana, hoping to raise their daughter in a more natural and less stressful environment." Amazon.com

October 2019

Barb Schaefer: *Buffalo Bird Woman's Garden: The classic account of Hidatsa American Indian gardening techniques*, Gilbert L. Wilson

First published in 1917 by an anthropologist, the book is in the words of a Hidatsa Indian Woman. The Hidatsa gardened in the bend of the Missouri River in North Dakota. Buffalo Bird Woman was born about 1839 and was an expert gardener who along with other women in the tribe used centuries old methods to raise a variety of crops. A lyrical read with recipes for cooking typical Hidatsa dishes.

November 2019

Ruth Eilers: *The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate—Discoveries from a Secret World*, Peter Wohlleben

The author convincingly makes the case that, yes, the forest is a social network. He draws on groundbreaking scientific discoveries to describe how trees are like human families: tree parents live together with their children, communicate with them, support them as they grow, share nutrients with those who are sick or struggling, and even warn each other of impending dangers. Amazon.com

December 2019

All: *Winnie-the-Pooh*, A. A. Milne

Since 1926, Winnie-the-Pooh and his friends—Piglet, Owl, Tigger, and the ever-doleful Eeyore—have endured as the unforgettable creations of A.A. Milne, who wrote this book for his son, Christopher Robin, and Ernest H. Shepard, who lovingly gave Pooh and his companions shape. These characters and their stories are timeless treasures of childhood that continue to speak to all of us with the kind of freshness and heart that distinguishes true storytelling.

## 2020

January 2020

Mary Blair: *The Landscapes of Anne of Green Gables: The Enchanting Island that Inspired L. M. Montgomery*, Catherine Reid  
*The Landscapes of Anne of Green Gables* explores L. M. Montgomery's deep connection to the landscapes of Prince Edward Island that inspired her to write the beloved Anne of Green Gables series. From the Lake of Shining Waters and the Haunted Wood to Lover's Lane, you'll be immersed in the real places immortalized in the novels. Using Montgomery's journals, archives, and scrapbooks, Catherine Reid explores the many similarities between Montgomery and her unforgettable heroine, Anne Shirley. The lush package includes Montgomery's hand-colored photographs, the illustrations originally used in *Anne of Green Gables*, and contemporary and historical photography.

February 2020

Carol Ahrens: *Mister Owita's Guide to Gardening: How I Learned the Unexpected Joy of a Green Thumb and an Open Heart*, Carol Wall

Carol Wall, a white woman living in a lily-white neighborhood in Middle America, was at a crossroads in her life. Her children were grown; she had successfully overcome illness; her beloved parents were getting older. One day she notices a dark-skinned African man tending her neighbor's yard. His name is Giles Owita. He bags groceries at the supermarket. He comes from Kenya. And he's very good at gardening. Before long Giles is transforming not only Carol's yard, but her life. Though they are seemingly quite different, a caring bond grows between them. But they both hold long-buried secrets that, when revealed, will cement their friendship forever.

March 2020

Mary Blair: *The Overstory: A Novel*, Richard Powers

Shortlisted for the Man Booker in 2018, *The Overstory* is a brilliant and passionate book about humans and their relationship to trees and the natural environment. The first half of the book is written like short stories, 9 characters are introduced separately with their tree story. Each story has an event that has happened to change the life of the character by the tree or trees that shaped them. The stories are phenomenal. The second half of the book is about these same characters being drawn together to fight the cause of saving trees. Environmental activism is the center of this part of the book and its fight against logging companies who are destroying the American forests.

April 2020

May 2020

June 2020

July 2020

August 2020

*September 2020*

*October 2020*

*November 2020*

*December 2020*