



## Master Gardener Bookworms Stephenson County Master Gardeners 2020 Reading Schedule

### 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

Marcy Wessels: *Victory Gardens for Bees: A DIY Guide to Saving the Bees*, Lori Weidenhammer

Who knew modern civilization may be brought down, not by plagues or war, but by bees? Or, more correctly, by no bees? This book investigates the growing problem of bee mortality and offers practical measures we can all take to help.

#### May 2020

Ruth Eilers: *Remarkable Creatures: A Novel*, Tracy Chevalier

*Remarkable Creatures* is a stunning historical novel that follows the story of two extraordinary 19th century fossil hunters who changed the scientific world forever. "Chevalier admirably weaves historical figures and actual events into a compelling narrative."—*San Francisco Chronicle*

#### June 2020

Shey Lowman: *Gardens of the High Line: Elevating the Nature of Modern Landscapes*, Piet Oudolf & Rick Darke

I loved this book! It's about the High Line Garden in New York City. Tells the story how they were able to transform an abandoned elevated train line into a beautiful green space, lots of photos.

#### July 2020

Wilma Faerber: *Time and the Gardener: Writings on a Lifelong Passion*, Elizabeth Sheldon

Really old gardener writes her memoir – she had to have learned a lot in a lifetime of gardening.

#### August 2020

Shirlee Iverson: *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, Annie Dillard

Pulitzer Prize Winner: "Pilgrim at Tinker Creek is a series of essays that combines scientific observation, philosophy, daily thoughts, and deeper introspection with glorious prose. --500 Great Books by Women" Amazon.com

*September 2020*

Shey Lowman: *Teaming with Microbes: The Organic Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web*, Jeff Lowenfels & Wayne Lewis  
I also loved this book! Not too technical, lots of useful information. It changed the way I garden and manage my personal landscape.

*October 2020*

Ruth Eilers: *The Solitary Summer*, Elizabeth von Arnim

"I want to be alone for a whole summer, and get to the very dregs of life. I want to be as idle as I can, so that my soul may have time to grow. Nobody shall be invited to stay with me, and if anyone calls they will be told that I am out, or away, or sick . . . Wouldn't a whole lovely summer, quite alone, be delightful?" von Arnim

*November 2020*

Jill DeGraw: *The Unlikely Lavender Queen: A Memoir of Unexpected Blossoming* Jeannie Ralston (2008)

The story of the author's experiences as a New York magazine writer moving to Texas and becoming a lavender farmer.

*December 2020*

Joan Oliver: *The Gardener*, Sarah Stewart (a children's book)

Lydia Grace Finch brings a suitcase full of seeds to the big gray city, where she goes to stay with her Uncle Jim, a cantankerous baker. There she initiates a gradual transformation, bit by bit brightening the shop and bringing smiles to customers' faces with the flowers she grows. But it is in a secret place that Lydia Grace works on her masterpiece -- an ambitious rooftop garden -- which she hopes will make even Uncle Jim smile. Sarah Stewart introduces readers to an engaging and determined young heroine, whose story is told through letters written home, while David Small's illustrations beautifully evoke the Depression-era setting.