

University of Illinois Extension
Master Gardeners

Changing Our World

One Garden at a Time

2023 State Conference



Illinois Extension Master Gardener State Conference September 7 - 8, 2023 Embassy Suites, East Peoria

Registration

online - go.illinois.edu/StateMG2023
call - Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit
309-547-3711

Registration Fees:

Optional Tours \$35/\$75
Evening Social \$20
Keynote Address Only \$25
All Day Conference \$75

Schedule

Thursday, Sept. 7

Tours: Full day or 2 Half day options
6:30 PM - Evening Social

Friday, Sept. 8

8 AM - Registration opens
9 AM - Keynote
10:30 AM - Breakout Session 1
11:30 AM - Vendors, Silent Auction,
Lunch Buffet
12:30 PM - Awards Ceremony
1:45 PM - Breakout Session 2
3 PM - Breakout Session 3
4 PM - Silent Auction pay and pick-up

Location

Embassy Suites by Hilton East Peoria
Riverfront Hotel & Conference Center
100 Conference Center Dr, East Peoria



Keynote Speaker

Kelly D. Norris

Award-winning Author

Iowa Gardener's Travel Guide
(2008)

A Guide to Bearded Irises:
Cultivating the Rainbow for
Beginners and Enthusiasts (2012)

Plants With Style (2015)

New Naturalism: Designing and
Planting a Resilient, Ecologically
Vibrant Home Garden (2021)

Former director of horticulture
and education at the Greater Des
Moines Botanical Garden

Keynote Address

New Naturalism: Designing and Planting a Resilient, Ecologically Vibrant Home Garden

In this era of purposeful and thoughtful gardening, planting is a powerful verb. Planting gardens inspired by nature promotes authentic connections with land, environment and humanity. Why not make a garden that works and looks good doing it? Landscapes at home and in the public realm

can be beautiful and ecologically functional if we deepen our understanding of plants and place. In this lecture especially tailored to garden enthusiasts with examples from around the world, Kelly challenges audiences to plant the world a more beautiful, functional place.



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Tours - Thursday, September 7

Full Day Trip: Mason State Tree Nursery, Lunch at Dickson Mounds State Museum, Black Sheep Flower Farm, and Orchard Hill Farm

Cost: \$75

8 AM – Charter Coach leaves from Embassy Suites, East Peoria

9 AM – Arrive at Mason State Tree Nursery

Noon – Dickson Mounds State Museum for a box lunch

1 PM – Black Sheep Flower Farm

2:40 PM – Tour begins at Orchard Hill Farm

5:15 PM – Arrive back at hotel

Morning Half Day Tour: Illinois Central College Gardens

Cost: \$35

8 AM – Charter Coach leaves from Embassy Suites, East Peoria

Tour of gardens include Japanese Garden, hosta beds, Butterfly Garden, open prairie, Master Gardener Demonstration Garden, vegetable gardens, All-American Selection Garden, and more.

Noon – Arrive back at hotel

Afternoon Half Day Tour: Wildlife Prairie Park and Luthy Botanical Garden

Cost: \$35

12:30 PM – Charter Coach leaves from Embassy Suites, East Peoria

Tours at Wildlife Prairie Park includes 4-H Great Learning Garden and Kim St John Butterfly Habitat and then travel to visit Luthy Botanical Garden.

5:30 PM – Arrive back at hotel


Evening Social - Thursday, September 7, 6:30 to 8 PM

Cost: \$20

Embassy Suites, room River E

The hosting Master Gardeners invite everyone to join them for an evening of fun that includes hors d'oeuvres, time to connect with new and old friends, plus trivia with lots of prizes.





Breakout Sessions - Friday, September 8

Breakout Session 1 10:30 to 11:30 AM

Landscape Design with Natives *Nancy Kreith*

Native plants are beautiful, adapted to the local environment, and beneficial to wildlife, but how do you make them look their best in your home landscape? Learn simple design principles as well as some friendly native plants for your home garden. Time will also be spent discussing the Conservation@Home program.

Managing Weeds *Nicole Flowers-Kimmerle*

Weeds are a common nuisance that every homeowner and gardener must contend with. Join us as we learn about a variety of ways to manage some of the most common garden weeds in Illinois.

Community Garden Panel *Shanita Wallace, Rebecca Crumrine, Mike Brooks, John Curtis*

Community gardens play an important role in food access. Hear about some successful ways collaboration has been used in central Illinois. The panel will talk about the Partnership for Healthy Community Healthy Eating Active Living Priority Action Team, Community Garden Network, Food Pantry Network – Heart of Illinois, and Grow-a-Row campaign.

So You Want to be a Beekeeper *Ella Maxwell, Trudy Yazujian, and Janine Donahue*

We will discuss 13 different aspects of beekeeping which need to be considered BEFORE you buy that package of bees and the equipment to go along with it. We will have plenty of time for Q&A. Each presenter bring their experiences with a different method of keeping bees: . Come join us and let's talk about those wonderful insects, the Honey Bee.

Breakout Session 2 1:45 to 2:45 PM

Rain Gardens Help Water Quality *Layne Knoche*

Together rain gardens and native plants can help to reduce localized flooding, improve local water quality, provide habitat for wildlife, and much more. Hear about the recent renovation of the Red Oak Rain Garden, one of the premier rain gardens in Illinois.

Proven Winner Process *Marshall Dirks*

Hear about the folks who develop and search for plants for Proven Winners, and the process, selection, and protection of them during the many years of development – including how plants are named and then eventually marketed.

The Giving Gardens *John Curtis and Nathan Miner*

Community access gardens have the power to transform our cities and our rural communities. Come learn the story of the Giving Gardens and how a small organization is using gardening to make our world a better place.

Growing and Cooking with Herbs *Katie Bell and Mary Liz Wright*

Join us as two Extension Educators share their expertise on growing and cooking with herbs.

Katie Bell will share information on growing, propagating, and caring for various herbs as well as how to recognize and treat common plant diseases. Then, after you know how to care for them, Mary Liz Wright will take you on a culinary journey as she shares tips to incorporate herbs into recipes and preserve them for use this winter.

Breakout Session 3 3 to 4 PM

Climate and Your Garden *Trent Ford*

We benefit from four distinct seasons in Illinois that are often not so distinct. From late spring freezes and April snowstorms to December tornadoes and torrential rain, our climate provides ample opportunity to ruin a garden. In this session we'll discuss Illinois' climate, what makes the weather so predictably unpredictable, and what kind of changes we've seen historically and may see into the future.

In the Garden with Irises *Margaret Kelly*

Margaret Kelly invites you to come to her garden, while the dew is still on the irises. Her garden overflows with almost every kind for iris: 8 bearded iris families, 6 beardless iris families and 3 bulbous iris families. She is only missing the Pacific Coast Native Iris that does not grow in Illinois. Through her photos and stories you will find joy as you tarry there.

Therapeutic Horticulture *Navraaz Basati*

Through therapeutic horticulture, plants are used to help people do sensory work to help their well-being. Research shows working with plants and having access to green spaces can have a positive impact on people. We will also discuss different programs and how we can incorporate therapeutic horticulture into MG volunteer efforts.

Garden Tools and Care *Ken Johnson*

The number and different types of gardening tools can be overwhelming. Learn about some of the tools of the trade, what to look for when selecting tools, and how to care for them.

Breakout Session Presenters

Nancy Kreith is an Extension horticulture educator in Cook County. Currently, she shares her expertise by training in the subject areas of soils, woody ornamental plants, vegetables, herbs, insects and sustainable landscaping.

Nicole Flowers-Kimmerle is the Extension horticulture educator for Fulton, Mason, Peoria and Tazewell counties. She has college degrees in crop science and agronomy, with a focus on weed science.

Shanita Wallace is the Health Educator at Tazewell County Health Department. She is the co-founder of the Food Pantry Network – Heart of Illinois, serves as co-chair for the Partnership for Healthy Communities Healthy Eating Active Living Action Team and Health and Safety Trustee for the Village of Creve Coeur, Grant Coordinator for 21st Century Community Learning Centers, and Program Coordinator for Good Food Recovery projects.

Rebecca Crumrine, Extension SNAP-Ed educator, collaborates with partners such as food pantries, schools, and health departments. Her work helps to impact families where they eat, learn, live, shop, and play so the healthier choice can become the easier choice to make.

Mike Brooks is the OSF Garden Coordinator in Peoria, Illinois. His work focuses on St. Anne's Garden of Hope near downtown Peoria and St. Matthew's Garden of Hope on the north edge of Peoria next to the Center for Health. In addition to the work related to maintaining both gardens he also coordinates volunteers and food distribution.

Ella Maxwell, Trudy Yazujian, and Janine Donahue are all Extension Master Gardeners from Tazewell County. In addition to their passion for horticulture and beekeeping, they all have the gift of teaching.

Layne Knoche is an Outreach Associate with Illinois Extension and Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant. As landscape designer of Urbana's Red Oak Rain Garden, his professional focus revolves around native plants and planting design as they relate to stormwater systems and the integration of social, aesthetic, and educational aspects in those natural and built environments.

Marshall Dirks is Vice President of Marketing for Proven Winners. He combines his 30+ years of horticultural experience and marketing skills as he manages Proven Winners' consumer advertising, trade collateral and marketing materials, the consumer and industry websites in addition to social media platforms and Proven Winners' national public relations efforts.

John Curtis is the founder and director of the Giving Gardens, an organization dedicated to creating public gardens where all members of the community are welcome to enjoy and harvest flowers, herbs, vegetables and berries and educating local people to garden for themselves, their families, and their community.

Nathan Miner is serving the community through the Giving Gardens as an AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers In Service to America). Nathan is a recent graduate of Western Illinois University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in recreation, parks, and tourism administration (RPTA) as well as a minor in music.

Katie Bell is an Extension local food systems and small farms educator in Southern Illinois. She collaborates to provide programming focused around agronomic and horticultural crop production, including cover crops, pest management, soil and nutrient management, and food safety and security.

Mary Liz Wright, Extension nutrition and wellness educator, works to empower people to make good life choices. She is a life-long resident of Edgar County. She and her family are avid gardeners and raise beef cattle, hogs and sheep on their Edgar County farm. In her spare time Mary Liz likes to read, listen to classical music and walk on unpaved ground.

Trent Ford has been the Illinois State Climatologist since 2019. He is an expert in climate and climate change and its interactions and impacts, especially as they relate to water. Trent leads climate monitoring and data collection and provision for the state.

Margaret Kelly is an Extension Master Gardener from Tazewell County and an American Iris Society Master Judge. She is currently serving as a Representative on the Board of Directors of the American Iris Society and Regional Vice President.

Navraaz Basati was born and raised in the Midwest to immigrant parents, both from farming backgrounds in India. She completed her certification in Horticultural Therapy from the Chicago Botanic Garden and a certification in Forest Therapy from the Association of Nature and Forest Therapy and currently serves Cook County as Extension horticulture program coordinator.

Ken Johnson is the Extension horticulture educator serving Calhoun, Cass, Greene, Morgan, and Scott counties. He focuses on fruit and vegetable production, pest management, and beneficial insects. Through his programming efforts, he aims to increase backyard food production and foster a greater appreciation of insects. He contributes to the Good Growing blog and podcast.

