

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION'S 25TH ANNUAL

# NURSERY SCHOOL

LESSONS IN GARDENING SYMPOSIUM

SATURDAY  
FEBRUARY 10  
8 AM – 2:30 PM  
VIBRANT ARENA  
MOLINE, IL



## ATTENTION GARDEN ENTHUSIASTS! JOIN US FEB 10 TO:

- Connect with experts and grow in your gardening knowledge!
- Get inspired for your 2024 growing season.
- Network with fellow gardeners during lunch and sessions.
- Shop unique items from garden vendors.

### Get inspired and cultivate your knowledge at Nursery School: Lesson in Gardening, the Quad Cities' premiere gardening symposium!

For over two decades, gardening enthusiasts from across the region have gathered to celebrate a shared passion for horticulture. This year marks a special milestone as we proudly present the 25th Annual Nursery School. Join us for an enriching experience to connect, learn, and grow.

#### Event Highlights:

##### Connect with Renowned Horticulture Experts

- Immerse yourself in a day of knowledge-sharing with experts. Gain insights, ideas, and inspiration to transform your gardens.

##### Keynote: "This isn't your Grandparents Garden Weather"

- Explore the effects of our changing weather and its profound impact on our gardens with a captivating presentation from Illinois Extension State Master Naturalist and Climate Change Specialist, Duane Friend.

##### Tailored Learning Experience

- Get practical knowledge you can use! Customize your day by choosing 3 more sessions from a diverse selection of offerings, ensuring there's something for every interest.

##### Workshops, Lunch, Shopping and More!

- Start off with morning coffee and rolls, shop the garden vendors, learn from experts, enjoy a taco bar buffet (included), visit with fellow gardening enthusiasts.



Are you a vendor with garden-related items or services? Join us at Nursery School to connect with gardeners!  
Sign up at [go.illinois.edu/NSvendor](https://go.illinois.edu/NSvendor)

# Nursery School Sessions

## Opening Keynote Session 8:45-9:45am



Duane Friend

### This isn't your Grandparents Gardening Weather.



We all know the weather affects our gardens and landscape. Are changes in the weather affecting how we plant and grow? Duane Friend, Illinois Extension State Master Naturalist and Climate Change Specialist, will talk about trends in weather over the last few decades. He will share practical guidance on ways you might adjust gardening and landscape activities to make the most of these changes. His expertise in this dynamic field makes his keynote a must-attend for anyone seeking cutting-edge knowledge on weather's effects on our gardens.

*Duane Friend has an extensive background in meteorology and climatology and over 30 years of invaluable experience. He previously served as an Illinois Extension Natural Resources Management Educator and held positions as Executive Director for the Farm Services Agency, and as a resource conservationist. His professional honors include gold and bronze awards from the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals.*

**SCHEDULE:** Doors open at 8AM. Enjoy complimentary coffee and rolls, visit vendors. Keynote Session is at 8:45, followed by two morning session. Lunch is 12:15 - 1:15 with Taco bar (included) and time to visit vendors before your last session at 1:30. The event ends at 2:30.

## Session I: 10 - 11am

Select one from the following:

### AAA Winners: The Secret Ingredient to Gardening Success

*Diane Blazak, Executive Director, of  
All-American Selections and the  
National Garden Bureau*



Ornamentals

For over 90 years, All-America Selections (AAS) has been the trusted source for gardeners who want to ensure the success of their gardens. The AAS seal is a promise of superior quality, performance, and beauty. But what does it take for a plant to earn the AAS seal? In this session you'll go behind the scenes of the AAS Training process to learn how AAS Winners are selected, from the initial submission to the final judging. You'll also get to preview some of the 2024 AAS winners!

### Seedling Success: Mastering Indoor and Outdoor Seed Starting

*Nicole Flowers-Kimmerle, Illinois  
Extension Horticulture Educator*



Edibles

Join Nicole to learn concepts and techniques for starting seed indoors and outdoors. Starting your own seedlings gives you the opportunity to select unique varieties and have healthy plants ready to go into your garden at the right time.

### Hunters of the night: Owls of Iowa & Illinois

*James Wiebler, Naturalist and Research  
Coordinator at Nahant Marsh*



Nature

Discover the unique adaptations that make owls such fascinating creatures, gaining insights into their behaviors and habitats. James will guide you through the identification of the eight owl species found in Iowa and Illinois, providing you with a deeper understanding of these elusive birds of prey, and newfound admiration for these nocturnal hunters.

# Nursery School Sessions

## Session II: 11:15 – 12:15 pm

Select one from the following:

### Beneath the Canopy: Exploring Spring Ephemeral Flowers

*Emily Swihart, Illinois Extension  
Horticulture Educator*



After a Midwestern winter, early blooming flowers are a welcome sign of spring for people and pollinators alike. Ephemerals are a group of flowering plants that emerge in the early spring while the woodland remains dormant. But their beauty is fleeting, retreating into the background of the forest as the canopy fills out. Join Emily on a virtual tour of the forest floor and gain inspiration to venture out on your own walk through the woods this spring.

### Organic Vegetable Gardening

*Ken Johnson, Illinois Extension  
Horticulture Educator*



Discover the principles and benefits of organic gardening as you delve into the art of cultivating a thriving vegetable garden. Learn about what organic gardening is and how you can implement organic practices in your own vegetable garden

### Climate & Weather Tools for Gardening

*Duane Friend, Illinois Extension  
State Master Naturalist and  
Climate Change Specialist*



Embark on a journey of informed gardening with a selection of online weather and climate risk tools tailored for the home gardener. Dive into a diverse array of user-friendly resources designed to enhance decision-making throughout your growing season. This presentation will introduce you to a variety of cutting-edge tools that offer valuable insights into local weather patterns, climate trends, and potential risks for your backyard oasis.

## Session III: 1:30 – 2:30 pm

Select one from the following:

### Hornbaker Gardens- New Plants & Inspirations for the Spring Season!

*Molly Blogg, Manager, CEO, Co-  
Owner of Hornbaker Gardens Inc.*



Embark on a horticultural adventure with Molly as your guide, as she not only traces the historical narrative of Hornbaker Garden Center, Arboretum, and Botanic Garden but also unveils a captivating glimpse into the future of your own garden. She will share insights on incorporating new plant varieties into your garden, transforming your outdoor space into a vibrant tapestry of color and texture.

### You can't go wrong with culinary herbs in your garden/kitchen!

*Chris Enroth, Illinois Extension  
Horticulture Educator, and Chef Elly  
Voss, NEST Cafe (Nourish Everyone  
Sustainably Together)*



Culinary herbs are favorite of many gardeners. The leaves and flowers of herbs can give fragrance and flavor to our food. Chris will give a lesson on growing herbs and then Chef Elly will share some of her recipes using culinary herbs.

### Enrich Your Yard with Native Plants

*Amy Loving, Director of  
Education at Nahant Marsh*



Yards are a great place to incorporate native plants—but where to start? This presentation will identify yard ecosystem types, native plants that are best suited for those habitats, and the wildlife that benefits from them. Additionally, you will also hear of a variety of resources to start plugging natives into

Ornamentals

Edibles

Nature

# Nursery School 2024 Registration

Get inspired and cultivate your knowledge at Nursery School, the Quad Cities' premiere gardening symposium! Produced by University of Illinois Extension and Master Gardeners from Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Stark counties, the event offers something for everyone, from the novice to the most experienced gardener. Horticulture experts share tips, pointers, ideas and information you can put to work!

## REGISTER EARLY & SAVE!

**Registration fees are \$60 through Jan 5, and \$70 from Jan 6 - Feb 5, 2024**

You must register by Feb 5 to attend Nursery School, taking place on Sat. Feb 10, 2024. Your registration includes morning coffee and rolls, keynote presentation, 3 additional sessions, taco lunch buffet, and access to the Nursery School vendor area.

To register: use the link below, scan the QR code, or call our office at (309) 756-9978.

**Register by Feb 5, 2024 at**  
**[go.illinois.edu/NurserySchool2024](https://go.illinois.edu/NurserySchool2024)**



**University of Illinois Extension**  
**The College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences**

Visit our website: [extension.illinois.edu/hmrs](https://extension.illinois.edu/hmrs)

**Henry/Stark Counties**  
358 Front St. Galva, IL  
(309) 932-3447

**Mercer County**  
910 13th St. Viola, IL  
309-513-3100

**Rock Island County**  
321 W 2nd Ave. Milan, IL  
(309) 756-9978

*University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate, contact (309) 756-9978.*