



Gardenfest

ready, set, grow

Saturday, April 4, 2020 | 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m.
Luecht Auditorium at MCC
Building B, 8900 U.S. Highway 14, Crystal Lake
www.mchenry.edu/gardenfest

MORNING KEYNOTE: William Moss

William is a trusted authority in landscape design, horticulture, and urban agriculture. He loves teaching others how to make greener, healthier choices that improve their lives, their communities, and their environment. Coined the Garden Boss for his scientific knowledge and leadership style, William uses his landscaping know-how to engage, educate, and entertain audiences. After graduating from Northwestern University and completing the Chicagoland Master Gardeners program, William joined the Chicago Department of the Environment to work on habitat restoration and greening efforts throughout the city. You've seen William on Discovery Channel's 'Rally Round the House', TLC's 'Town Haul' and as host of HGTV's "DIG IN", where he helped homeowners tackle landscape projects resulting in dramatic transformations. As a greening expert William has regularly appeared on national news programs such as The Early Show, Good Morning America, CNN, WGN as well as the QVC gardening guest. He's also author of the book, "Any Size, Anywhere Edible Gardening".

Get Out & Grow Veggies 2020

William will review 20 of the best veggies to grow in Chicagoland based on nutrition, productivity, seasonality, ornament, maintenance, etc. New varieties with new features and old varieties with newly discovered attributes will be discussed.

AFTERNOON KEYNOTE: Nina Koziol

Nina Koziol has taught horticulture and design at the Chicago Botanic Garden and The Morton Arboretum for 20 years. She was a contributing garden writer to the Chicago Tribune and Chicagoland Gardening magazine. Her one-acre garden in southwest Cook County is designed to attract hummingbirds, bluebirds and a host of pollinators. See more at www.thisgardencooks.com

The Gardener as Artist

Thinking outside the Phlox, coloring outside the lines. Yes, you ARE an artist in your garden. This program looks at public and private gardens--from the quirky and magical to the elegant and innovative (and their creators)—and the plants and garden art within them. If you need inspiration, this is for you.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Backyard Blueberries & Raspberries

Blueberries, while presenting challenge in our area; and raspberries, which are easy to grow; are popular small fruit crops for backyard gardeners. Learn more on the keys to success when growing each in the backyard, including selection, care, and managing common problems.

Pointers for Pruning Trees Like a Professional

Properly pruned trees not only look better but are healthier, stronger, and safer in the landscape. While each individual tree has specific pruning needs, this session will outline key points to help in making sound decisions when pruning both deciduous shade trees and conifers in the home landscape.



Greenhouse Tour

MCC replaced its aging greenhouse with a state-of-the-art facility. Join Rich as he leads a tour of the three-bay facility, that includes space for teaching, growing and hydro/aquaponics. This class will also cover basic techniques of greenhouse growing as well as information that you can use to build or use your home greenhouse.

Tool Care and Sharpening

Good, sharp, well cared-for tools make gardening much easier to accomplish. Join Rich as he discusses tool selection and then reviews appropriate care. Bring one or two hand tools that you can sharpen during the 2nd half of class. Hand and eye protection recommended though some will be available for shared use. Note: This class will be repeated X 1.

Landscapes and Gardens from a Designer's View

Kathy Uszler, McHenry County U of I Master Gardener and Landscape Designer, returns for the 7th year of teaching at Gardenfest. She will talk about good and bad design with examples from her own gardens along with 'before' and 'after' photos of projects she has worked on over the years. Whether you are in the planning stages for a new landscape or garden, or want to improve the one you have, you should find information that will improve your outdoor space.

Long-Blooming Perennials

You will learn how to select perennial plants that have a long-bloom time and partner well together. We will share combination and design ideas to create a long progression of bloom in your perennial landscape. Create a visually striking and harmonious look for your garden using color, texture, height, and bloom!

Best New Plants for 2020

We will highlight the best new annuals, perennials, roses, vegetables, shrubs and trees for 2020. Only those plants with unique new features that are successful in our region make the list. Come see what's new!

Curb Appeal & Landscaping Ideas from Fixer Upper

If you are a big fan of Chip & Joanna Gaines and even if you're unfamiliar with the home design empire they've built, you'll get to take a closer look at their curb appeal design technique. You'll be inspired by before and after shots, unique plant selections and container trends. Together we'll break it down into a landscape recipe you can follow at your own home.

Cooking with Herbs

Chef Anthony will share some new special herb recipes from soups to desserts. Participants will have a chance to sample and taste. (Anthony will do 2 sessions back to back with a 20 person limit on each

May-Bee a Superhero!

This little gentle native just might be the next Marvel Avenger the USDA is looking for! We've all heard about bees in decline, but do you know who's stepping up to the plate? A fascinating insect that is simply sweet in nature, inexpensive to raise and is already in your yard, the mason bee. This class will instruct on how to start raising them this spring!

Growing Your Own Bouquets

A flower farmers tips for a great cutting garden. Would you like to make beautiful flower arrangements to brighten your home? Perhaps share a bouquet with family and friends? Liz explains what makes a great cut flower and the annual and perennial varieties that are most productive. Learn how to make your cut flowers last longer with proper harvesting and post harvest care. Topics covered are: When to plant, Seed starting, Bed prep and maintenance, Mulch and plant support, Harvesting /Dead heading and Post harvest care for long lasting blooms.

Native Plants—Beauty and Benefits

Learn about the value of native plants for the environment and wildlife. Emphasis will be on the role that homeowners can play in providing native habitat, as the populations of pollinators, birds, and other

Landscaping for Birds

Most birds do not come to feeders but you can easily attract them to your yard using native plants! Planting native plants is one of the easiest and most impactful things you can do as an individual to help birds. Like insects, birds have evolved with our native plants and rely on them to provide for their needs year-round and throughout their lives. For this program, we will discuss using natives to support the primary needs of birds; food, shelter, and nesting as well as other tips you can implement in your yard to attract and help birds thrive.