

Gardeners' BIG Day

April 18, 2020
go.illinois.edu/GBD20

8:30 a.m. - Doors Open

9:20 - 9:40 a.m. - Welcome & Opening

9:40 - 10:30 a.m. - Keynote Address

Project Wingspan: Landscape Enhancement for Imperiled Pollinators of the Midwest

10:45 - 11:30 a.m. - Session 1

- A. Native Trees for the Home Landscape
- B. Moles, Voles, Rabbits, Squirrels....
- C. Shade Gardening
- D. High on Hydrangeas
- E. Hands-on: 20 Ways to Use 20 Stems

11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Session 2

- A. Native Trees for the Home Landscape
- B. Going Organic
- C. Shade Gardening
- D. High on Hydrangeas
- E. Hands-on: 20 Ways to Use 20 Stems

12:40 - 1:40 p.m. - Lunch and Vendors

1:45 - 2:30 p.m. - Session 3

- A. The Science of Climate Change
- B. Confessions of a Weed Thug
- C. Quality Garden Tools
- D. What's Happening in my Garden:
Commonly Encountered Insects
- E. Hands-on: 20 Ways to Use 20 Stems

2:45 - 3:30 p.m. - Session 4

- A. Organic, Local, Natural
- B. Tour of Spoon River Arboretum
- C. Natural Fertilizers & Composting
- D. Beginning Gardening
- E. Hands-on: 20 Ways to Use 20 Stems

3:30 - 4 p.m. Vendors

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION
FULTON-MASON-PEORIA-TAZEWELL UNIT



April 18, 2020

8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Spoon River College

Canton, IL

All gardeners welcome!

Keynote Speaker and Presenter Colleen Callahan



Colleen Callahan, of Kickapoo began her appointment as director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Spring of 2019.

Prior to her appointment to the IDNR, Callahan served as state director of Illinois' Rural Development for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

A successful communicator, Callahan dedicated most of her professional career to agriculture communications, serving as the first female agribusiness director for WMBD Radio and Television in Peoria. Her 30-year career at WMBD led Callahan to the National Association of Farm Broadcasters, where she served as the first female president of the organization and was the first woman to be inducted into their Hall of Fame.

Callahan earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture communications from the University of Illinois. She and her husband, Dick, raise cattle and grow corn and soybeans on their farm in Peoria County. They have one grown daughter, Brittney.

Meet Our Presenters

Ellen Culver is an Extension Master Gardener from McLean County. She and husband Max garden nearly an acre near Bloomington that include vegetables, succulents, perennials, and shade plants. She volunteers at the David Davis Mansion and Extension Help Desk.

John Curtis has farmed and gardened professionally for over 20 years. He owns and manages Barefoot Gardens, CSA, where members harvest from his edible landscape.

Chris Enroth is an Extension horticulture educator. He has a B.S. in Landscape Horticulture and a M.S. in Landscape Architecture. In his off time, he enjoys being with his wife Amy and three young sons.

Debbie Fluegel works for Trees Forever. She manages Illinois and Iowa programs in Buffers and Pollinator Habitat Conservation. Debbie received her BA from the U of Maine in Biology. She is a certified arborist, Project Learning Tree facilitator and Riverwatch Trainer.

Duane Friend is an Extension environmental stewardship and energy educator with an emphasis in natural resource management, including soil and water quality. He has also managed an FSA office in Jersey County and was a conservationist with Soil and Water in Warren County.

Ken Johnson is the Extension horticulture educator in Calhoun, Cass, Greene, Morgan and Scott counties.

Lee Maki is an Extension Master Gardener and Master Naturalist. He was raised on a dairy farm, has a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and retired from Caterpillar after 45 years. As a SCORE volunteer for six years, he has mentored clients and facilitated business workshops.

Master Gardeners: Art Holtman, Bob Keene, and Terry Meade bring with them over a century of gardening and design experience.

Ella Maxwell is an Extension Master Gardener from Tazewell County and a horticulturist at Hoerr Nursery. She is also certified as both an Arborist and Nursery professional. She is a member of several plant societies and garden clubs.

Steve Maxwell is an Extension Master Naturalist as been involved in habitat restoration since the 1970's. He became a Master Naturalist 4 years ago.

Yuqing Mao is a 1st year Ph.D student at U of I. She works in Global Food and Water Safety Group with principal investigator Professor Thanh Huong Ngouyen. Her research interest is in antibiotic resistant pathogenic bacteria in compost.

Jenna Smith is a Extension nutrition and wellness educator and registered dietitian in Livingston, McLean and Woodford Counties. She has a BS in Family and Consumer Science and a MPH from University of Illinois Springfield.

Ray Wolf is a Master Gardener from Scott County, Iowa. He is also the Science and Operations Officer for the Nat'l Weather Service in Davenport, Iowa. He is a frequent speaker on topics that connect weather and climate with gardening. Ray has his BS in Meteorology and a Masters in Agricultural Climatology.

Christine Wright has been a cake decorator for over 40 years. She has transformed her unique design skills from wedding cakes to floral arrangements. She is also a vocalist in two bands, mother of 4 sons, 2 stepsons, and 5 grandkids.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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Session 1

A. Native Trees for the Home Landscape

Debbie Fluegel

Trees provide numerous ecological benefits including: energy savings, storm water uptake, carbon sequestration local foods, animal habitats, improved air and water quality, and visual barrier. Learn about native trees and why to plant them.

B. Moles, Voles, Rabbits, Squirrels....

Duane Friend

.....these and other types of wildlife can be a nuisance. Duane will discuss the wildlife that may cause damage to gardens, landscapes and houses. He will also present methods of control.

C. Shade Gardening

Ella Maxwell

Ella will discuss the many types of plants and plant materials that she uses in low light conditions in her shady garden.

D. High on Hydrangeas

Ellen Culver

There is a hydrangea (or 20) for every garden. Ellen will explore the various types of hydrangeas and provide landscaping, growing and pruning tips.

E. 20 Ways to Use 20 Stems

Christine Wright

We will make a fresh arrangement with 20 stems of flowers and discuss 19 other designs. We will discuss basic design principles and stem care to ensure longevity. *\$12.50 activity fee*

Session 2

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B. Going Organic: Are organic pesticides safer than their synthetic counterparts?

Chris Enroth

Statistics show home landscapes receive three times more pesticide/acre than commercial agriculture production. Home owners are seeking alternatives to conventional pesticides. Many are turning to organics but are they safer?

C. Shade Gardening

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Session 3

A. The Science of Climate Change

Ray Wolf

Set politics aside and learn about climate change: what it means for our mid-western yards and gardens, growing seasons, milder winters, and more humid summers.

B. Confessions of a Weed Thug

Steve Maxwell

Plant communities are constantly evolving and changing. In order to balance our prairies and woodlands we need to control varieties and densities of plants. Steve will bring to our attention what species to look for and fight against.

C. Quality Garden Tools

John Curtis

There are a huge number of new tools that make gardening easier. Hand tools in large, big box stores are outdated and poor quality. John demonstrates tools for professional and amateur.

D. What's Happening in My Garden: Commonly Encountered Insects

Ken Johnson

Insects are all around us. While it may seem like every insect you encounter is eating your plants, a majority of insects aren't actually pests. We will cover some commonly encountered insects and learn whether they are "good or bad."

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Session 4

A. Organic, Local, Natural - What it is & What it isn't

Jenna Smith

Shopping can be confusing when the terms organic, natural, and local are used. Are these products healthier than their counterparts? Are they worth the cost? Dive into the definition of these terms and decide what is best for you.

B. Tour of Spoon River College Arboretum with Master Gardeners

Art Holtman, Terry Meade & Bob Keene

A walking tour of the present state of the arboretum. This session will end at 4 PM, please dress appropriately for this activity.

C. Natural Fertilizers and Composting

Yuqing Mao

Compost that uses animal manure may be affecting your soil. Antibiotics used to treat the animals may be causing antibiotic resistance in bacteria. Join Yuqing to hear more about her research on this topic & how it helps your garden.

D. Beginning Gardening

Lee Maki

This presentation will provide an introduction to vegetable gardening and considerations to make your efforts successful. Topics include: sites, types of gardens, plants, maintenance and more!

E. 20 Ways to Use 20 Stems

Christine Wright

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Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit

Master Gardeners
Master Naturalists



Register at
go.illinois.edu/GBD20
or call 309-543-3308

Early bird – \$35 by March 23
After March 23 – \$45
Hands-on Activities +\$12.50
Price includes box lunch & reusable cup

Special thanks to our host
Spoon River College.

Event location:
Spoon River College Conference Center in
Eagle Hall on the Canton Campus
23235 N. County Hwy 22 , Canton, IL 61520