



Johnson County Master Gardener 2023 Continuing Education

Johnson Co. Extension Office | 3109 Old Highway 218 S., Iowa City, IA. 52246 | 319-337-2145

Sunday, March 5, 2023, 1 to 4:30 p.m.

(alternate date March 19, 2023)

RSVP required for in-person attendance - <https://go.iastate.edu/3RY76D>

Presenting Sponsor – GreenState Foundation

JCMG continuing education is free and open to the public and will be presented in person.

Attendance is limited to room capacity. The presentation will also be live streamed on City Channel 4 and rebroadcast on its YouTube channel and website and JCMG Facebook page.

1 p.m. - *Native Plants*, Kristine Nemec, Iowa Tallgrass Prairie Center. More diverse, native, perennial vegetation is ideal for any landscape. The plants benefit wildlife, hold soil during heavy rainfall, reduce nutrient pollution and have abilities to trap and store carbon. The Tall Grass Prairie Center was established at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) in 1999. Kristine Nemec joined the Center staff in 2015. She is the statewide coordinator for county roadside programs, providing training and education for Iowa's county roadside programs, and conducting outreach to raise awareness of the value of roadside programs. Many of the programs are accomplished through partnerships with organizations, associations, and federal, state and local agencies. The land, equipment, facilities and staff of the TPC support a variety of UNI faculty research projects and teaching labs, creating enriching opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students at the University of Northern Iowa.



2:15 p.m. - *Community Gardening*, Aaron Steils, ISU, Consumer Horticulture Extension

Specialist – From selecting and growing produce to managing weeds and volunteers, Aaron will cover growing produce for donations which became a popular and a very necessary activity during the pandemic. He has worked for Iowa State University for more than 15 years. In 2021, he became the Consumer Horticulture Extension Specialist where he works with county Extension offices across the state to answer home gardening questions for all Iowans. Aaron is a frequent contributor to Iowa Public Radio *Horticulture Friday*, *Garden Variety* podcast, and Iowa PBS *Gardening with Steil*. Previously, Aaron worked as Assistant Director for Iowa State University's Reiman Gardens and taught Horticulture classes at Iowa State. He also previously worked at the Iowa Arboretum; Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Georgia; and the renowned Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. He received a B.S. in Horticulture and biology from ISU and a master's degree in public horticulture from the University of Delaware.



3:30 p.m. *Planting Trees for Tomorrow*, Nick McGrath, Trees Forever. Why plant trees? What tree should I plant? You've planted a tree – now what? Nick may have only recently joined the Trees Forever staff but he's no brown thumb! Over the years as a retail nursery manager with the Iowa DNR and now with Trees Forever, Nick has worked with private landowners, cities and counties across east central Iowa as they recover from the derecho and look to replant for future generations. As a twist in his journey – Nick began his career as a public school educator. His passion for education and arboriculture shines through his work, teaching Iowans about the importance of trees with creative methods and sound science. Outside of work, Nick is a high school coach, husband, father and caregiver to many cultivar redbuds in his yard, although he has been dutifully informed that there are to be no more of those trees.

