

Linn County Master Gardeners 21st Annual Winter Gardening Fair

Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023 – Kirkwood Regional Center, 1770 Boyson Rd. Hiawatha, IA

\$59 Adult Tuition/\$30 Student Tuition (High School or College)

A day of over 70 gardening and DIY classes. OVER 45 NEW CLASSES THIS YEAR! Tuition includes your choice of five classes, gardening-related society displays and vendors, a lunch, and complimentary beverages.

8:00 – 8:30am Arrival and Check-In

Session 1 – 8:30-9:30am (Pick One Class):

Beginning Houseplant Care: Allen Pierson, Flower Shop & Greenhouse Owner - Basic light, watering, nutritional requirements, pest and disease control.

The Free Little Greenhouse: Megan Lebeda, LCMG Intern – Have you heard of the Free Little Libraries that promote free neighborhood book sharing? In this presentation, Megan will explain how and why she started the Free Little Greenhouse program. From there, she'll provide information on how others can start their own Free Little Greenhouse to share the love of plants!

DIY Class - Derecho Wind Chimes: Sam Krumbholz, LCMG - Let's take a fallen branch, some shiny glass beads, tinkling bells, fishing line, and make a beautiful wind chime for your garden. This project will be fun and soothe your soul as you hear the chimes ring when the wind blows outside your door! ***Materials Fee Collected At Class: \$15.**

Gardening and Wildlife: Kaycie Waters, Natural Resources Field Specialist (ISU Extension) – Iowa has many diverse wildlife species ranging from the smallest invertebrates to large mammals like bison! While bison may not show up in your garden, many other wildlife species may pay a visit. During this presentation, we'll go over a few wildlife species that are common in the garden and talk about management practices and garden benefits.

Gardening with Native Plants: Wanda Ohrt, LCMG - This presentation will cover what are native plants and why they are important as well as the benefits of using native plants and how to use native plants in your landscape. You'll also learn about the importance of cold stratification with native plant seeds.

Growing Culinary Herbs: Heather Robertson, LCMG - Growing your own herb garden is an inexpensive alternative to purchasing fresh herbs and you get the excitement of snipping fresh herbs for any meal. Join me in learning which herbs are best for your culinary needs and how to grow them.

How to Fight Fire(blight) in Apple and Pear Trees: Dr Suzanne Slack, Asst. Horticulture Professor (ISU) - Fire blight is one of the most challenging and difficult diseases to prevent and cure in apple and pear trees in Iowa, and it's even harder for backyard trees. Dr. Slack will share control tactics across the spectrum of management for orchards that only have a couple of trees to an acre.

It's All About Watering! Phil Pfister, LCMG - It's been said that more plants are killed by overwatering than under watering. In this presentation, you'll learn when and how to water everything from seedlings, transplants, containers, yards and gardens as well as watering under a variety of conditions that most gardeners will encounter. The techniques will include indoor and outdoor conditions.

Nature & Forest Therapy: Emelia Sautter, Certified Nature & Forest Therapy Guide - Nature & Forest Therapy is a practice of slowing down and being present with your senses and the-more-than-human-world. It's also called Forest Bathing (bathing the medicine of the land). Emelia will share about this practice that originated in Japan as well as offer techniques and the wellness benefits of this healing practice and how to incorporate it into your life. This is something that can be practiced in your own yard, garden, favorite park – anywhere!

New and Interesting Perennials! Deb Walser, LCMG - Add the spice of life to your gardens. Perennial gardens do not have to be just Daylilies and Hostas. We'll talk about mixing it up by adding annuals for constant color in the same bed. Deb will introduce you to some of the newest and coolest perennials and you'll be surprised by some of the same but in a new way. Come and get new ideas for this spring and add some spunk to your garden.

Planting Trees for Tomorrow: Nick McGrath, Trees Forever Field Coordinator - Urban trees often face the same challenges as humans such as extreme stress, pollution, excessive heat, drought and flooding. How can we utilize "Right Tree, Right Place, Right Care" to ensure that our leafy friends live a long and happy life? Does the emphasis on tree diversity help or hinder our efforts toward this goal? Let's look at tree planting through a new lens and do our part to create a beautiful and lasting community tree canopy!

Preserve the Taste of Summer 101: Kelsey Salow, Human Sciences Specialist (ISU Extension) - Love that fresh garden produce but have more than you can eat? Preserve it! It's not difficult, but you do need to follow safe methods. You'll learn how to can, freeze and dry foods safely at home in this introductory course.

Vegetable Container Gardening: Wil Carew, LCMG - Would you like to grow vegetables, but don't have enough or any yard space? Grow veggies in containers with just a pot, growing medium, selective crops, watering, fertilizing and trellis/staking tips.

Session 2 – 9:45-10:45am (Pick One Class):

Add Balance to Your Blooms: Why Native Plants, including Native Grasses, Matter: Kristine Nemec, Program Manager Tallgrass Prairie Center (UNI) - In this presentation, Kristine will describe what the Tallgrass Prairie Center does and discuss the value of native plants, including native grasses, to the home garden.

Apartment Agriculture! Kari Pohl, LCMG -The science of farming doesn't have to be limited to a yard. Patios, shelves, windowsills, and railings serve as the perfect environment to start your garden. Learn all the tips and tricks to turn your apartment or condo into a green oasis!

Container Gardens on the Cheap! Linda Hinzman, LCMG - Short on cash or just want to be a more frugal gardener? This class will give tips and tricks to economize everything from the container, soil and fertilizer to the spectacular plants you'll grow.

Edible Ground Cover Lawn Alternatives: Kaycie Waters, Natural Resources Field Specialist (ISU Extension) - Have you thought about replacing your turf grass with something a little more exciting? What if there was an option to have a green lawn that requires less water, supports native pollinators, and can add to an exciting salad in the kitchen? In this presentation we'll go over a few ground cover alternatives that can add to your green lawn, and also explore how to use these plants in the kitchen!

Gardening Through a Nutritional Lens: Martha McClurg, LCMG - Have you ever grown something in your vegetable patch because the seed catalogue was alluring and then wondered what on earth to do with the resulting produce? If so, this presentation is for you! Join registered dietitian and Master Gardener, Martha McClurg for an informative talk on how to utilize unusual and excess produce from your garden. Participants will also gain an appreciation for the nutritional benefits these items provide.

Hugelkultur - Water, Water Everywhere: John Weeg, Johnson County MG Program - Hugelkultur is an approach of burying wood to act as a sponge and source of nutrients for the plants above. We've created a Hugelkultur berm in our Johnson County demonstration garden to show a method that all can use to reduce water needs and compost large amounts of wood. We'll show the steps we took and lessons learned.

DIY Class - Make a Rustic Tower Trellis: Karla McGrail, LCMG - Fashion a unique and useful 3-4' tall obelisk trellis, suitable for use in the garden or a large pot. You'll create your own design using wood, sticks, vines, and wire. All materials, tools and samples will be provided - you need only bring your creative energy. ***Materials Fee Collected At Class: \$20.**

Organic Vegetable Gardening: Phil Pfister, LCMG - With concerns about the environment and personal health, growing vegetables organically is all the more important. Phil will provide techniques to help you maximize the production of your garden, including insect control, without using harmful chemicals. This class is recommended for gardeners of all levels of experience who want to enjoy the healthful benefits of organic gardening.

Rare Houseplants and Advanced Care: Allen Pierson, Flower Shop & Greenhouse Owner – Allen will discuss the newest plants, as well as how to prune your old plants to keep them looking good.

To Be or Not to Be a Shakespearian Garden: Brenda Van Gorp, LCMG – Brenda will discuss what qualities make up a Shakespearian garden and the things that defined the era that William Shakespeare lived. Find out where you can visit Shakespearian Gardens in the US as well as what kind of trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals could be included that would be hardy to our zone.

Wanted: Shady Characters (Hostas and Their Companions): Josh Spece, Gift Shop and Nursery Owner - Many gardeners plant a ring of Hosta Lancifolia around their trees and ignore the shady areas of their garden. What a wasted opportunity! A shade garden can be filled with a multitude of colorful and architectural perennials that thrive in the cool shade. We'll explore the exciting world of hostas and shade perennials that thrive in the Midwest, with an emphasis on unique and the more uncommon varieties that will inspire you to look at your shady areas with newfound excitement!

What Tree Is That? Mark A. Vitosh, District Forester Iowa DNR - Being able to identify the trees in your landscape is key to giving them proper care and diagnosing health problems. Participants will be introduced to key tree characteristics used in identifying trees (i.e. leaves, buds, bark, form, and fruit/nuts), along with examples of common landscape trees found in the Midwest.

Designing a Natural Garden: Natalie Ross, Landscape Architect – This class will teach you the basics of naturalistic garden design, focusing on increasing biodiversity, utilizing plant communities, identifying areas of your landscape to convert, and learning essential design principles to follow when planting a natural garden. The result is a lush, thriving, and ecologically vibrant landscape that is low maintenance.

Session 3A – 11:00 – 12:00pm (Pick One Class), Lunch 12:15-1:15pm (Do not choose a class in Session 3B if you're taking a class in Session 3A.)

Designing a Natural Garden: Natalie Ross, Landscape Architect - This class will teach you the basics of naturalistic garden design, focusing on increasing biodiversity, utilizing plant communities, identifying areas of your landscape to convert, and learning essential design principles to follow when planting a natural garden. The result is a lush, thriving, and ecologically vibrant landscape that is low maintenance.

Five Gifts from Nature to You: Diane Wiesenfeld, LCMG - Discover the hidden gifts of nature that can benefit your sense of health and well-being. You'll have the opportunity to 1.) Engage the five senses, 2.) Build a cairn (a pile of stones used as a memorial), 3.) Practice the art of Earthing, 4.) Explore the process of Attention Restoration and 5.) Embrace the essence of impermanence. Depending on weather and group preferences, we may be outdoors, so please dress accordingly.

From Soil to Soul: The Healing of Gardening: Scott Koepke, Local Educator and Health Advocate - This inspirational and fun session offers food for thought on how nurturing biodiversity in the garden can help heal peoples' mental and physical challenges. We'll build from the ground up, exploring, with specific stories, nine life skill seeds that are cultivated in the act of gardening: Hope, Balance, Patience, Resilience, Trust, Humility, Listening, Gratitude, and Peace. Just as the lesson of compost teaches us that we can transform old life into new life, we can also experience the wisdom that Hort Heals Hurt.

Have No Tears, Shallots are Here: Teresa Wake, LCMG - Shallots, garlic, leeks, onions, scallions... so many options. Explore differences, similarities, substitutions and discover the flexibility of these vegetables.

Herbs for the Butterflies! Linda Hinzman, LCMG - If you love to grow herbs and you love to support pollinators in your landscape, this class is for you! You'll learn to match the herbs you grow to the butterflies you wish to attract. Both host plants and nectar plants will be discussed.

How to Grow Siberian, Japanese and Louisiana Irises: Wanda Lunn, LCMG - Not your Grandma's irises! Accent your garden or pond with these beautiful jewel-colored blooms in June and July. Non-bearded irises feature grassy-like foliage all summer long and very little care. You'll love them!

DIY Class – Let's Propagate Your Houseplants: Brenda Van Gorp, LCMG - Learn how to easily propagate (make new plants from old) your favorite houseplants in a hands-on demonstration. We'll cover the most common methods such as cutting, layering, and division as well as what methods work on different plants, including succulents. You'll go home with some plants starts. ***Materials Fee Collected At Class: \$5**

Question & Answer Session with Our Experts: We're bringing all of our experts into one classroom and this is your opportunity to ask them questions on all different topics. We'll have Mark Vitosh, DNR District Forester; Kaycie Waters, Natural Resources Field Specialist for ISU Extension; Dr. Suzanne Slack, Assistant Professor for ISU Department of Horticulture; and Aaron Steil, ISU Consumer Horticulture Specialist and host of the TV Show "Gardening with Steil" and regular guest on Iowa Public Radio's weekly "Hort Friday" segment.

Vermicomposting: Let the WORMS do the WORK! Chrissy Sweeney, LCMG - Have you been looking for easy ways to use up those kitchen scraps and bring beautiful benefits to your plants? This class will walk you through the basics of establishing a vermicomposting bin (aka a worm compost bin), which can be used indoors or outdoors and will generate nutrient rich compost or compost tea for plant food. This class will also include a DIY demonstration on how you can build your own low cost bin to get started!

Year-Round Microgreens Production: Sam Parker, Hydroponic Farmer - Learn how you too can grow salad greens year-round through the lessons we learned from an indoor hydroponic farm in Ames, Iowa. This session will cover basic growing concepts including seeding, watering, variety selection, harvesting, packaging, and production planning.

Session 3B – 12:15 – 1:15pm (Pick One Class), Lunch 11:00-12:00pm (Do not choose a class in session 3A if you're taking a class in session 3B.)

Spectacular Signs of Spring: Planning, Planting, and Protecting Spring Bulbs: Angel Burns, LCMG – Learn tips for incorporating spring bulbs into your garden design, planting and care tips, and ways to protect them from our furry friends. Discover the beauty of allium, snow drops, crocus, daffodils, tulips, and more!

Caterpillars Don't Bite! Debra Stark, LCMG Intern - The monarch caterpillar can eat approximately 175-200 leaves before turning into its chrysalis, but they don't have any teeth! Learn more fun facts with this interesting presentation on the lifecycle of the monarch caterpillar and see how easy it is to raise monarch butterflies. The monarch is endangered, but we can help increase the population. Staff from the Monarch Research Station in Marion and Master Gardener Intern Debi Stark will show you how easy it is.

Don't Treat Your Soil Like Dirt: Gene Mealhow, Farmer and Business Owner – In this fascinating class you'll learn about soil life, organisms, and the relationships between plants and organisms in the soil, and how to create environment that is positive for both.

Heavenly Hydrangeas! Wil Carew, LCMG - Plant, prune and learn what Hydrangeas do. Heavenly blooms in red, white, and blue. Also available in green, and pinks too! Learn what are his favorites, and are available locally, Yahoo!

Move Over Morels: Midwest Mushrooms Beyond the Motherlode! - Elizabeth Marilla-Kapp and Sarah Delong-Duhon, Prairie States Mushroom Club - Did you know there are over a thousand fungi species in Iowa? Learn about Iowa's amazing fungi (including ways to find, identify and enjoy them) as well as how to grow edible mushrooms in your own backyard! We'll give you the tools to jumpstart your fungal fascination.

DIY Class - Natures Picture! Bev Witmer, Benton County MG - Bring your creativity and imagination to this hands on class. Create a work of art picture using twigs, pine cones, pebbles etc. to hang on your wall or give as a gift. If you have a special item that you want to incorporate into the picture please bring it with you. ***Materials Fee Collected at Class: \$10.**

Old Thyme Iowa Gardens - Vintage Style: Heather Robertson, LCMG - Do you have an older home and are interested in having a garden that matches the era? This class will cover vintage gardens in Iowa from the 1800's to the mid-20th century.

Redefining Your Lawn! Karla McGrail, LCMG - If you like your turf shorn closely in neat grid lines, this is not the class for you. We'll explore ways of turning your lawn into a more relaxed, pollinator-welcoming, eco-friendly mixture of grass and other plants, which can still function as the mowed places in your yard. This will include specific plant recommendations for our area, maintenance, as well as tips to (hopefully) appease your more "traditional" lawn-loving neighbors.

Small Garden, Big Yield: How to Become a Self-Sufficient Vegetable Gardener: Karelyn Pohl, LCMG - Whether you're just beginning, or a seasoned vegetable gardener, we can all use some new knowledge about how to get the most out of our gardens. By using a technique called interplanting, and strategically placing certain vegetables next to each other based on space needed, you can grow hundreds of pounds of produce in one season. Whether you're working with 10 square feet, or 10,000 square feet, this class can help you bring your vegetable garden to the next level!

Tree Selection and Maintenance: Mike Anderson, LCMG - Discover the key to selecting the best tree for your sight and how to care for it once it's planted. Topics will include: tree selection, planting, staking, mulching, fertilizing, protection from the elements and pruning.

Session 4 – 1:30-2:30pm (Pick One Class):

A Favorite House Plant: The African Violet: Carol Magoon, Cedar Valley African Violet Club - Begin your entry into the world of African Violets with this class. Attendees will have a hands-on opportunity to pot up plantlets to begin growing their own plants. Bring a sharp pencil and hear the tips and best practices to keep it healthy and happy.

Beautiful Peonies for Every Garden! Wanda Lunn, LCMG - Plant peonies as an accent in your flower beds, as a border for your vegetable garden or part of your landscaping. Their huge blooms come in new colors of yellow, peach, pink, and red. Each bloom is a scented wonder. Hints and tips for easy care year after year!

Bonsai - I Want One, Now What? John Clemens, Eastern Iowa Bonsai Association – John will discuss terminology, types of plants, styles, care, how to train them, and the basics you need to know to keep your Bonsai tree alive.

Curb Appeal-Where to Start? Deb Walser, LCMG – This class is for new and experienced gardeners! Whether you have a new home, a new-to-you home or some landscaping that needs new life, where to start can be an overwhelming task. Deb will teach you where to start the renovation, how to evaluate and design your property, and how to select plants. Presentation includes many before and after pictures.

DIY Class: Decorative Light Post: Randy Dusil, LCMG - Construct a small decorative solar light post for your landscape with a mason jar, solar powered light string and reclaimed wood. ***Materials Fee Collected At Class: \$25.00**

Gardening Friends and Foes - Companion Planting: Heather Robertson, LCMG - Explore the wonders of companion planting and how companion planting helps reduce diseases and pests while improving fertility among plants. This class will also explore the benefits of polyculture, which includes growing different types of plants together like nature has done for centuries.

Micro Prairie Gardening: Linda Hinzman, LCMG - You can have an impact on pollinators by creating a micro-prairie in your small yard and incorporating native plants in your existing gardens. Learn how to get started, learn plant recommendations, and more!

Midwest Public Gardens - A Sampler: Cindy Fagan, LCMG - Explore numerous public gardens available in Iowa and surrounding states of Illinois, Minnesota, and Nebraska. All gardens are within a four hour drive of the Cedar Rapids area.

Simply Seeds! Kari Pohl, LCMG - Whether you're trying to save them or start them, knowledge of the many aspects of seeds is important. In this class we'll go over everything you need to know about successfully using your seeds to your advantage. Also, learn how to get into contact with other seed savers and seed libraries.

The Big World of Little Hostas: Josh Spece, Gift Shop & Nursery Owner - Miniature and small hostas are extremely popular right now. Not only are they cute, but they're practical for small gardens. We'll explore the big world of little hostas, learn how to care for them properly, and discuss the many miniature and small hostas available. We'll also see some fun ways to display and arrange little hostas in the garden.

The Story of Over the Moon: Anna Hankins, Owner - Have you ever thought of starting a cut-flower business? Learn where to begin, what to grow, and lessons learned from Eastern Iowa's Over the Moon Farm & Flowers LLC, a direct-to-consumer farm business located in rural Delaware County.

Unusual Berries for Iowa: Dr Suzanne Slack, Asst. Horticulture Professor (ISU) - We all know what a strawberry, raspberry, or blueberry looks and tastes like, but have you heard of some of the other awesome berries we can grow in Iowa? Dr. Slack will share on the excitement and challenges of raising alternative berry crops in Iowa. Some berries (and closely resembling berries!) to be covered are honeyberry, highbush cranberry, saskatoons, and a few other interesting additions to anyone's fruit patch.

Waking the Garden in Spring: Aaron Steil, Consumer Horticulture Extension Specialist (ISU) - Spring is one of the most exciting times of the year! Seeing plants green up, temperatures warm, snow melt, and flowers bloom makes a gardener's heart flutter. Starting spring off right can make a big difference for the rest of the growing season. Learn about the many garden tasks you can do as the garden transitions away from winter into spring.

Session 5 – 2:45-3:45pm (Pick One Class):

Beginners Guide to Vegetable Gardening: Diane Wiesenfeld, LCMG - Diane will present information and ideas for the beginning gardener who wants to grow and produce and isn't quite sure how to start. Included will be a discussion about site selection, soil amendments, containers and raised beds, planting schedules, and proper care of plants throughout the growing season.

Bird Friendly Gardens and Landscaping! Deb Walser, LCMG - Whether it's one tree or a dozen, we can plant for the birds. We'll start with native trees and how important their insects and caterpillars are to the birds. Additionally, we'll discuss native fruit trees and other trees that hold onto berries for a winter snack. You'll also learn about bird feeders and other information to keep the birds visiting all winter. Lots of pictures of beautiful winter birds too!

Containers - Beyond Thrillers, Spillers, Fillers! Cindy Fagan, LCMG - Come to this class to learn how to elevate your container arrangements in dramatic ways!

Life and Times of a Japanese Beetle: Larry Edwards, LCMG - Get a first-person explanation of my life cycle as a Japanese Beetle. You need to know me to defeat me and there are ways to minimize the damage by my hungry family. This class helps prepare you for the battle!

DIY Class: Make A Succulent Dish Garden: Rose Milden, LCMG - Have fun and learn a little about super succulents as you plant a small succulent dish garden. Information will be shared about how to care for your garden when you take it home to enjoy. Dish, potting mixture, charcoal, and three succulents will be provided. Come have some fun! ***Materials Fee Collected At Class: \$20**

Messing with Macrophotography: Rodney Pohl, LCMG Intern - You love your garden and talk about it all the time with your friends and neighbors. Have you ever wished that you could show them instead? This class will give you tips and

tricks to get the best small scale photographs to encapsulate the beauty and wonder your garden has to offer. There will be a particular focus on bug photography and how to ID them as well.

Organic Gardening: Tips for a Bountiful Harvest – Dr. Kathleen Delate, Professor and Extension Specialist (ISU) -

Gardening organically (without the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides) will lead to healthier produce and a safer environment. Tips for growing organically will include best varieties to plant, organic fertilizer ideas, cover crops for soil fertility and erosion prevention, preventative and organic-compliant pesticides, and best practices to enhance produce shelf life.

Pollinator Magnets in Your Flower Garden! Wanda Lunn, LCMG – Learn how to choose and plant a variety of perennial flowers and blooming bulbs to attract bees and butterflies to your garden from April to September. You'll get a colorful garden that only grows more beautiful every year!

Raised Beds - Square Foot Gardening: Wil Carew, LCMG - Get off the ground, save your back and start gardening closer to your hands and eyes. This class will get you started with the benefits of raised beds and covers the principles of raised beds, construction techniques, trellis/cloche use, and protecting crops from critters. Square foot gardening in a raised bed will increase your season, decrease weeding and save you time.

Regenerative Gardening - Retire the Tiller for Better Soil Health: Emmaly Renshaw, LCMG Intern and Feed Iowa First Director - Join us for a conversation on how retiring the tiller and introducing regenerative methods can increase both produce yields and soil quality. This class will explore several no-till and regenerative methods that promote soil health, increase water retention, and reduce weeds.

Starting Your Garden from Scratch: Phil Pfister, LCMG - If the derecho left you with some open ground where large shade trees used to be, it might be time to consider starting a vegetable garden. In this presentation, Phil will show you how to start a vegetable garden from scratch, along with tips and techniques to make that new garden a success.

Use Your Creativity to Help Save the Planet! Carol Elliott, LCMG - Rather than buying new, upcycle finds from your basement or garage, neighborhood garage sales, or secondhand stores to make your yard a one of a kind treasure.

Water-Wise Gardening in Iowa: Aaron Steil, Consumer Horticulture Extension Specialist (ISU) - Learn about water-wise gardening for now and into the future. Topics discussed include tips to responsibly garden during dry years and ideas for creating a garden that can tolerate drought conditions well into the future- all specific to Iowa.