



# *Seeds for Thought Garden Symposium*

**Saturday, March 25, 2023**

**9:00 am — 3:00 pm**

**Des Moines Area Community College - Newton Campus  
600 N 2nd Ave W  
Newton, Iowa**

**Keynote Address (9:00 - 10:30 am)**



**Aaron Steil**

## **Preparing for Spring the Garden & 2023 Garden Trends**

*Aaron Steil, Consumer Horticulture Extension Specialist  
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach*

Spring is one of the most exciting times of the year! Seeing plants green up, temperatures warm, snow melt, and flowers bloom can make a gardener's heart flutter. Spring is also a time for dreaming of new garden spaces and starting new projects. Learn about the many garden tasks you can do as the garden transitions away from winter into spring. Additionally, hear about what is trendy and new in gardening for 2023 – spring would be the perfect time to start something new!

**IOWA STATE  
UNIVERSITY**  
Extension and Outreach

*Sponsored by: Iowa State University Extension and Outreach  
Region 18 (Jasper, Mahaska, Marion, and Poweshiek Counties),  
Grinnell Mutual, Grinnell College and the Center for Prairie Studies*

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## Symposium Information

**Time:** Check-in and coffee begins at 8:15 AM. Presentations begin at 9:00 AM and run through 3:00 PM.

**Registration:** **Early Bird: \$45** (before March 13th)  
**Late: \$60** (call for availability)  
*Registrations limited to first 130 participants.*

Check-in will be on the second floor of the **DMACC building, 600 N. 2nd Ave. W., Newton, Iowa 50208**

*Enter Main DMACC doors on south side of building. Take stairs or elevator to the second floor.*

**Session selections:** Please rank your first, second and third choice, by marking a 1, 2, or 3 for each session choice on your registration forms. *Sessions will be filled on a first-come first-served basis as registration forms and payment are received in our office. If you do not rank the sessions in order of preference (1, 2 & 3), sessions will be assigned based on availability.*

**Walk-ins and late registrations:**

Walk-in and late registrations will only be accepted on a space available basis. Lunch and some sessions will not be available for walk-ins. Walk-in and late registration fee: \$60

**Lunch:** Available to all paid pre-registered participants.

**Cancellations and refunds:** Cancellations made before March 17, 2023 will receive a refund of their registration fee minus a \$15 processing fee. Please note that refund checks take 2-4 weeks.

No refund will be available for cancellations on or after March 17, 2023.

**Weather related changes:** Necessary notifications would be posted on the following Facebook pages:

[Jasper County Master Gardeners](#) and [Iowa Master Gardeners](#).

**General Information:** Conference rooms vary in temperature, please dress in layers!

## Morning Breakout Sessions (10:45-11:45 am)

### Diagnosing Indoor Plant Problems: Troubleshooting Common Issues with Houseplants

*Aaron Steil, Consumer Horticulture Extension Specialist Iowa State University Extension and Outreach*

Growing indoors plants is a rewarding hobby that yields beautiful results. But when houseplants are not looking so beautiful and problems arise with your indoor plants, it can be difficult to determine what to do to fix the problem. Learn more about how to diagnose common problems indoor gardeners face and what you can do to fix them and get back to growing beautiful plants.

### Pollinator Conservation for the Homestead and Backyard Garden

*Sarah Nizzi, Farm Bill Pollinator Conservation Planner and NRCS Partner Biologist*

Please join Sarah Nizzi with the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation to learn how you can support the pollinators who may call your garden home. This presentation will cover pollinator status, pollinator biology and ecology, site preparation, plant materials, plant selection, and case studies.

### A Touch of the Tropics

*Keri Byrum, Horticulturist, Creator of gardening blog, MissSmartyPlants.com*

Exotic flowers, large leaves and lush landscapes are all attainable in your home garden with a little bit of planning and practice. It seems that more and more palms, shrubs and even tropical bulbs are coming on the market. Join Keri on this adventure in tropical plants as she talks about how to achieve success for both gardens and indoors using this diverse plant palette.

## Afternoon Breakout Sessions A (12:30-1:30 pm)

### **Crazy About Conifers**

*Paula Flynn, Plant Pathologist*

A member of the Addicted to Conifers club, Paula will share images of conifers that highlight their extreme diversity and potential for a place in any garden. Foliage colors range from yellow, blue, to green, sizes from miniature to large, and their shape can come in just about any form. Unique conifer gardens across Iowa will be shared along with resources on how to start your own collection.

### **Our Brighter Future with Fungi**

*Dave Layton, Vice President, North American Mycological Association*

We'll all benefit more from fungi in the future. Dave will say how. He'll also show delicious, nutritious, healthful and local wild mushrooms. Plus, attendees will learn about gardening with fungi, exploring and making friends through mushroom clubs.

### **Native Plants: Lessons from the Prairie**

*Derek McKay, Horticulturist and Greenhouse Manager, Ted Lare Design Build & Garden Center*

Ever wanted a garden that's low maintenance, beautiful in all seasons, helps the environment and embraces our prairie heritage? This class will teach you everything you need to know about native plants to start your very own native garden! From shady spaces to full sun, Derek will take his knowledge of prairie communities and show you how a garden planting that is inspired by prairie can be much more low maintenance than traditional English style gardens!

## Afternoon Breakout Sessions B (1:45-2:45 pm)

### **Irrigation Basics for Homegrown Vegetables**

*Dan Fillius, Field Specialist, Commercial Vegetables and Specialty Crops, ISU Extension and Outreach*

Growing great veggies takes a lot of water! With unreliable summer rains, success is only achieved by supplementing with irrigation. At this session, you'll learn the best ways to irrigate various crops, how much to water, and how to save time while irrigating this year.

### **Creating Stunning Shade Gardens**

*Melissa Peterson, Garden Center Manager, Ted Lare Design Build & Garden Center*

Learn the secrets to creating a beautiful, bold, and lush shade garden filled with color and texture in even the shadiest parts of your garden. We'll discuss plant suggestions, garden structure, layering techniques and inspirational photos will be shared. You'll walk away inspired and ready to plant this spring!

### **Honeybee 101**

*Rachel Vakulich, 2022 Iowa Honey Queen*

Have you ever wondered what a honeybee does inside of the hive? Is the honeybee just a stinging insect that makes honey? Learn about the honeybee castes, ranks, and even their importance to agriculture. Come and take a peek inside of a hive and marvel at the intricate world of the honeybee.

### **Beginning Bird Feeding...and Bringing Birds to Your Yard**

*Doug Harr, Retired Wildlife Management Biologist and DNR's Wildlife Diversity Program State Coordinator*

Providing seeds and other foods in your yard, winter or summer, can be a fun way to view and learn about birds. The program will feature the kinds of bird feeders and food to use, plus photos of common birds that may come to your yard. It will also discuss how to create a natural-looking yard that will attract birds to stop on migration, stay to feed in winter, or even nest in summer.

# Registration Form

All registrations must be received by  
Monday, March 13, 2023

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

**A lunch will be provided.** Special dietary options listed below

- I need a vegetarian  
 I need a vegan lunch  
 I need gluten-free lunch

## Symposium Registration Instructions:

**\$45** (Lunch included)

Late Registration fee: \$60  
(March 13, 2023 or after - call for availability)

1. Fill out this form: Make sure you rank your choices.  
Mark your 1st, 2nd, & 3rd choice in each session.

2. Make checks payable to:

**Iowa State University Extension & Outreach, Jasper County**

3. Mail payment and this registration form to:

Iowa State University Extension  
550 N. 2nd Ave W.  
Newton, Iowa 50208

Questions? Call: 641-792-6433

Carol Camp [campc@iastate.edu](mailto:campc@iastate.edu)

[www.extension.iastate.edu](http://www.extension.iastate.edu)

The fees for service will be used to offset direct expenses and to support the Master Gardeners, Agriculture and Natural Resources County Extension Programs.



## Seeds for Thought Garden Symposium

### SESSION SELECTIONS:

*Some class sizes are limited*

*Please rank your first, second, and third choice for each session by writing a 1, 2, or 3 by your selections*

*Sessions will be filled on a first-come first-served basis as registration forms and payment are received in our office.*

*If you do not rank the sessions in order of preference (1, 2, & 3), sessions will be assigned based on availability.*

#### **MORNING KEYNOTE (9:00 am—10:30 am)**

Preparing for Spring in the Garden and 2023 Trends  
(Keynote)

#### **MORNING SESSION (10:45 am—11:45 am)**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Diagnosing Indoor Plant Problems  
\_\_\_\_\_ Pollinator Conservation for the Homestead and Backyard Garden  
\_\_\_\_\_ A Touch of the Tropics

#### **AFTERNOON SESSION A (12:30 pm—1:30 pm)**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Crazy for Conifers  
\_\_\_\_\_ Our Brighter Future with Fungi  
\_\_\_\_\_ Native Plants: Lessons from the Prairie

#### **AFTERNOON SESSION B (1:45 pm—2:45 pm)**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Irrigation Basics for Homegrown Vegetables  
\_\_\_\_\_ Creating Stunning Shade Gardens  
\_\_\_\_\_ Honeybee 101  
\_\_\_\_\_ Beginning Bird Feeding...and Bringing Birds to Your Yard

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