KEYNOTE

Success with Bulbs in Midwest Gardens, Jason Delaney – The proper cultivation, selection, and long-term care of our familiar favorites, as well as for many new and unusual hardy bulbs, for the home garden. Jason will share his experience based from world-wide travels on conservation-focused collecting expeditions, bulb breeding, and as North Gardens Supervisor and Bulb Collections Specialist at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

SESSION A

Daffodil: Still the Perfect Bulb for Your Springtime Garden, Jason Delaney – Jason will discuss divisions, hybridizing, and new trends and color advances in daffodil development around the world, and he will share expert cultural advice for growing this perfect spring bulb in our Midwest region.

Deer-ly departed?, Martha Smith – Gardening can be challenging at times. Add our ‘deer’ hungry 4-legged friend and it can become disheartening. A tall fence is the definitive answer – but what about all the products and claims that certain plants are not deer- preferred? This program will present what we know about deer control and the options that may or may not work - you decide.

From Seed to Sustenance - Begin with the End in Mind, Linda Küffer – So you want to attract many birds and please the eye, plant, harvest and preserve the harvest for the coming winter? This class will give you an overview of planning your garden, planting your garden, and preserving your garden produce. Come see how to 'eat from your garden' all year long!

Birds, Blueberries, Butterflies and Natural Gardening, Dick Sayles – Native plants attract both beneficial insects and birds; they add beautiful color to any garden! Enjoy your garden more with blueberries, bluestem and bluebirds. Starting with nothing but backwoods and pasture, the gradual addition of native plants has created diversity that attracts many birds and pleases the eye.

Smartphone Apps for the Gardener, Bill Brunkan – Learn about some of the gardening apps available for your smartphone or iPad! Which ones have genuine value and are worth adding to your mobile device? The apps, which range from those seeking to diagnose plant problems, to identifying flowers or trees, or to helping one name the bird sitting in your feeder, will be demonstrated in class.

SESSION B

The Art of Landscape Design, Laura Christiansen – Landscape design is an art form not unlike painting, architecture and interior design and is done on a canvas that is ever-changing. Understanding the principles and elements of design can make you a better gardener. This beautiful presentation is loaded with gorgeous photos used to illustrate the elements and principles of design including color, line, shape, form, proportion and scale, mass, unity in design, focal points, repetition and rhythm, and sequence/transition. You are guaranteed to leave inspired and ready to implement some of these principles and elements in your own home landscape!

Late Summer and Fall Colors in the Garden, Martha Smith – Late summer and fall gardens often look worn out and tired after the riot of spring and summer color. Our fall gardens don’t have to look tired and past their prime. Many plants are available to give you a fall “WOW” factor. Come learn how to rev up your September garden with perennials, ornamental grasses and the fall colors of trees and shrubs.
Growing All Year in Iowa, Tom Monroe – Wouldn’t it be great, if you could have spring all year long? Well you can do that by learning the tricks and trades to grow all year in Iowa. You will learn how to be able to grow flowers, vegetables, and start seeds throughout the year in your own home. Say goodbye to Cabin Fever and grow all year in Iowa.

Where did the leaves go? An exercise in winter tree identification, Emily Swihart – Correct species identification is the first step of proper tree care and maintenance practices. Identification by leaf is most common and perhaps easiest, but what happens when winter arrives and deciduous tree lose their leaves? Join us in an exploration of winter tree identification techniques and winter maintenance practices.

Herbs: For All Seasons, Colleen Adrian and Rhonda Cooper – Scott County Master Gardeners Colleen Adrian and Rhonda Cooper will cover the A-Z of herbs. You will learn about herb history, starting herbs from seed, growing and harvesting herbs, and their use and preservation. After attending this class you will be able to grow and utilize your own herb garden.

KEYNOTE

A Landscape Love Affair: A 25-year Relationship with My Garden, Laura Christiansen – Sit back and enjoy the before, during and after photos showing the progression of Laura’s home landscape, which she has been designing and implementing for 25 years. Her bare, basic, suburban 1/3-acre lot has evolved into a beautiful, four-season oasis for Laura and her family. Laura will share her favorite plants and plant combinations, gardening tips, triumphs, (minor) tragedies, lessons learned and joys garnered from gardening on my own property. Anyone who has ever gardened or who has wanted to start a home landscape of their own will enjoy the “tour” and the life lessons and wisdom gained from Laura’s gardening experiences.

SESSION C

Creating Garden Structure, Lisa Orgler – Those new to garden design often jump into designing planting beds, without considering the overall structure of a garden first. This presentation will focus on the important first step of spatial design and how this step will magically create the planting beds you desire while forming lovely garden rooms in the process.

Gardening for Fall Color, Richard Jauron – When selecting plants for the landscape, be sure to include trees, shrubs, and perennials with attractive fall foliage, fruit, or flowers.

Fall and Winter in the Wetlands: Activities, Events, and Observations at Nahant Marsh, Brian Ritter – Brian, from Nahant Marsh, will discuss upcoming fall and winter events at Nahant Marsh and will highlight some of the nature that can be observed at the preserve during the fall and winter months.

Can You Really Grow That Zone 6 Plant in Our Zone 5 Climate? The Microclimates in Our Yard and Garden, Ray Wolf – In this presentation you will learn about the plant hardiness zones and what they really mean, and the microclimates in your yard, how to fit the right plant in the right location, and how you can modify the local environment and perhaps sneak a zone 6 plant into your zone 5 garden.

Fall Garden Cleanup, Tom Dywiak – Tom will cover topics in prepping your garden for the new garden season next spring including debris removal and winter protection for perennials and roses.
SESSION D

Hardscapes: The Bones of Your Garden, Lisa Orgler – Learn about the non-living components of your landscape such as walks, patios, arbors, pergolas, etc. and how they give structure and character to your garden.

Gardening Resources: Separating Fact from Fiction, Richard Jauron – Gardening information may be obtained from books, magazines, internet, chats with next-door neighbors, and other sources. Unfortunately, the reliability of this information varies widely. Separating reliable, science-based information from myths and legends is sometimes difficult. In this presentation, a list of reliable sources of gardening information will be provided to participants.

Using Native Plants Throughout the Seasons, Dan Mays - This class will explore the esthetic impact of native plants in an urban residential landscape throughout the four seasons. Successes, failures, common myths, techniques, and caveats for successful landscape designs that incorporate native plantings, in this area of the Midwest, will be discussed. Elements of good design will be stressed. Capturing the beauty of seldom-used (but available) native plants is the goal.

500 mile Walk for the Pollinators, Tony Singh – In response to twenty years of personal observation of changing local ecology on his 34 acre rural homestead in Eastern Iowa, Tony decided to walk and talk about what he saw. Learn about the changes in pollinator population he has observed and what we can do about it.

Keeping Your Gardening Tools in Shape, Mark Geist – Bring your favorite gardening tool - clippers, pruning shears, shovel, whatever - and learn how to clean and oil tools and sharpen blades before trying it yourself at this hands-on class. Caring for wooden handles and how to protect your tools over winter will be discussed. Whether you service your lawn equipment yourself or have it done, it’s important to understand what is involved for proper maintenance. Mark will also demonstrate the correct way to turn over a small lawnmower and remove its blade for sharpening.