

2023 Spring Garden Clinic Schedule

9:30—10:30

Great Hall

-Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp “Green Living at Home and Work”

- **Description:** “Green Living at Home and Work” looks at everyday practices we can use at home and work that protect our environment, from reducing waste to saving energy and more. Jo Ellen is a longtime garden writer, editor, speaker, garden coach.

Classroom (N103/104)

-Daniel Garcia “Untap your Kitchen Scraps / Get Growing with Microgreens”

- **Description:** This talk looks at what you can grow on your window sill using kitchen scraps with the added bonus of growing microgreens. Listen in on this great way to have a fresh healthy food option at your fingertips all year long. Daniel Garcia manages Garcia's Gardens, an urban farm providing central Indiana with healthy produce using organic and more sustainable food system methods.

Fellowship Hall

-Dr. Pat Williams “Gardening While Aging” AND “Gardening as Therapy”

- **Description:** *Gardening While Aging* and *Gardening as Therapy* will touch on different ways to continue gardening and enjoying this part of our lives as we get older. Resources will be explored to make the task of gardening easier and remain fulfilling through the field of Horticulture Therapy. Dr. Pat Williams is the Purdue University Extension ANR Educator for Tippecanoe County. He has held various horticulture roles over his 49 years of working with plants and people in 11 different states.

10:45—11:45

Great Hall

-Tom Creswell “Diagnosing Tree Problems: Why it's so Difficult?”

- **Description:** Of all plants in our landscape none are more important than trees and none are more difficult to diagnose when problems appear. This talk will cover several major problems found on landscape trees, including diseases they get, environmental stress factors and poor care. The session also covers how to work with the PPDL to find answers to tree questions. Tom Creswell is a Clinical Engagement Professor and Director of the Plant and Pest Diagnostic Lab at Purdue University.

Classroom (N103/104)

-Brooke Alford “Dirt to Dirt: Composting Your Organic Waste”

- **Description:** Learn how to divert your carbon-based waste from the landfill and turn it into an organic soil amendment for your garden. In this session we will discuss the different methods of home composting, compostable vs. non-compostable materials, various home and backyard structures, applications, and more. Brooke is one of our Marion Co. Agriculture and Natural Resources team members & is President of the Central Chapter of the Indiana Native Plant Society.

Fellowship Hall

-David Geers & Danielle Guerin “Gardening in a Food Desert”; panel discussion moderated by Nick Schwaberow

- **David/Description:** David will speak on food access and education in food deserts. The time old saying "you give a man a fish..." works the same in urban gardening. Teaching people how, regardless of means, that they can grow fresh produce in the city and affordably offset food costs. David Geers is an urban farm manager and permaculture educator who found his path during college on his 30's.
- **Danielle/Description:** Danielle will discuss the difference between food deserts and food apartheid, what it looks like to produce in these areas and how her farm operates in this area. Danielle is an Indy native who grew up in the 46218 zip code and went on to study Entrepreneurship at Bradley University and Public Affairs at Indiana University. Interested in how food affects the whole body, mental and physical, she became involved in the local food movement and urban agriculture.
- **Nick/Biography:** Nick Schwaberow is an Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Educator for Purdue Extension – Marion County. He studied Environmental Policy in undergraduate and graduate school.

11:50 a.m.—12:40 p.m.

Lunch in the Gym, catered by St. Luke’s Chef Joseph

12:45—1:45

Great Hall

-Irvin Etienne “Still Crazy After All These Years: Starting Over”

- **Description:** Needs Change: What do you do when you run out of garden space and your house needs a major renovation? If you are normal you quit planting and renovate. Happy not to be considered normal, Irvin chose to house hunt and to move to 3 acres. How to start over? What plants to transplant or leave behind? How to prepare the new site? What are the problems and delights. Irvin is the Curator of Herbaceous Plants and Seasonal Garden Design for the Garden at Newfields. where he has worked over 30 years. In that position he helps the Horticulturists with their plant selection and garden design as well as designing and maintaining his own areas.

Classroom (N103/104)

-Justin Curley “Healthy Turf with No Pesticides and Little Water
(+ some Turf alternatives)

- **Description:** Learn how to maximize turfgrass vigor and health without the use of chemicals + what practical green alternatives there are to a strictly turfgrass home lawn. Justin is the Jay County Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator

Fellowship Hall

-Christine Elliot “Cultivating Wild Things: Gardening to Increase
Biodiversity”

- **Description:** Insects are critical parts of our environment, but they are facing an extinction crisis. As insect biodiversity and abundance are decreasing dramatically, there are things we can all do to help, starting right in our backyards. Learn what insects need and how you, as a gardener, can provide for those needs. Christine Elliott is a military wife, mother of two boys, and a PhD student at Purdue University majoring in Entomology. She is the recipient of the prestigious Frederick N. Andrews Fellowship which recognizes exceptional incoming PhD students..

2:00—3:00

Great Hall

-Amy Mullen “Landscape Design with Native Plants in Mind”

- **Description: Garden-Worthy Native Plants:** Adding native plants to the garden can support wildlife, reestablish biodiversity, and even reduce garden maintenance! Join professional garden designer and plant geek Amy Mullen for a tour through her strategies for using native plants in the landscape. She’ll discuss her go-to native plants and cultivars, local and regional plant sources, and how you can plug into the larger community of native plant lovers. Amy Mullen is a garden designer, coach, blogger, plant geek, and one-woman marketing department at Spotts Garden Service in Indianapolis. A degree in physics, a lifelong love of theatre, and a background in communications and marketing make her uniquely suited to demystifying gardening for clients and readers alike.

Classroom (N103/104)

-Kevin Allison "Crop to Crop: A Season of No-Till Veggies"

- **Description:** Join the SWCD for a detailed crop by crop look at a season of no-till vegetables, including leafy greens, kale, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, and more. With soil health principles driven by cover crops, compost, and mulching, learn about what is working best at the demonstration garden to minimize soil disturbance, keep the soil covered, maximize living roots, and grow good, healthy soil and food. Kevin Allison is Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District’s Urban Soil Health Specialist. The SWCD provides technical assistance and workshops for urban farmers and gardeners with a focus on utilizing conservation practices to improve soil health and productivity.

Fellowship Hall

-Steve Mayer “Demonstration Garden Successes Usable in Your Own Garden”

- **Description:** Steve will share some of the successes that Master Gardener volunteers have had in the Purdue Extension Marion County Demonstration Garden in Indianapolis. The focus will be on practical applications that home gardeners might use in their own gardens. Steve Mayer was the consumer horticulture educator for Purdue Extension Marion County from 1997 through 2020. Steve directed the efforts of local Master Gardener volunteers in two educational demonstration gardens between 2009 and 2020. After retirement he became a local Purdue Extension Master Gardener volunteer in 2021 and continues to work in the Purdue demonstration garden on the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Learn more about the Purdue Extension Marion County Demonstration Garden on Facebook @PurdueIndyDemoGarden (<https://www.facebook.com/PurdueIndyDemoGarden>).