

2021 Adult Education Programs

Wednesday, April 7th - "Native Plants That Deserve a Place in Your Garden" with Dave Bendlin,

6:30pm-7:30pm- Via Zoom

Naturalist Dave Bendlin presents this program on native flowering plants that fit right into gardens along with other nonnative ornamentals. Often needing much less care than nonnative annuals and perennials, native plants are well adapted for the soils and climate of our area, with many showing exceptional drought tolerance. In this program, you will see numerous examples of how the Bendlins have incorporated native plants to enrich the beauty and lengthen the seasonal displays of their gardens.

Thursday, April 15th - "All About Hummingbirds" with Larry and Emily Scheunemann,

6:30pm-7:45pm- Via Zoom

Larry and Emily are retired school teachers from Janesville, Wisconsin. Larry is an avid wildlife photographer. Emily is a naturalist and together they enjoy landscaping for wildlife, so they can enjoy watching and photographing wildlife at their home in southern Wisconsin. The home that Emily and Larry live in today was a homestead in 1839 in the kettle moraine area of southern Wisconsin. Larry has restored 18 acres of CRP land and they have created a Monarch Wayside and bird sanctuary sighting over 127 different species of birds. All of the pictures in the program were photographed on their property. A Wisconsin hummingbird bander, Mickey O'Connor, has been banding hummingbirds in the Scheunemann's yard.

"All About Hummingbirds" is about the year in the life of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, the only species of hummingbird that breeds in the eastern United States. The photos taken in their yard by Larry will tell the story of how hummingbirds behave interacting with each other and fulfilling their needs to survive. The process of building a nest and raising two chicks is all documented in photographs taken last summer in their yard. You will learn why they are not fragile, sweet or meek. Do not be fooled by their size or beauty. Find out at this program why hummingbirds are jewels of the bird world, as well as, necessary to many of our favorite plants.

Wednesday, April 28th - "Pollinator Plants for the Home Garden" with Dave Bendlin,

6:30pm-7:45pm- Via Zoom

Barbara and David Bendlin have spent over 25 years developing the gardens in their yard and those gardens have been featured in the 2012 Rotary Botanical Home Gardens Tour and the 2018 Milton Library Home Gardens Tour. In the last 10 years, they have worked especially to enrich their gardens with plants specifically for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators. This program will feature a month by month description of the best native and nonnative plants for pollinators that they use in their gardens.

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Wednesday, May 12th - “Phenology and Degree Days”, with Lisa Johnson, Dane County Extension Horticulture Educator, 6:30-7:30pm- Via Zoom

Lisa has a bachelor's degree in Horticulture from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a master's degree in Life Sciences Communication, prior to that she spent 8 years working in the horticulture industry. She has been the Dane County Extension Horticulture Educator since 2004. Among her responsibilities are training Master Gardener Volunteers, providing continuing education for members of the green industry, overseeing management of the Dane County Extension Teaching Garden, and acting as staff for the Dane County Tree Board. She gives frequent presentations to garden clubs, schools and libraries in southern Wisconsin, has a weekly column in the WI State Journal and is a regular guest on Larry Meiller's 'Garden Talk' program on Wisconsin Public Radio.

Phenology and Degree Days: Learn about the science of phenology; the study of biological events and how they are related to the development of insects. Phenology can be used to predict the timing of the development of pests like squash bug and Japanese beetles, which helps to stay ahead of them. Aldo Leopold tracked phenological events at 'The Shack' for many years, as did his daughter Nina, and these data are being used today to track differences in timing of events caused by climate change.

Saturday, June 5th - “Wild Edible and Poisonous Plants Hike” with Dave Bendlin, 10:00am-Noon- Meet at Rotary Botanical Gardens

Naturalist Dave Bendlin will lead participants in a walk around the gardens and nearby woodland trails to observe and identify a variety of common wild edible plants.

Thursday July 8th -Botanic Tour of the Prairie with Mary Berve, 6pm-7pm- Meet at the Prairie near RBG Horticultural Center

Walk through the Tall Grass Prairie at Rotary Botanical Gardens and identify some of the prairie plants and talk about how the Native Americans and Pioneers used these plants. Learn about the history of prairies in the United States. Find out what changes brought about the disappearance of the prairies. Discuss the benefits of planting prairie plants in your garden.

Youth and Adults are encouraged to join Mary Berve on July 8th.

Wednesday October 6th - “Plants That Grow Under Black Walnut Trees” with Lisa Johnson, Dane County Extension Horticulture Educator, 6:30pm-7:30pm- Via Zoom

Lisa has a bachelor's degree in Horticulture from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a master's degree in Life Sciences Communication, prior to that she spent 8 years working in the horticulture industry. She has been the Dane County Extension Horticulture Educator since 2004. Among her responsibilities are training Master Gardener Volunteers, providing continuing education for members of the green industry, overseeing management of the Dane County Extension Teaching Garden, and acting as staff for the Dane County Tree Board. She gives frequent presentations to garden clubs, schools and libraries in southern Wisconsin, has a weekly column in the WI State Journal and is a regular guest on Larry Meiller's 'Garden Talk' program on Wisconsin Public Radio.

Plants that Grow Under Black Walnut Trees: There is gardening life even in the presence of black walnuts that produce a toxin that negatively affects the growth and survival of other plants. Learn about juglone (the toxin), and a number of woody, perennial and vegetable plants that are susceptible to or resistant to juglone.



ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH NATURAL BEAUTY, EDUCATION AND THE ARTS.

Stay tuned for additional programs and updates. If you have questions please contact Delaney Sherwood, Rotary Botanical Gardens Education Coordinator & Horticulture Assistant, delaney.sherwood@rotarygardens.org or (608)314-8415.