

2019 Dakota County Master Gardener Spring Expo: Let's Get Growing Speaker Photos, Class Descriptions and Speaker Biographies

Keynote Speaker – 1:00 p.m. “Native Plants of the Midwest”

Alan Branhagen

Director of Operations,
Minnesota Landscape
Arboretum



Alan Branhagen's presentation is based on his 2016 book by the same title, **Native Plants of the Midwest**. Alan states that he wrote the book as a practical resource that helps gardeners be successful in selecting, growing and maintaining Midwestern native plants. Alan states that there are widespread misunderstandings about how to define native plants and why they are so valuable to a healthy environment. These questions and more will be answered in the presentation. Books will be available for sale and signing.

Alan Branhagen is Director of Operations at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, where he supervises capital improvements, horticulture and natural resources, plant curation, facilities, and information technology. In addition to his book on native plants, Alan has written **The Gardener's Butterfly Book**, plus articles for **Fine Gardening, Landscape Maintenance and Restoration**, and other gardening articles.

Session I—9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Debbie Lonnee

Class #1--“Exciting
New Shrubs and
Perennials
for the Northern
Gardener”



Bailey Nurseries Product Development Manager, **Debbie Lonnee**, states that 20 years ago there weren't any plant “brands”. New brands have hit the market and many new hybrids are appearing every year. Which ones work best in our cold northern climate? Debbie will present the best of the newest woody shrubs and perennials that work in Zone 4 gardens.

Debbie Lonnee has a B.S. degree in Horticulture from the U of MN. She has worked in the nursery industry as a garden writer, lecturer, horticultural editor for **Northern Gardener**, and Product Development Manager for Bailey Nurseries, Inc. She was a co-author of **Growing Shrubs and Small Trees in Cold Climates** and **Growing Perennials in Cold Climates**. Debbie is an avid gardener, and has a collector's garden full of hostas, daylilies and perennials as well as many new annuals. She considers herself a “plant geek” and you may not find too much lawn in her yard.

Sally McNamara
Class #2—"Invasive
Plants
In our Landscapes"



Master Gardener **Sally McNamara** will share information and photos of 15 of our most invasive landscape plants including amur maple, garlic mustard, burdock and crown vetch. For each of these invasive plants, she will share information on why they are a problem for both homeowners and wildlife. She will make suggestions on eradication, and suggest possible alternative plants as replacements. Sally has worked both in her home landscape and on several Mendota Heights landscape projects involving invasive plants.

Sally McNamara has been a Master Gardener since 1993. She has worked in the herb garden at UMore Park, answered questions for the Yard & Garden Phone Line, and became a Tree Advisor in 1995. She has also busted buckthorn in many locations! Currently Sally is part of a Master Gardener leadership group working on several native planting sites for Mendota Heights.

Theresa Mieseler
Class #3—"Veggies for
Small Spaces"



Theresa Mieseler, herb grower and consultant from Shady Acres Herb Farm, will share a presentation on how to grow your own vegetables on your porch, patio or balcony. Learn where to order seeds suitable for small spaces, learn about containers to use, and how to plant, care for and harvest your favorite vegetables.

Theresa Mieseler and her husband started Shady Acres Herb Farm in 1977 and retired from the business in 2016. She has authored several horticultural articles, designed the Kitchen Garden and Cloister Garden at the Univ. of MN Landscape Arboretum, and received the Nancy Putman Award for Excellence in 2010. In retirement, Theresa still loves working in her gardens, writing, and doing horticultural presentations.

Jenny Kedward
Class #4—"The Lazy
Guide to
Home Composting"



New to composting or want to learn more? Dakota County Environmental Specialist **Jenny Kedward** will share the basics of home composting as well as what items you should not put into your backyard pile. She will explore different types of home composting set-ups with her audience and help them decide what is right for their yards. Composting is an easy way to reduce waste while improving the home yards and garden soils. It is easy to get started!

Jenny Kedward has a B.S. degree in Biology and was trained in social marketing. She uses her enthusiasm to educate Dakota County residents on recycling and reducing waste.

Session II—10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Rebecca Koetter

Class #5—"Fruits of The City"



Do you need some ideas on species that can produce fruit in sun limited areas of your yard? Are you interested in growing your own fruit on plants that do not need a ladder? In this presentation, **Rebecca Koetter** will focus on fruit-producing plants that thrive in Minnesota, including cultivars of favorites such as blueberry and currant. In addition, learn about a few native woodland species that are delicious, edible, and possibly growing in a wooded area near you.

Rebecca Koetter is a consultant working with various edible fruits from trees and shrubs throughout the Twin Cities Metro area. She has a Master's degree from the Univ. of MN College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Science. She had experience in designing, selecting, implementing, harvesting and processing several fruits from woody plants growing in Minnesota.

Elizabeth Spedaliere

Class #6—"Do it Yourself Garden Design"



Have you ever looked at a garden area and wondered where you should begin? Master Gardener **Elizabeth Spedaliere** will cover tips on how to create a beautiful and effective garden design. She will delve into the steps involved in measuring and creating the working design plan. This class will include the most important aspects of landscape design, including plant massing, layering, texture, season interest and color.

Elizabeth Spedaliere is an avid gardener, bird watcher and nature lover. She has been a Master Gardner since 2005. Elizabeth also has a degree in Landscape Design and Horticulture and is a Minnesota Nursery Landscape Association certified professional. She owns her own landscape design company, Blue Beech Design (<http://bluebeechdesign.com>).

Theresa Mieseler

Class #7—"Beyond Basil, Rosemary and Thyme: Unique and Unexpected Herbs"



Are you ready to try new herbs in your garden? There are many less common herbs that bring exiting and unexpected flavors to dishes and drinks, and beauty to your garden. **Theresa Mieseler** will introduce you to herbs such as Cilantro mimics, Mrihani basil, Cat's Whiskers, Mexican oregano, and also share growing tips. You will leave with a handout on growing tips, a recipe or two and a list of herb resources.

Theresa Mieseler's biography is listed under Class #3. Her new Shady Acres Herb Farm web address is <https://www.shadvacres.com>.

Cindy Johnson

Class #8— "Is Your Landscape Connected?"



Sue Light



"Is Your Landscape Connected?" is a class about making the plant-pollinator connections in your home landscape and the community. Your spaces can be made beautiful, educational, and entertaining by using the information Master Gardeners **Cindy Johnson and Sue Light** will share. Learn how local communities have put out the welcome mat for nature and how you can do the same thing in your own yard with ten eco-friendly tips. The session also includes a video excerpt from Dr. Douglas Tallamy, author of **Bringing Nature Home**.

Cindy Johnson grew up in Minnesota learning about gardening from her mother and grandmother, both avid gardeners. Cindy first became a Master Gardener in Chesapeake, VA. She learned through the research-based information provided by VA Tech how to make her landscape designs healthy. Upon returning to her Minnesota roots, she became a Master Gardener, and her focus has been on gardening beautifully with an emphasis on sustainability, pollinator-friendly practices, and the preservation of water quality.

Sue Light has been a Dakota County Master Gardener for eight years. She has developed a strong interest in native plants since seeding her ½ acre lot on a small lake in Dakota County with native grasses, sedges and forbs six years ago. She has also worked on several Mendota Heights projects, planting native plants in public areas with Cindy and other Master Gardeners.

(Note: This year, Cindy and Sue received the Jerry Murphy award for Volunteerism for their work with the City of Mendota Heights to create sustainable and pollinator-friendly practices throughout the city.)