

## 2020 Dakota County Master Gardener Spring Expo: Let's Get Growing Speaker Photos, Class Descriptions and Speaker Biographies

### Keynote Address – 1:00 p.m. “Gardening for Bees and Butterflies”

**Keynote Speaker:**  
**Heather Holm**  
“Gardening for Bees  
and Butterflies”



In “**Gardening for Bees and Butterflies**,” **Heather Holm** explains the life cycles of bees and butterflies, including where and when they nest, forage and seek shelter and food in our landscapes. Learn about pollination and which native plants are specifically pollinated by bees or butterflies. The top native plant species for different habitats will also be highlighted for both bees and butterflies, including butterfly host plants.

**Heather Holm** is an award-winning author and nationally sought-after speaker, spending much of her time passionately educating audiences about the fascinating world of native bees and the native plants that support them. Her first book, ***Pollinators of Native Plants***, was published in 2014, and her latest book, ***Bees***, published in 2017, has won six book awards including the 2018 American Horticultural Society Book Award. Heather's expertise includes the interactions between native bees and native plants, and the natural history and biology of native bees occurring in the upper Midwest and Northeast.

### Morning Session I—9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

**Class #1**  
**David Zlesak**  
“Winning Rose  
Cultivars”



In his presentation, **David Zlesak** will share with his audience, “**The American Rose Trials for Sustainability Program and Winning Rose Cultivars.**” He will describe how green industry professionals are working to identify the most sustainable, hardy pest-resistant and beautiful roses. He will highlight A.R.T.S. winners and other strong cultivars for Minnesota Gardens.

**Dr. David Zlesak** is a Professor of Horticulture at the U of Wisconsin-River Falls. He has been breeding roses and other plants for adaptations to the upper Midwest since 1984. He has cultivars of roses, ninebark, heliopsis, and ageratum on the market. David works with the American Rose Trials for Sustainability and Earth-Kind Rose Trial programs, characterizing new rose viruses and resistance genes to rose black spot.

**Class #2**

**Joe Barten**

“Landscaping for Clean Water”



In this presentation, “**Landscaping for Clean Water**,” **Joe Barten** will share how the Dakota County Landscaping for Clean Water program partners with residents concerned with water quality and wildlife habitat. He will share information on the educational workshops held every year on water quality issues, such as backyard conservation projects, native gardens, raingardens, and shoreline plantings.

**Joe Barten** holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Environmental Design and Urban Planning from the University of Minnesota. Professionally, Joe has helped hundreds of homeowners design and install raingardens, native gardens, and native shoreline restorations on their property. As Resource Conservationist for the Dakota County SWCD, he provides planning, design, and project management of urban stormwater projects.

**Class #3**

**Dave Olson**

**Cheryl Forrest**

"Everything You Wanted to Know About Tomatoes”



**Dave Olson and Cheryl Forrest** will guide you through successful tomato growing techniques, starting with growing the plants from seeds, transplanting them to larger containers, hardening them off, and then planting them in the garden. Included in this presentation will be information on the difference between determinate and indeterminate tomatoes, and the advantages of both heirloom and hybrids. They will present ideas about selecting particular varieties and talk about choosing cherry, medium-sized or beefsteak tomatoes depending upon your space and personal preference. They will also give tips on summer maintenance including watering, fertilizing, preventing disease, mulching, and staking. Last, they will share information about harvesting and preserving the extra tomatoes safely and easily.

**Dave Olson** grew up on a farm in Kandiyohi County and also enjoyed a family vegetable garden. His Swedish grandfather had a 5-acre garden! He started growing tomatoes seriously 40 years ago and has become our Master Gardener tomato-growing leader for the annual plant sale. Dave became a Master Gardener in 2009.



**Cheryl Forrest** grew up on a farm in Waseca County and worked in her mother’s vegetable garden. She has gardened all her life, and she became a Master Gardener in 2004. For the Master Gardener annual plant sale, she has started and helped care for over 50 varieties and 1,500 plants. At home, she grows 30 tomatoes annually and juices, cans, dries and shares them with friends.

**Class #4**  
**Dean Englemann**  
"Eat Dirt"



Enjoy a passionate talk “**Eat Dirt**” by **Dean Englemann** as he shares the alternative farming and gardening methods used at Tangletown Gardens Farm. Dean will dive into soil health and how it affects plants, the environment, and the world around us. He’ll also explain how they use aquaponics and their greenhouse to produce food year-round. There will be many tips and tricks that you can use in your own gardening endeavors or in the food choices you make. He will cover how important soil is for the nutritional quality of our food. If you eat, there is something in it for you!

**Dean Englemann** grew up on a typical small family farm near Plato, MN. He went on to study Plant Science, Horticulture, and Landscape Design at the University of Minnesota. After several years in the wholesale production side of the horticulture industry, he ventured off to start Tangletown Gardens and eventually his restaurant Wise Acre Eatery. Now the farm he grew up on supplies the garden center, the restaurant, and their 900 member CSA. Dean is passionate, energetic, and loves what he does. That will be quite apparent during his presentation.

**Morning Session II—10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.**

**Class #5**  
**Faith Appelquist**  
“Shear Madness:  
Pruning Trees and  
Shrubs”



In her class, “**Shear Madness: Pruning Trees and Shrubs**”, **Faith Appelquist** first explains why we prune trees, how to make the proper cuts, and the timing of pruning. In addition, learn how to avoid tree pruning mistakes and their consequences, along with understanding the tree response to pruning. Example tree species will be highlighted. In the second section, learn how to take the guesswork out of pruning overgrown, or over-planted shrubs, including information about the types of pruning cuts and what tools to use. She will also cover the biology behind pruning, common pruning mistakes, when to prune for optimal flower show, rejuvenation pruning and evergreens. All information will be tailored for shrubs specific to our region.

**Faith Appelquist** is the owner of Tree Quality in St Paul, Minnesota. She specializes in tree evaluation and management, appraisals, risk assessment and landscape design. She earned a Food Science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Landscape Design degree from Dakota County Technical College. She is an International Society of Arboriculture Board Certified Master Arborist, an American Society of Consulting Arborists Registered Consulting Arborist, and a Qualified Tree Risk Assessor. She volunteers on the Minnesota and Nursery Landscape Association Board of Directors.

**Class #6**

**Sue Evarts**

“I Will Survive:  
Adaptable Plants”



In her presentation, “**I will Survive: Adaptable Plants,**” **Sue Evarts** will share the many ways that plants take clues from their environment and respond accordingly. Unlike animals, plants are stationary. They cannot move out of the sun, cold, rain, or snow, and they cannot run away from predators. Consequently, plants have evolved many tactics to deal with environmental pressures right where they are, by adjusting their own growth and development. Plants can sense day length, gravity, time of day, and the color and direction of light. With this information, roots grow down, stems grow up and bend toward the light, and flowers and leaves appear or drop at the right time.

**Sue Evarts** grew up in the pine and aspen forests of northern Minnesota. She got her PhD in Behavior Ecology from the University of Minnesota and taught biology at the University of St. Thomas. After teaching, she worked in the Horticultural Department at the Minnesota Zoo. She is a Dakota County Master Gardener and University of Minnesota Tree Care Advisor.

**Class #7**

**Linda Wenzel**

“Healing Gardening”



Most gardeners recognize that a garden is a place that is good for body, mind and spirit. Did you know that there is science that supports exactly that? In this presentation, “**Healing Gardening,**” **Linda Wenzel** will focus on how the connection to nature and plants can improve physical, mental and spiritual well-being. Ways to incorporate healing elements in your garden will be explored. Master Gardener **Cathy Johnson** also helped to create and develop this presentation.

**Linda Wenzel** has been a life-long gardener who loves all kinds of plants. Currently her gardening involves perennial flowers and vegetables, and she has been a Master Gardener since 2014. Professionally she was a geriatric nurse practitioner and noted how little access many elders had to the outside natural environment. She developed a passion for learning about the healing nature of gardens and plants.

**Cathy Johnson** has been a Master Gardener since 2014. She has worked with healing gardens in the past and is currently planning a new one in Farmington. She has also led presentations on the topic.



**Class #8**  
**Don Feeney**  
“Container  
Gardening”



Do you live in an apartment where your garden is limited to your balcony? Or maybe you have a big deck that would look better with a few plants, or you want to brighten up the sea of concrete in front of your garage. You'd be amazed by what you can grow in containers! In this class titled “**Container Gardening**”, **Don Feeney** will teach you the keys to success with container gardening, including the selection of containers, what you need for soil, water, and fertilizer, and what types of plants do well (most of them) or don't do well (only a few). He will discuss how to adapt your containers to different conditions, how to keep your pots unbroken and attractive over the years, and some aesthetic considerations for effective design.

**Don Feeney's** first garden was on the rooftop of a Boston apartment building in 1980. In a flash of insight, he realized that the reason he had no fruit on his cucumber, pepper, and other plants might have had something to do with the lack of pollinators on the 12th floor. He's been more successful since, with a focus on vegetables at his West St. Paul home. A Dakota County Master Gardener for the last two years, Don is also a volunteer teacher-naturalist at Dodge Nature Center, where he has organized an extensive demonstration vegetable garden to help children learn where their food comes from. His 2019 home garden included over 50 containers.