



# Let's Get **Growing!**

**Dakota County Master Gardeners**

**Virtual Let's Get Growing 2021**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 2 – 29, 6:30 p. m.**

## **Gardening on Your Home Deck**

Linda Stein

Tuesday, March 2

6:30 p.m.



Dakota County Master Gardener and past Leadership Team Chair Linda Stein has over 40 years of gardening experience. She will address strategies to promote success in your deck garden. The talk will include how to plan the location of your garden and how this location will impact your choice of plants and the care of them. The talk will also include planting mediums, pot sizes, and color. She will share proper planting and care techniques for both your annual and perennial plants.

Gardening on your deck or patio adds beauty and provides an option to individuals who do not have access to a yard. Plants on decks and patios can also provide edible plants close to your kitchen. People with physical limitations can have the opportunity to enjoy the experiences of gardening when it is within their physical reach.

## **Growing Orchids in Your Home**

Paul Wood

Thursday, March 4

6:30 p.m.



Lifetime gardener Paul Wood has been a University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener since 2008. He also trained to be a Minnesota Tree Care Advisor, and he is a member of the Orchid Society of Minnesota. He has been actively caring for orchids in his home on window sills and under lights, with varying degrees of success, for the last 15 years. He currently tends 40 orchids. He freely admits to being an orchid-holic!

In this class, Paul will cover how to select orchids, their environmental needs, and approaches to keeping them happy and healthy. A handout with additional care notes and sources for more information will be provided.

## **Growing Vegetables for a Changing Climate**

Natalie Hoidal  
Tuesday, March 6  
6:30 p.m.



Natalie Hoidal is an Extension Educator who works with local food and vegetable crops. She supports farmers selling to local markets through technical assistance, research, and the development of educational materials focused on Integrated Pest Management, nutrient management and soil health, climate change adaptation, and other production-related concerns. Natalie also works with Master Gardeners and community gardens.

In this class, Natalie will share how increased rainfall and unpredictable shifts in our weather add an additional challenge to growing. Learn how to raise healthy plants that are resistant to stressors, and consider ways to manage your site in the face of a changing climate.

## **Landscaping with Native Plants**

Nancy Schumacher  
Thursday, March 11  
6:30 p.m.



Before retiring in 2017, Nancy Schumacher spent more than 30 years growing and selling plants at farmers' markets, special events, and annual sales at her home. Over the years, products included traditional perennials, native species and herbs with the latter years dedicated almost exclusively to natives. She holds a degree in soil science from the University of Minnesota. Prior to her life as a grower, Nancy was a soil mapper in Stearns County. She also spent several years, both in research and consulting, on organic waste management. Her current focus is on rehabilitating the 50 acres that she and her husband own in southern Dakota County. They have established a conservation easement on the property and are working with the County to return it to a more natural state.

Nancy will show you her property and share information on how you can also landscape with native plants for a better environment.

## **The World of Hydroponics**

Jim Hewitt  
Tuesday, March 16  
6:30 p.m.

## **Home Hydroponics**

Jim Hewitt  
Thursday, March 18  
6:30 p.m.



Master Gardener Jim Hewitt is the founder of Conservatory Craftsmen, a 30-year-old company with clients across the United States. The business, which now includes his son and daughter, does restoration jobs for existing conservatories. They also build and design new commercial greenhouses, luxury greenhouses, and private home conservatories. Jim also is a U of M graduate with a degree in Ag/Hort Education. He taught for several years in vocational schools before going into business.

In **The World of Hydroponics**, Jim will share videos of the work and spaces created by his company. As noted in the company literature, hydroponic greenhouses can produce 10 times the amount of crop per acre compared to a standard farm field, and they produce 12 months of the year. Statistics show that hydroponic crops use about 10% of the water that field grown crops use. Growing food hydroponically saves water and eliminates pesticide needs.”

During **Home Hydroponics** Jim will share ways the home gardener can efficiently use hydroponic systems. He will share easy-to-use methods gardeners can grow vegetables which range from spaces and containers in their basements to owning their own greenhouses.

## **Herb Gardening**

Shari Mayer  
Tuesday, March 23  
6:30 p.m.



Master Gardener Shari Mayer has extensive experience growing herbs in her own backyard and as leader of the herb garden at UMore Park when it was open. She has had lots of success with both the common and the unusual herbs that can be grown in Minnesota. She has talked to gardening groups all over the metro area and was featured in a Master Gardener Seed Trial Garden video this summer when she shared information on how to grow and harvest basil.

Shari has also developed an herb cookbook, plus created lotions from herbs to soothe our skin and souls. She will share her herb growing knowledge and how to use them in this class.

## Pruning Bushes & Trees

Sally McNamara &  
Janet Poore  
Thursday, March 25  
6:30 p.m.



Master Gardeners Sally McNamara and Janet Poore will demonstrate and explain the step-by-step process to successful pruning of bushes and trees. Effective pruning takes advantage of the plant's need to flourish and propagate. With this in mind, pruning can create a yard satisfying to the plant and gardener, and create a plant that is healthy, controlled, and flowering and fruiting.

Myths abound that generate reluctance to take pruning tools in hand and reshape a yard into its best performance. Our goal is to define pruning tools, timing, purpose, and techniques so that the gardener is comfortably equipped to prune what, when and how.

A caveat: if the pruning task needs a ladder and chainsaw, call a certified arborist. Any reference in this talk to chainsaws is for humor only. We want the average gardener to feel comfortable with the pruning tasks in the garden, not the orchard or forest.

## Square Foot Gardening in Home Landscapes

John Zweber  
Tuesday, March 30  
6:30 p.m.



Master Gardener and Square Foot Gardener John Zweber has been gardening ever since he was a child helping his mom in their home gardens. As a Master Gardener for 15 years, John has been teaching gardening classes throughout Dakota County, including garden clubs and adult classes for ISD 196 and ISD 194. He has been a certified Square Foot Gardener (SFG) instructor for over 10 years.

John also is a small business owner of Easy Gardens by John, where he sells and installs vegetable gardens, especially SFG. He does consultations for vegetable garden installations. Other interests include beekeeping and knitting. He is converting his suburban property into a mini homestead with ten 4x8 raised beds, several chickens and several fruit trees and 4 beehives. This past fall he planted over 800 cloves of garlic including 7 different varieties. He hopes to eventually have no grass to mow!

Come to John's class to learn how to plant and raise amazing gardens through the square foot gardening method.