

## LET'S DO K ZOO!! – September 22, 2018

We will be adventuring West this year to the Kalamazoo and Battle Creek area. Come join us for a wonderful day of education, food, wandering thru beautiful gardens and several shopping opportunities. We have several fabulous stops that we believe will knock your socks off. Note – you **do not** have to be a Master Gardener to attend!

Our first stop will be at **Southern Exposure Herb Farm** [www.southernmoon.com](http://www.southernmoon.com). When you hear the name Herb Farm, you would naturally think of a nice little farm that grows herbs. Yes, they do grow herbs, but they also offer walking gardens, ponds, vine covered arbors and three restored farm buildings, each providing a charming, restful setting impeccably furnished with antiques, country quilts and china.

It is also a place where people come for incredible specialty dinners, entertaining, decorating, painting, sculpturing and garden art workshops, to host a showers or special event. They host a wedding almost every weekend in Summer and Fall.

The owners, Scott Stoke and Curtis Whitaker, now retired military men, have spent 30 years renovating this 1840 farm site, which is located in the peaceful, rolling countryside, (just 15 minutes from Battle Creek or Marshall). We will split into 2 groups and will be given a guided tour of the farm with time to wander and shop in their gift shop.

Next stop will be **River Street Flowerland**. The owners are fourth generation growers. In the 1900's Richard Ouding & his sons started growing celery at the current location. They switched to growing flowers in 1960.

There are 10 acres of greenhouse growing space. They offer over 100 varieties of herbs, many beautiful annuals, nearly 1,000 perennial varieties and a wide selection of ornamental trees and shrubs. Plus, lots of unique decorations and garden ware, which are all for sale.

We will be given a guided tour of their greenhouse operations and then have time to do a little shopping. They specialize in topiaries and they stock many different types of topiary frames. In the Spring time they give classes showing you how to create your own masterpiece.

**Lunch** will be at a wonderful downtown Kalamazoo location. There will be more information forth coming soon. You will have at least 3 lunch choices and they can accommodate any type of diet restrictions you may have.

Next will be a stop at the ***Kalamazoo Valley Community College – Food Innovation Center*** to learn about a new combined Culinary Arts & Sustainable Food System Program.

Graduates of this program will work as chefs or food entrepreneurs in a variety of settings using their "farm to table" competencies to positively impact health in the community.

Students will spend most of their time working in a real production kitchen and foodservice environment, on a sustainable farm, and in an active food production and distribution facility. The curriculum is grounded at the intersection of food production, environmental sustainability, nutrition, and health. Their new state-of-the-art facilities for culinary, food production, and urban growing environments make this a unique hands-on learning opportunity.

ValleyHub is a farm, food hub, and education center at the Food Innovation Center at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. At their farm, they test new and innovative methods for year-round growing. In the food hub, they distribute fresh food from local farms to local customers. And our training center offers programs in food safety, produce handling, and production methods to help growers and food handlers innovate and succeed.

We are still working on possibly adding another item to our trip if the schedule allows.

Tickets are \$65.00 which includes luxury coach, continental breakfast, lunch, snacks, water, entrance fees, tips and donations to any of the non-profits we will be visiting. We are limited to 54 tickets and we will be selling at our monthly meetings.

Our Bus departs **PROMPTLY** at 7:00 AM on Saturday, September 22, 2018, from the MSU Extension Office: 1200 N. Telegraph Rd. North Office Building #26 East Pontiac, MI 48341. Our schedule should put us back at the MSUE office approximately 6:15 PM.

For additional information, contact Linda Yolkiewicz at [lby@att.net](mailto:lby@att.net) or 248-376-4560. Tickets are non-refundable but are transferable. Tickets

may be purchased at our General Meeting, or by contacting Linda at [lby@att.net](mailto:lby@att.net) or 248-376-4560.

# LET'S DO K ZOO!

DAY TRIP - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2018 Cost - \$65



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Payment \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Type \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

## THE DAY'S DELIGHTS

Southern Exposure Herb Farm

River Street Flowerland

Lunch at a Downtown Kalamazoo Restaurant

Kalamazoo Valley Community College- Food Innovation Center

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RECEIPT FOR "LET'S DO K ZOO DAY TRIP", September 22, 2018

(Tickets are non-refundable but transferable, please check to see if there is a wait list.)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ PAYMENT \_\_\_\_\_

Check in begins at 6:45am, bus leaves PROMPTLY at 7:00am.

Questions please contact Linda Yolkiewicz, [lby@att.net](mailto:lby@att.net), 248-526-0430.