

Go-Gardening-Go; Growing Great Gardens is Here

There is not much better than a homegrown tomato picked right off the vine. Growing Great Gardens Conference (GGG) is providing the next best thing. Learn how to grow that perfect tomato on March 16 from 8 AM to 4 PM at Wayne County Community College District-Downriver Campus, 21000 Northline, Taylor. The Taylor Conservatory Foundation, Taylor Garden Club and Wayne County Community College District-Downriver Campus, are hosting three wonderful gardening professionals, speaking on a variety of garden-specific topics that are not only knowledge based but interesting, too.

“What a great group of gardening aficionados we have lined-up for this year's GGG” says Committee Co-chair, Patty Donahue while Co-chair, Nancy Smith adds “Not only are the presenters well respected in their fields but they are discussing topics which so many of us either can relate to or want to learn about”.

Columnist for the Pittsburg Tribune-Review and regular contributor to several gardening publications, including Fine Gardening Magazine, Jessica Walliser, has an approach to bugs that is refreshing at this time where there is so much concern about the loss of pollinators. Walliser will shine some light on the methods needed to attract beneficial insects to the garden with *Attracting Beneficial Bugs to Your Garden: A Natural Approach to Pest Control* lecture. Look forward to learning about some groundbreaking research regarding the intricate connection between plants and insects, too.

Walliser will also be sharing insight on some of the loveliest and easy-to-tend plants around, with *Neglected Annuals in the Garden*. The audience will have the opportunity to view slides of these beauties; maybe some snow-on-the-mountain or corn marigolds, and learn how to bring them into the garden. Add some pizzazz with these old-fashioned and often self-sowing annuals, which should be the shining stars in many gardens but are often only found in the pages of specialty catalogs.

Craig LeHoullier, of Raleigh, NC, respected tomato expert and author, will be presenting *Epic Tomatoes for Midwest Gardens*. LeHoullier will address growing tips interspersed with helpful facts, cool tomato history and plain good 'ole stories for epic tomato success. A former scientist, LeHoullier treats his yard as a laboratory and is the go-to adviser for many in the plant industry. He also co-founded the Dwarf Tomato Project and can be heard on the shows Growing a Greener World, The Splendid Table and A Way to Garden.

12 Secrets to Happiness in Your Garden addresses a topic most everyone has felt at one time or another; too much garden and not enough time. Author and Horticulturist, Carol Michel will parlay all her secrets for finding happiness in gardening with a mix of humor and plant knowledge, strengthening the love of gardening again. This prolific author with titles including Potted and Pruned: Living a Gardening Life, Homegrown and Handpicked: A Year in a Gardening Life, and her latest work, The Christmas Cottontail: A Story for Gardeners of All ages, is a graduate of the Purdue University School of Agriculture.

An additional bonus class, also being led by Michel, *Garden Tools Beyond the Hoe*, is for those who sign up for the extra lunchtime class. As the owner of arguably the world's largest hoe collection, Michel still has many other implements in her gardening 'toolbox' that she uses to create her garden paradise. Learn even more tips and tricks to make garden chores more efficient and fun.

The lunchtime presentation is available for an additional \$10 and is only available to participants who pre-pay. Space for this class is limited and is first come, first served.

Smith explains “GGG is open to everyone, non-master, master and those who want to earn five education hours for the master gardening program.” “Registration has begun and a fee of \$50. includes four classes, continental breakfast, lunch, handouts, plus great networking with old and new friends, too. It is \$60, with the extra bonus class” reminds Donahue.

Another much anticipated Garden Market “will also be taking place throughout the day and you don't even have to be registered for the classes, as it is open to the public mentions” , Vendor Coordinator, Sherry Soja-Molloy. Hand-selected artisans and specialty garden vendors will be selling wonderful and unique items in lobby and surrounding areas.

“Attend GGG and begin your 2019 gardening adventure” smiles Donahue.

Please visit www.taylorconservatory.org to register or call 888-383-4108 for more info.