

Gardening In Changing Times



The Western Massachusetts Master Gardener
Association's

SPRING GARDENING SYMPOSIUM

April 13, 2024

8:45 am to noon • Frontier Regional High School
South Deerfield, MA

Doors Open at 8:00 am for Registration and Refreshments

8:45-10:00 am **SESSION 1 TOPICS** (choose one)

- **Creating Inviting Habitats for Our Feathered Friends**
- **Vegetable Garden Basics for Beginners**
- **Environmentally Friendly Lawns and Lawn Alternatives**
- **Common Garden Herbs for Community Resilience**

10:45 am-noon **SESSION 2 TOPICS** (choose one)

- **Yoga In The Garden**
- **The Art of Container Gardening**
- **Practical Permaculture Design Skills for Your Landscape**
- **Transform Your Yard to Support Pollinators: A 12-Step Program**



For more information, go to wmmga.org
or contact Lucy Alman at
gardensymposium123@gmail.com or
(413) 665-2181.

BETWEEN SESSIONS!

- * **Soil Testing** – Plants grow best when soil pH is optimum. Bring 1/2 to 1 cup of soil from 8-12 spots 6-8" deep taken randomly around the garden and mixed together. Take separate samples for different growing areas. Testing is for pH only. Limit of 3 samples per person.
- * **Take It or Leave It Used Book Table**
Do you have a gardening book or two you'd like to pass along? Are you always on the lookout for new titles to add to your collection? Everyone is invited to bring a gently used gardening book or two for the swap table or find a new book to take home!
- * **Refreshments** – Complimentary morning coffee and goodies.

Full descriptions of topics on the back.

Pre-registration required by April 12th as seating is limited.

In case of impending bad weather, call 413-665-2181 the night before for a recorded message regarding possible rescheduling. **Parking** – Please car pool if at all possible; parking may be tight!

Topic Choices

8:45 - 10:00 am (choose one)

(A) Creating Inviting Habitats for Our Feathered Friends - *Dan Ziomek, Sugarloaf Gardens, Sunderland*
Landscaping your yard for birds involves more than just planting a few berry plants. Birds need places to nest and protection from predators as well as a ready supply of food. We can provide all of these by using a mixture of native plant materials and placing them properly to attract the widest variety of bird species.

(B) Vegetable Garden Basics for Beginners
Ron Kujawski, UMass Extension (retired)
Does all the advice you read seem complicated and overwhelming? Wondering where to start? Getting started in vegetable gardening is often a matter of overcoming inertia. Ron brings his decades of experience to help the new gardener get started and successfully see the season through.

(C) Environmentally Friendly Lawns and Lawn Alternatives - *Heidi Dollard, Master Gardener*
Changing the way we manage lawns with what we plant and/or by reducing the amount of lawn presents a huge opportunity both to support important insect species and help address global warming by reducing CO2 emissions from lawn mowers - right in your own yard! This talk covers many ideas on how to convert your lawn from turfgrass alone to provide more ecological benefits.

(D) Common Garden Herbs for Community Resilience
Jade Alicandro, Milk and Honey Herbs, Amherst
There's so much medicine to be found in the herb garden. We'll explore common garden herbs such as lemon balm, lavender, rosemary, sage, and thyme and dive into their expansive benefits for everything from memory and focus, to nervous system health, immunity, and more.

10:45 am - noon (choose one)

(E) Yoga In The Garden
Christina Gabriel, Christina's Garden, Ashfield
We gardeners tend to take better care of our plants than ourselves. This workshop will give you a three minute warm-up to do before diving into your garden, three poses to use while you are actually gardening, and three good ways to take care of your body after an hour, an afternoon, or a whole day of gardening.

(F) The Art of Container Gardening
Eliza Healy, Sugarloaf Gardens, Sunderland
Let's get creative with container gardening! Together we will go over the basics of container gardening covering pot and plant selection, soils to use, watering practices, pest management, fertilizing and more. Eliza will have an assortment of pots and plants on hand to demonstrate how to create beautiful and unique combinations and send you home excited to create your own pots.

(G) Practical Permaculture Design Skills for Your Landscape
Kay Cafasso, The Permaculture Place, Shelburne Falls
Grow an ecosystem for food, habitat, medicine, and beauty in your yard, guided by permaculture principles that originate from observation of the natural world.

(H) Transform Your Yard to Support Pollinators: A 12-Step Program
Heidi Dollard, Master Gardener
Many people now realize the importance of pollinators and other essential wildlife. They want to make their yard pollinator-friendly, but don't know where to start. This talk will step you through the process of evaluation, planning, and implementation, with many options for large and small changes.

Registration form: **Cost is \$40/pp** – includes choice of two topics and refreshments. Register online (extra service fee applies) at WMMGA.ORG or by mail using the form below. Send mailed registrations to: Lucy Alman, 27 Park Rd., Sunderland, MA 01375. Please make checks payable to WMMGA. **_____ registration(s) @ \$40 = _____ Total Enclosed**

Name _____ **Session 1** (1st choice)____ (2nd choice)____ | **Session 2** (1st choice ____ (2nd choice)____

Name _____ **Session 1** (1st choice)____ (2nd choice)____ | **Session 2** (1st choice ____ (2nd choice)____

Name _____ **Session 1** (1st choice)____ (2nd choice)____ | **Session 2** (1st choice ____ (2nd choice)____

Address _____ Town _____ State ____ Zip _____

Evening phone _____ Email _____