

SPEAKERS AND BREAKOUT PRESENTERS MGC 2020 CONFERENCE



SUSAN BETZ

Susan Betz has been actively involved in growing and using herbs to educate the public about gardening and the natural world for over 35 years. She is an Honorary Master Gardener, a member of the International Herb Association, Garden Communicators, National Garden Bureau and the Ecological Landscape Alliance. Susan is a life member of the Herb Society of America and received the Helen D. Conway Little Medal of Honor in 2018. She is a charter member of HSA's Native Herb Conservation Committee, the Society's sustainable garden initiative. Susan serves on HSA's Notable Native Herb program and is a contributing author to HSA's Notable Native Herb fact sheets published annually. She is the author of *Magical Moons & Seasonal Circles*, *Stepping into the Circle of the Seasons* and *Neighboring with Nature/Native Herbs for Pleasure and Purpose*.

Topic of Presentation

A Green Revival: Cultivating Gardens for People, Place and Plants. A positive shift and a new way of thinking about our gardens, neighborhoods and community green spaces has taken shape and is now a reality. Shrinking property boundaries, life in the digital age, and tightly packed schedules is provoking a yearning for a deeper relationship with the natural world. People are taking charge of their home environments by consciously choosing to create gardens and outdoor spaces inspired with a focus on homemaking, placemaking and regional ecology. The best outdoor spaces are created in harmony with nature, demonstrate respect for the web of life and honor three essential relationships: plants to place, plants to people, and plants to other plants.



JEANNE HAWKINS

Title: **Tea Thyme**

You just never know what Jeanne might be wearing, it could be a flower pot hat, or flowing robes. Hers and gardening are her life-long passions.

She is Owner of The Secret Ingredient, Garden and Herb Tea business, Certified Etiquette Tea Consultant, the past president of the Michigan Herb Associates whose motto is “Each One Teach One”. Along with herbs, Jeanne has a beautiful wildflower garden.

Jeanne will be speaking about a Native Pollinator Garden and herbs that are good pollinators to have in your landscape. As part of the program will be a make and take creating an herbal tea blend from various dried native plants and herbs.



PAT LINDEMANN

Title: **Greening of the Drains**

Patrick Lindemann was first elected as the Ingham County Drain Commissioner in 1992, an office he has re-defined to reflect his environmental stewardship ethic and systems approach to stormwater management. He has received international, national, and state recognition and awards for his innovative drain projects.

Two of his award-winning projects, the Tollgate Wetland Stormwater facility in the City of Lansing and Lansing Township; and the Towar Rain Garden Drains in East Lansing and Meridian Township are first-Of-their-kind urban retrofit projects based on Low-Impact Designs (LID) that better protect the environment while saving costs. Drain Commissioner Lindemann is known for finding such win-win solutions. These projects were highlighted in the Clean Water Action publication on American Rivers entitled “The Greening of Stormwater: Michigan Communities—saving money, beautifying neighborhoods and protecting lakes and streams” authored by Dave Dempsey. Patrick has been named the 2007 “Hero of the Lakes,” by Clean Water Action, a national advocacy organization that has over a million members. During his 26 years in Office, he has overseen the construction and maintenance of millions of dollars of drain improvements that have opened the way for hundreds of millions of dollars of new economic growth in Ingham County.

Mr. Lindemann has received many awards for his creative and innovative projects. Organizations such as the Sierra Club, David Dempsey Award for Distinguished Service for the Environment, 2013, Michigan Wildlife Habitat Foundation, Dengal Habitat Award and National Stormwater Congrol program: Excellence Award.



MERRY KIM MEYERS

Title: **Learn to Speak Plant: Conquering Scientific Terms and Names...You'll leave having a learned a once terrifying language.**

A degree from Michigan State University in Landscape Architecture provided her with a variety of employment experience in large and small firms. Merry Kim has served as a 4-H Leader, Agriscience Teacher, Environmental Educator, MSU Horticulture Instructor, FFA Advisor, and currently as a Program Coordinator for MSU Institute of Agricultural Technology. She is a popular guest speaker known for her "Green Wisdom" and wit. Revealing her secrets to conquer gardeners' fear of scientific names is one of her favorite missions.

WYNNE WRIGHT

Title: **The Art and Science of Lavender Farming**

Wynne is an Associate Professor of Community Sustainability at Michigan State University (MSU). Developer of on-line lavender curriculum sponsored by MSU, Kansas State University and US Lavender Growers Association. Secretary of US Lavender Growers Association and Coordinator of Great lakes Lavender Growers Association.

Wynne has a Ph.D. in Sociology and published "Growing Lavender in Michigan" Advice for a Purple Garden, MSU Extension.

As well as being on the staff of Michigan State University, Wynne also owns and operates, Sixteen Sprigs Lavender Farm.

VIRGINIA FROEHLICH

Title: **Plants that Will Make you Itch and Make You Twitch...and Maybe Even Kill You** – a humorous, yet informative, look at "plant criminals" we may be harboring in our homes and gardens.

Virginia is very active in the State Gardening community. She is the current Michigan Garden Clubs' Life Membership Chairperson (2015-present), National Garden Clubs Gardening Study, Landscape Design and Environmental Studies Consultant. She has addressed local garden clubs and presented programs to various women's organizations and Master Gardener associations including "2011 Growing Great Gardens", an educational event co hosted by The Taylor Conservatory Foundation, The Taylor Garden Club and Wayne County Community College. In 2012, Virginia was a featured speaker in Schoolcraft College's Transition Center Luncheon Series.

Virginia is a recipient of the 2009 Wayne County Master Gardener Association "**Unsung Hero Award.**"

Professional and Educational Background:

Virginia earned a Master of Science in Administration, Central Michigan University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree, with majors in both English and Psychology, from Detroit's Wayne State University. Additionally, she completed post graduate work, along with several legal assistant courses at Madonna University. She retired following a 35 year career as a writer and editor at Ford Motor Company.

YOUTH GARDEN- ING ACTIVITIES PANEL

Ronnie Dush, Chairman of the Michigan Garden Club, Youth Activities will lead a panel discussion on "***What Michigan Garden Clubs around the state are doing in the area of Youth Activities.***" Find out how your Club can increase it's participation in youth gardening activities for children 5-18 years of age.

It will be a fast moving, inspirational and information packed session with Question and Answer period at the end.

NITA CAMPBELL

Title: **Cocktail Gardening—From Garden to Glass**

Nita Campbell has been growing herbs for the past 35 years. She started after reading Rosalyn Creasey's book the *Edible Landscape* and proving to her husband that herbs aren't just from McCormick's.

Cocktails in the Garden starts when the lovage comes in bloom...all the neighbors are invited over for the harvesting and making of bloody mary's. and the sampling of herbal creations.

