Garden Speakers Virtual Schedule Spring 2021

Feb. 23-Michael Valenti, Delaware Forest Service, "Managing Forests for Recreation and multiple other uses", The benefits that outdoor recreation provides are needed more today than ever before. Our forests help to ensure the health of our natural resources, provide recreational opportunities, manage wildfires, guard against invasive threats, and work with state and private forest landowners.

March 2-Elaine Schmerling, DE Invasive Species Council, Natural Lands Steward, Village of Ardentown, "Lanternflies"; Elaine will share directions for easy wildlife-friendly spotted lanternfly traps that anyone can make and will explain how well they worked in Arden and other areas. She will also show us how to find, scrape and destroy the egg masses.

March 9-Charles Shattuck, Wild Birds Unlimited, Hockessin-"What, When and How to feed the birds" Is there a difference in birdseed? Do we feed all summer? What kind of feeder works best? What about suet, bark butter, fruit and other kinds of food? Charles will answer all of your bird feeding questions.

March 16-Ron Simpson, Master Gardener-"Tree Selections for Delaware", This presentation will discuss tree species suitable for Delaware and the surrounding area. The emphasis will be on native trees and their importance to local ecosystems, but well-behaved exotics will be highlighted as well. Some newly significant pests and diseases will also be discussed.

March 23-Joe Sebastiani or Annalie Mergenthaler, Delaware Nature Society, "iNaturalist" iNaturalist is a free app that helps you to identify the plants and animals around you and connects you with a community of over 750,000 scientists and naturalists who help you learn about nature. Sharing your observations creates quality data for scientists working to understand and protect nature.

March 30-Michael Moore, Professor of Biology, retired, and Secretary of the Dragonflies Society of the Americas, "Dragonflies," These insects are instantly recognizable by their large bodies; four long, horizontal wings; and the way they hover and zip around. Dragonflies are famous for eating mosquitoes and flies, as well as occasionally other flying insects like moths. Dragonflies eat their own weight, or even more, in harmful insects on a daily basis.

April 6-Brian Kunkel, PhD, Ornamental IPM Extension Specialist, "IPM", Integrated Pest Management is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices. These programs use current, comprehensive information on the life cycles of pests and their interaction with the environment.
April 13—Sharee Solow, Solow Horticultural Designs—“New Perennials for 2021”,
Looking for new plant varieties for your garden? Sharee’s list of the best new
perennials for 2021 will give you ideas for your shopping list. Every year garden
centers introduce new flowers, shrubs and trees as well as improved varieties of
old favorites.

April 20—Jules Bruck, PhD, Professor and Director of Landscape Architecture,
“Applecross: Lessons from a Contemporary Landscape Project” is a
sustainable demonstration project in the northern New Castle County community
of that name. Designed and installed by UD researchers & students, it displays
sustainable practices that reduce the lawn area of a residence by 50 percent while
maintaining enough space for circulation, play and entertaining.

April 27—Kathleen Salisbury, Director, Ambler Arboretum of Temple University,
“The Gardens of Ambler”, a 187-acre-site at the suburban Ambler Campus. The
diverse grounds include many different gardens and trees. Visitors are welcome to
visit and stroll the grounds of this historic public garden that celebrates
sustainability, the health benefits of gardens, and the history of women in
horticulture, agriculture, and design.

May 4—Ann Hapka—“Fun Facts About Vegetables and How to Grow Them”
Which tomatoes are sweetest? Is there credible research about companion
planting? Which seeds grow better when started outdoors? What common
vegetable must be planted away from the others? Why remove the tops of freshly
picked root vegetables? Do you know your persephone period and did carrots
really help to win the Trojan War?

Our class objectives are to explore a variety of information relating to
horticulture and to have fun sharing gardening experiences!

Your suggestions for topics or speakers are always welcome!

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