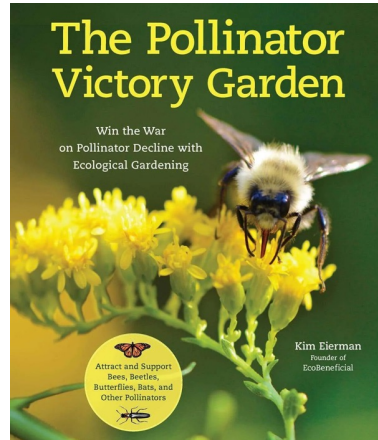




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January 11 – KEYNOTE
Beyond Sustainability Using our Landscapes as a Source for Environmental Change
10:30 am – 12:30 pm

10:30-Noon presentation, Noon – 12:30 p.m. Q&A
by Kim Eierman

Bio – Kim Eierman is the Founder of EcoBeneficial LLC. She is an environmental horticulturist and ecological landscape designer specializing in native plants. Based in New York, Kim teaches at the New York Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, The Native Plant Center, Rutgers Home Gardeners School and several other institutions.

Kim is an active speaker nationwide on many ecological landscape topics, presenting for industry conferences, sustainability events, corporate events, environmental organizations, and other groups interested in environmental improvements. Kim also provides horticultural consulting and native landscape design to homeowners and commercial clients, including landscape architects and engineers.

In addition to being a Certified Horticulturist through the American Society for Horticultural Science, Kim is an Accredited Organic Landcare Professional, a Steering Committee member of The Native Plant Center, and a member of The Ecological Landscape Alliance and Garden Communicators International.

Kim is the author of the book, [*The Pollinator Victory Garden: Win the War on Pollinator Decline with Ecological Gardening*](#)

Talk Description - Our environment has never been more fragile, but our traditional landscapes are escalating the problem. A landscape is more than a combination of trees, shrubs and perennials – it's complex system where all living things are connected. Landscaping with an ecosystem approach contributes to species diversity, attracting and supporting the crashing populations of birds, butterflies, pollinators, and beneficial insects. Kim Eierman explains how the design choices we make, the plants we select, and the maintenance practices we use, can transition traditional landscapes into healthy ecosystems filled with life. Learn how our landscapes can go beyond sustainability and become a source of environmental change.





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January 18 – Garden Design with Native Plants

10:30 am – 12:30 pm

10:30-Noon presentation, Noon – 12:30 p.m. Q&A

by Natalie Ross

Bio - Natalie is a registered landscape architect and owner of Ross Land Studio, a landscape architecture firm that creates resilient and sustainable landscapes for residents, businesses and institutions. After gaining a Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Minnesota, Natalie got her start designing landscapes in Seattle, working on large scale resort design, campus planning and green roofs. Now in her hometown of Cedar Rapids, she finds inspiration from the remnant prairies and woodlands, and tries to bring elements of those ecosystems into her client's homes and businesses

Talk Description – Explore the fundamental building blocks of great garden design that involves and highlights Iowa's native plant species. Both practical and philosophical, this course will equip you with all the skills needed to make the most out of your garden, from learning how to plot your plants for optimum structure, layering and coverage and choosing the right plants for your ecosystem, to planning the framework for your garden and learning to provide year-round interest through the use of a considered plant palette.





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January 25 – Healthy Lawns, Healthy People

10:30 am – 12:30 pm

10:30-Noon presentation, Noon – 12:30 p.m. Q&A

by Brittany Latch and Kamryn Waymire

Bio - Brittany Latch is the Environmental Health Program Associate at the Center for Energy & Environmental Education located on the University of Northern Iowa campus and manages Good Neighbor Iowa.

Bio - Kamryn Waymire is an AmeriCorps Service Member and the Environmental Health Outreach Coordinator for Good Neighbor Iowa.

Talk Description - Good Neighbor Iowa is a statewide public health education initiative encouraging pesticide-free lawn management practices. Residents and community leaders across Iowa can pledge to be "Good Neighbors", joining others in the state that choose to manage their lawns without pesticides for the health of children, pets, water quality, and pollinators. Kamryn and Brittany will share insights into the critical intersection of environmental health and community action, highlighting the benefits of urban pesticide-free landscapes.





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February 1 – Bees, Birds, Bats & Butterflies ... oh my!

10:30 am – 12:30 pm

10:30-Noon presentation, Noon – 12:30 p.m. Q&A

by Lisa Hinzman Howard

Bio – coming soon

Talk Description - Discover how you can attract pollinators to your garden and help them thrive. We'll touch on why supporting pollinators matters, plant selection, hardscapes to help our flying friends in addition to habitat dos and don'ts for creating your own pollinator friendly paradise.





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February 8 – Native Trees: Working Smarter, Not Harder

10:30 am – 12:30 pm

10:30-Noon presentation, Noon – 12:30 p.m. Q&A

by Lee Goldsmith

Bio – Nursery (wo)man and owner, Lee, has over ten years of nursery and conservation experience. She earned a B.A. in Ecology from the University of Northern Iowa, where she fell in love with field trips, plant I.D. and work caring for plants at the Botanical Center on campus. Afterward, she worked with grapevines, looking deep at abiotic stress in woody plants while she earned an M.S. in Horticulture from Iowa State University. Now, she found her favorite career as a nursery (wo)man, providing native, ecologically-relevant ornamental plant material for anyone looking for something real, and something beautiful.

Talk Description – This lecture will feature native trees of Iowa, their key identification features, native range, landscape uses, and other noteworthy facts. Participants will learn how to best incorporate native trees into landscape designs and the ecological services provided by these important species. With their vast knowledge in nursery management, Lee will also discuss sourcing native trees and how to successfully manage them in your own landscape.





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February 15 – Heirloom Vegetables: Creating a Holistic Garden

10:30 am – 12:30 pm

10:30-Noon presentation, Noon – 12:30 p.m. Q&A

by Kate Rowe

Bio - Kate Rowe, Seed Savers Exchange Evaluation Manager, began farming near Chicago after earning her graduate degree from Savannah College of Art and Design and serving in AmeriCorps. Later, Kate moved to the East Coast, where she started a restaurant farm, managed a CSA farm, worked on small-scale dairies, made cheese, and eventually ran her own small farm. As the SSE Evaluation Manager, Kate is responsible for growing out, evaluating, and collecting data from select varieties in the SSE seed collection, coordinating trials for the Collection to Catalog initiative, and running the community science ADAPT program.

Talk Description - Learn about the importance of biodiversity in our food system in addition to tips and tricks on seed saving from the Evaluation Manager at Seed Savers Exchange, Kate Rowe. Topics will include heirloom varieties, setting up your garden for success, companion planting, and interplanting vegetables with flowers for pollinators and beauty in the garden!





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February 22 – Stewarding Your Lawn & Garden for Water Quality

10:30 am – 12:30 pm

10:30-Noon presentation, Noon – 12:30 p.m. Q&A

by Catherine DeLong

Bio - Catherine DeLong is the Water Quality Program Manager for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. She works statewide to bring people together to share resources, ideas and perspectives about water quality, and to help Iowans understand the role they can play in Iowa's water future. Catherine connects researchers to practitioners and the general public and helps to translate water quality science to a broad audience. She leads or co-leads educational programs for agricultural landowners, farmers, conservation professionals and private well owners. Catherine has experience at all levels of the water quality-conservation nexus, having previously worked for the county-level Soil and Water Conservation Districts as well as an international non-profit serving conservation professionals.

Talk Description - Attendees will learn about the role of gardens and lawns in Iowa's water quality and tactics for managing water on your land in a way that supports water quality across the state.





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March 1 – Growing a Greener Garden: Native Garden implementation and Management **10:30 am – 12:30 pm**

10:30-Noon presentation, Noon – 12:30 p.m. Q&A
by Dan Schutte

Bio - Dan Schutte started growing Minnesota-native plants over a decade ago as a hobby and hasn't looked back. With over 15 years of environmental education and natural resource management experience, he holds a strong passion for transitioning outdoor spaces into landscapes that support our declining pollinator populations. Dan was a Peace Corps volunteer in Paraguay, served on the Minnesota Governor's Committee for Pollinator Protection from 2016-2018, and currently lives with his family in Two Harbors, Minnesota where he owns and operates Shoreview Natives. He holds B.S. degrees in Biology and Environmental Science from Iowa State University, and a Masters of Teaching and Learning from Colorado State University.

Talk Description – Dan Schutte will share some of the key process steps that his company has used as they have grown over 500,000 native plants and installed hundreds of residential and commercial pollinator gardens in northern Minnesota. Dan is eager to connect people with the knowledge and resources to make creating and managing native landscapes easy and accessible, and motivated to help people realize their potential to grow plants and establish beautiful, low-maintenance native gardens and pollinator habitats.





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