

# 2018 Speakers' Bureau Presentation Descriptions

## **Herbs**

### *Lavender: an Ancient Herb That Belongs in Your Garden*

Lavender has been cultivated for thousands of years; it brings with it a rich and curious tale of medicinal, cosmetic, and horticultural usages. This presentation will delve into its history, its uses, and its properties. It will also provide information on the plant's preferred growing conditions, the proper cultivars for this area, and the propagating techniques for this lovely and ancient herb. Additionally, everyone will receive recipes and instructions for craft projects to make lavender a part of your home.

### *The Herb Garden*

Herbs have enhanced our senses and have made our food more palatable since before history was recorded. Learn some of the fun facts as well as the practical aspects of having an herb garden of your own. This course will also instruct participants on how to preserve herbs.

## **Fruits and Vegetables**

### *Raised Beds for Vegetable Gardens*

This program will demonstrate how raised-bed vegetable gardens will improve soil conditions to obtain maximum crop yields. The discussion will include making raised beds, planting companion crops, rotating crops, and germinating seeds at home. A discussion of buying nursery grown plants for your vegetable garden is important to successful crops. Part of the program will include utilizing various garden materials to combat adverse weather conditions and preparing the vegetable garden for winter.

### *Understanding Wine*

For those who have an appreciation of wine which goes beyond just drinking it, this program will explore the history of wine as well as the growing of the grapes and the making of the final product. We also will discuss wines from around the world and the wines which do best in each region, paying special attention to US wines.

### *Crops in Pots: Growing Vegetables in Containers*

Even without a large garden, organically grown vegetables are possible on patios, balconies, and decks. By using the right container, rich soil, proper watering techniques, and maximum sunlight, lettuce, tomatoes, carrots and many more vegetables are steps away from the kitchen. With the addition of colorful annuals, crops in pots are attractive elements to the landscape.

### *Edible Landscaping*

The possibilities are endless and oh, so inviting! Edible Landscaping is a beautiful, sustainable, and tasty alternative to traditional landscaping. Many trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants with edible parts can serve the same function as ornamentals and can look just as good. This program will explore ways of adding fruit, vegetables, and herbs to your existing beds, borders, and containers.

### *Year-round Organic Vegetable Gardening*

Learn how to maximize the space you have and to organically grow vegetables and fruits all year long! This program is taught by two Master Gardeners who have utilized their property in the midst of a development to create a mini-farm which sustains their yearly vegetable and fruit needs without using chemical fertilizers or chemical pest control.

## **Ornamental Horticulture**

### *Improve an Existing Lawn*

This important presentation will help homeowners improve their lawns themselves by following several simple practices. It will discuss organic versus synthetic products, will recommend fertilizing procedures, will explain soil pH testing, and will demonstrate methods of weed and crabgrass control.

### *Ornamental Grasses*

This program will introduce the characteristics and landscape uses of various genera of ornamental grasses grown in Rockland. Specific facts on purchasing, planting, and maintaining these grasses will help homeowners decide which grasses are best for their yards. Also included in this program is information on those grasses which are considered invasive by the DEC as well as those grasses which are native and grow well in Rockland.

### *Using Annuals and Perennials in the Garden*

Do you want constant color and blooms in your garden? This course will provide you with the knowledge to effectively use annuals and perennials in gardens of all styles. You will learn about the different types of annuals and perennials from which to choose to create a beautiful, healthy garden that will bloom all season long.

### *Gardening in the Shade*

Many Rockland gardeners begin with a sunny landscape, but as trees grow and mature, gardeners are faced with abundant shade. This is not a negative change as it opens up new possibilities for shrubs, perennials, and even annuals. This class will discuss the plants that are made for the shade and how gardeners can use them effectively to create a beautiful environment.

### *Growing Roses in Rockland County*

During this presentation we will share the basics on rose care from choosing the right cultivars

and varieties for the site and conditions. We will explain planting, pruning, and controlling pests to maintain healthy roses. Finally, we will discuss preparing the rose beds for spring.

### *Winter Container Gardening*

This lively and informative presentation highlights valuable tips and easy techniques for growing ornamentals and miniature evergreens throughout the fall and winter. It will also demonstrate different methods of decorating the containers with branches, berries, and twigs for the holiday season. Through the use of live, winter-hardy plants and shrubs that have interesting texture and form, the winter container will provide long-lasting color through the cold, snowy months.

### *Container Gardening for Spring and Summer*

Decorate your patio, deck, and/or a hard-to-grow area of the garden with annuals, perennials, and bulbs in containers. This discussion explains the difference among the many materials used in planting containers; it also recommends the type of soil best used as well as techniques for watering and fertilizing for all containers. Plant selection, color coordination, and placement to solve garden problems are all part of *Container Gardening*.

### *Flowering Bulbs from Spring to Fall*

Flowering bulbs in your garden does not just mean growing daffodils in the spring. Learn how to grow a wide variety of annual and perennial bulbs that bring a succession of bloom from early spring through the fall. Also covered are strategies to keep your bulbs from becoming a furry critter buffet.

## **Indoor Horticulture**

### **\*NEW for 2018\*** *Caring for Winter Holiday Plants: Amaryllis, Poinsettia, and Christmas Cactus*

This program will begin with a general discussion on selecting and caring for indoor plants. Then, it will demonstrate how poinsettias, amaryllis, and Christmas cactus can survive beyond the holidays. By carefully placing these plants in the proper indoor environment, they can bloom holiday after holiday.

### *Table-Top Gardens: Bonsai, Terrariums, & Kokedama*

Outdoor gardeners who long to keep their thumbs “green” during the long, icy winter months will enjoy turning their attention to gardening indoors. This program will demystify the ancient and widely practiced art of the Bonsai. Also, it will demonstrate the techniques used to create beautiful terrariums and indoor garden baskets for any room in the house.

### *Decorating with Houseplants*

This program will begin with a discussion of the selection and care of indoor plants for any room. Then it will show how houseplants can make the home a living, green environment by

creating privacy for an exposed living room, by keeping the house's air pure, and by adding humidity in a dry room.

### *Growing and Caring for Indoor Plants*

Extend your gardening season by growing tropical houseplants indoors all year long. Learn which plants grow best in your home environment and when to fertilize, to divide, and to repot the plants. This program will also include a discussion of keeping insects and diseases under control.

### *Orchids*

Orchids were once thought to be rare, intimidating plants which were available only to the h Today orchids are less formidable houseplants that are available to all. This presentation will discuss how orchids grow and how the average homeowner can care for them. It will examine various types of orchids as well as recommend the best species for a beginner. At the end of the presentation everyone will know the answer to the most asked question. "How do I get my orchid to rebloom?"

### *Starting Seeds Indoors and Outdoors*

Seeds are marvelous little packages of plants just waiting to grow up in your garden. This presentation will discuss how and when to start seeds indoors and how to nurture the seedlings until they are ready to plant outdoors. It will also cover how and when to sow seeds directly into your garden.

## **Eco-friendly Gardening**

### **\*New for 2018\*** *Native Plants for Your Garden*

Discover a selection of **native** flowers, shrubs, and trees that will add beauty to your landscape, are easy to grow, and readily found in garden centers. Learn how native plants are defined and how by adding them to the garden, they will enhance the health of the local ecosystem/

### *Managing Weeds and Common Invasive Plants in Home Gardens*

Armed with a little knowledge, there are ways to prevent invasive species from taking over a home garden or yard. This presentation will focus on mechanical ways and least toxic methods of managing and possibly eradicating a list of 12 common yet pesky invasive terrestrial plants.

### *Creating Compost: The Gardener's Gold*

By using kitchen scraps and other materials found in and around the home, you can create a rich, nutritious additive to the soil which will benefit all plants and vegetables. Composting helps to save money and to keep the garden and the environment green, and to prevent enlarging landfills.

### *Trash to Garden Treasure*

This presentation will emphasize using recyclable materials in the garden. Rather than sending plastic water bottles, metal cans, empty wine bottles, tires, and even construction items such as gutters and step ladders to the landfill, these discards can become creative and playful containers for indoor and outdoor plantings. This program also will offer a discussion of composting kitchen scraps and yard waste.

### *Identifying Native Plants in a Rockland Park*

An introduction to Rockland County's Kakiat Park focuses on the identification, location and appreciation of the native trees and flowering plants in the park as seen during various phases of the spring and summer growing season. It also touches on the topography, configuration and hiking-walking trails of the park interwoven with a bit of history. At the end of the program, you will be given materials so you may take a self-guided tour in any season.

### *Bee Friendly Backyards*

Our native bees and insects are struggling; we can help to improve their lot and preserve their important role in our ecosystems. This class will show participants how to attract native bees and insects to backyards and gardens by creating beautifully designed, pollinator-friendly habitats.

## **Garden Design**

### **\*NEW for 2018\*** *Dealing with Wildlife in Your Backyard*

Deer and other wildlife are a constant threat to your plantings and home gardens. This talk will address the primary wildlife challenges in our area. It will discuss the behaviors and habits of the primary invaders such as deer, rabbits, groundhogs and chipmunks and suggest viable options for limiting their damage.

### *Reclaiming a Backyard from the Hudson River*

On October 26, Superstorm Sandy sent a massive tidal surge up the Hudson River destroying some homes and filling others with three to five feet of water. As the wave receded back to the Hudson, it dragged away many back yards which compromised the understructure of the properties as well as the houses. This program invites you to share the experience of one homeowner as she watched Sandy's devastation on her home and property and as she systematically restored the house and reclaimed the land from the Hudson River.

### *Pruning*

Pruning is essential to maintaining healthy and attractive trees and shrubs, yet many fear this simple and often pleasant task. This presentation will cover the proper use and selection of tools, common landscape trees and shrubs that need pruning, the times of year to prune, and the basics on how it is done. Participants will come away with confidence and knowledge so they may care for the woody plants in their landscapes.

### ***Using Stone and Pavers in Your Landscape***

Learn how to use natural stone, pavers, and artificial stone to construct dry free standing and retaining stone walls, walkways, and other hardscapes. This class will provide the do-it-yourselfer with some of the basics of hardscape design and planning that result in functional convenience and visual appeal while still respecting the softer elements in the overall landscape.

### ***Garden Design for Beginners***

In this class you will learn how to use the principles of design to plan a garden or to rejuvenate an existing property. The topics will include site evaluation and components of the design process such as the use of color, the role of structure, and characteristics of plants. The “why” and “how” will enable you to apply the principles as you plan a garden.

### ***Putting the Garden to Bed***

What should you do in the fall to ready your garden for spring? This program demonstrates the best methods to use in the fall to create the best garden in the spring! Learn what to do in the fall to improve soil quality, to protect perennials, tender plants, trees, and shrubs from winter conditions. Finally, the program will explain how to bring in the house plants, how to winterize tools, and how to prepare water sources for the winter season.

### ***Starting a Garden from Scratch***

Whether you live in a condo or house, you can create the garden of your dreams; it's easier than you think! This presentation provides you with inspirational tips and techniques for site and soil preparation. Garden styles such as traditional beds, raised beds, vegetable gardens, and containers are also included. You will gain confidence, so you can create and maintain that dream garden you are longing for. Whether it is a vegetable garden that delivers home produce or a colorful flower garden that attracts butterflies and hummingbirds, we'll teach you how to reach your gardening goals.