



18th Annual



Saturday,
April 26th

2025 SPRING GARDEN FEST CLASS & WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

SESSION ONE: 9am - 10:15am

Why Should I Care About Invasives

Instructor: *Pat Lust*

Bio: Pat Lust, retired Longwood University faculty member and long-time Master Gardener, spends a lot of time growing native plants and talking about them. Her backyard nursery focuses mostly on perennials and bushes but includes a few other types of plants as well. If you get to know her, she says, you will probably be adopting more native plants for your own garden!

Class Description: Invasive plants have been intentionally or accidentally introduced by humans, have escaped into the wild, and are causing harm to the natural habitat. In 21st century horticulture the word invasive is not just a descriptive word, it is a red-flag word identifying harmful plants in the wild. In this class you will learn to identify them and remove them before they crowd out and destroy our native flora.

Soil Erosion

Instructor: *George Schuette*

Bio: George Schuette moved to Virginia in 2017 after retiring as an industrial research chemist working on natural gas processing, carbon capture, and solar energy conversion projects. He grew up in a farming community in southern Illinois where soil erosion was a common problem. As an Extension Master Gardener, he has a particular interest in learning how to mitigate soil erosion due to urbanization and its impact on the Chesapeake Bay water quality.

Class Description: Soil erosion due to human activity can affect natural environments far removed from the erosion site. The growth of major metropolitan areas in Virginia is increasing the land area covered by impermeable hardscapes. This same trend in neighboring states threatens the Chesapeake Bay. Hardscape (roofs, sidewalks, roadways) increases runoff flowrates during heavy rains and thus the potential for soil

erosion along streams and rivers. Our residential neighborhoods play a surprising role in the long-range impact of soil erosion. In this class its connection to the natural structure of soils will be discussed in detail, along with best practices for homeowners to minimize soil erosion in their landscapes.

Utilizing Degree Days and Plant Phenology to Help Mitigate Problematic Insects

Instructor: *Jim Revel*

Bio: Jim Revel has been a dedicated Master Gardener volunteer since 2002 serving as President and Training Coordinator for Bedford Area Master Gardeners Association for multiple years. For the past 25+ years, Jim has been growing fruits and vegetables to organic standards. He is a strong proponent of cultivating beneficial insects and protecting pollinators. Jim also supports his community as a founding Board member and the Garden Manager of Bedford Urban Gardens (BUG), an organic-focused community rental and “giving” garden established in 2013.

Class Description: How do temperature and moisture levels impact insect populations? What are Degree Days (aka Growing Degree Days) and are they important in relation to insect activity? How are Degree Days calculated? Can Degree Days be effectively incorporated into Integrated Pest Management strategies for the home vegetable gardener (would you like to be able to implement IPM controls to help target insects at their most susceptible life stage)? What is Plant Phenology and its correlation to determining crop planting dates and best times to initiate IPM strategies? Learn about these valuable tools for the home gardener and how these methods can help mitigate problematic insects in your vegetable garden!

Color in the Landscape Year-Round

Instructor: *Elizabeth Chodrow*

Bio: Elizabeth Chodrow is a recently retired high school art educator who relocated to Powhatan, Virginia from NOVA. Inspired years ago by her Master Gardener father and his passion for maintaining beautiful color in his own landscape year-round, and her own artistic design practices, she has sought to capture the aspects of the seasons using color and texture in her various home landscapes. Elizabeth became a Master Gardener in 2024 and is an active member of the Goochland Powhatan Master Gardener Association.

Class Description: Color is one of the most noticeable and memorable elements in a yard or landscape. In this workshop, we’ll consider color as a design element and how to

use color relationships within the landscape. We'll explore strategies for maintaining year-round color in a yard or landscape by focusing on intentional planning choices that "grow" in seasonal color.

What's Wrong with My Orchid? WORKSHOP

Instructor: *Art Chadwick*

Bio: Art Chadwick founded Chadwick & Son Orchids Inc in 1989 with his father who had been growing orchids since 1943. The Chadwick's first book, *The Classic Cattleyas*, was favorably reviewed by Martha Stewart and both Chadwicks were guests on her TV Show. Art has also spoken at two World Orchid Conferences - France 2005 and Ecuador 2017.

Chadwick's operates 11 greenhouses in rural Powhatan County, two retail stores in Richmond, and boards over 13,000 orchids for local clients. The company has been featured in *Southern Living* magazine, *The New York Times*, *Bloomberg News*, *Smithsonian* magazine, *Better Homes and Gardens*, *The Washington Post*, *The CBS Evening News*, and *Oprah* magazine.

Class Description: Come join us for an informative and exciting workshop learning about various Orchids including Cattleyas and Phalaenopsis. The topics covered will be proper lighting, watering, soil, and repotting. Repotting will be exhibited and you are invited to bring in your ailing Orchid for analysis. Bring in your tired, beloved plant and learn how to bring it back to life. Or just learn which Orchid would be a good first try at collecting this exciting and intoxicating plant.



SESSION TWO: 10:30am - 11:45am

Identification & Management of Invasive Plants

Instructor: *Tim Maywalt*

Bio: Tim Maywalt has a master's degree in forestry from the School of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse University. Upon retiring, he took Tree Steward training to become knowledgeable about invasive plant identification and treatment. As

a volunteer on the grounds crew at Monticello, Tim removed English ivy from over 2000 trees and then expanded to a wider range of invasive plant treatment, mainly in public parks and open spaces. He joined the Blue Ridge PRISM at its inception and trains on invasive plant identification and treatment for PRISM, Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, Tree Stewards and the Charlottesville Invasive Plant Partnership.

Class Description: It used to be difficult to find native plants for our gardens. We planted what looked attractive, unaware that some of what we were planting was invasive and had significant negative impacts on the ecosystem we live in. In this class we'll look at some of these plants and what we can do about them if we still have them around (and just can't part with them.)

Organic Vegetable Gardening: Interplanting vegetables, attracting beneficial insects and deterring pests

Instructor: *Pam Dawling*

Bio: Pam Dawling is the author of *The Year-Round Hoophouse* and *Sustainable Market Farming*. She has worked in the vegetable gardens at Twin Oaks Community in central Virginia for 30 years, growing vegetables for 100 people and training many members in sustainable vegetable production. She often presents workshops at sustainable agriculture conferences and events. Pam is also a contributing editor with *Growing for Market* and writes for other magazines, and she does consultancy work and teaching. Pam also writes a weekly blog post on her website sustainablemarketfarming.com.

Class Description: Learn to grow a more productive garden with fewer pests! Diversity in the vegetable garden attracts a wide range of insects and other life forms and can confuse pests. In some cases, two vegetable crops can be planted in a bed to grow as a relay team, with the second using more of the space as the first winds down. This can save you space, reduce tilling or digging, and make multiple use of mulch or row-cover.

Give and Take: A Review of Pollinator-Flower Coevolution

Instructor: *John Few*

Bio: Powhatan County Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent John L. Few IV obtained his B.S. In Agriculture from Virginia State University in 2016 and his M. S. in Entomology from Virginia Tech. John specializes in integrated pest management of row crops but has an interest in all fields of agriculture. When he is not educating farmers about current management practices, he enjoys sharing his love of insects with others through fun and educational discussions.

Class Description: We all know that flowers attract pollinators, but do you know their history? Join us in learning about the history of how flowers have coevolved with pollinators to bring us the beautiful flora and fauna we see today!

Virginia Native Plants for a Small Garden

Instructor: *Sheryl Smith*

Bio: Sheryl Smith had been an organic gardener for many years. In 2016, she read Doug Tallamy's book 'Bringing Nature Home' and got hooked on native plants. She is a certified Virginia Master Naturalist volunteer, a member of Wild Ones, and a member of the Virginia Native Plant Society. In 2022, she organized the first annual Native Plant Garden Open House in the Richmond area and she organized the first annual fall native plant swap. In 2024, at the third annual swap, over 100 people attended and over 1000 native plants found new homes!

Class Description: Many people would like to plant native plants in their yards, but don't have a lot of space. This presentation will highlight Virginia native plants that stay small and are not too rambunctious. Includes mostly perennial flowers, with some grasses, ferns, and shrubs. There will be a handout with a description of each plant: what pollinators and baby butterflies/moths it supports, how to grow it, how big it gets, and other relevant information.

Getting More Plants Without Seeds or a Trip to the Nursery WORKSHOP

NOTE: This workshop requires an additional "Materials Fee" of \$15.

Instructor: *Pat Lust*

Bio: Pat Lust, retired Longwood University faculty member and long-time Master Gardener, spends a lot of time growing native plants and talking about them. Her backyard nursery focuses mostly on perennials and bushes but includes a few other types of plants as well. If you get to know her, she says, you will probably be adopting more native plants for your own garden!

Class Description: Plant propagation has many facets, and this workshop will focus on the ones that don't involve seeds – in other words, asexual plant propagation. We'll take a look at various types of stem and leaf cuttings and root divisions along with several examples from the geophytes category and participants will go home with their own 'starter' plants.



SESSION THREE: 1:30pm - 2:45pm

Plant This, Not That for 2025: Native Alternatives

Instructor: *Laura Lee Lemmon*

Bio: Laura Lemmon's journey with native plant gardening started with a mountain mint plant purchased for a troublesome corner in her traditional Richmond city garden. Once she saw the insects attracted by that little spot of wild, she wanted to learn more. Laura moved out of the city in 2016 and is currently re-wilding a backyard wood line and building a pollinator garden in Powhatan County which has involved pulling out lots of stilt grass and invasive lespedeza. Laura is a member of the Virginia Native Plant Society, Wild Ones, and is a founding member of the Forest Hill Gardeners in Richmond. She completed Master Gardening training in 2024 and is a member of GPMGA.

Class Description: "Plant this, not that!" is a battle cry for native plant enthusiasts and conservationists alike. This session will cover native or other desirable plant replacements for invasive plants in your garden or an area where you are un-lawning or re-wilding.

Birds in the Garden

Instructor: *Mark Fink*

Bio: Dr. Mark Fink is a Professor of Biology at Longwood University. A native of the Midwest, he began his teaching career at Longwood in 2001 after completing his PhD in Biological Sciences at the University of Missouri. His research interests include wildlife biology, conservation biology, ecology, and ornithology. At Longwood, Dr. Fink enjoys teaching Ornithology, Conservation Biology, Ecology and Evolution, and Senior Seminar. He is an active supporter of the Southside SPCA and currently serves as President of the Board for that organization.

Class Description: This presentation will focus on the fascinating world of bird nests, nesting behavior, and avian reproductive ecology. Dr. Fink will discuss some of his

research on the ecology and behavior of nesting birds as well as interesting facts and figures concerning this critical period of the avian life cycle. We will also consider the decline of migratory songbirds and a number of important avian conservation issues. Finally, ideas will be presented in ways to support conservation efforts by attracting nesting birds to your property.

Rose Rosette Disease

Instructor: *Gary Roemmich*

Bio: Gary Roemmich retired after 30 years of service as a surface warfare officer in the U.S. Navy. Following his retirement, he became a professor at the Joint Forces Staff College in several roles and earned a Doctorate in Philosophy in Instructional Design and Technology from Old Dominion University (ODU). In retirement, he developed a keen interest in gardening, particularly after facing the devastation of Rose Rosette Disease. To better understand this disease and its spread, he has become an active member of the Goochland-Powhatan Master Gardener Association (GPMGA).

Class Description: Rose Rosette Disease (RRD) was first observed on the slopes of the Rocky Mountains more than 80 years ago. Since its discovery, RRD has gradually spread throughout the country, often devastating rose beds. Once a rose is infected, it is almost certain to die. In this class, we will explore the details of the disease, how it spreads, and how to identify it. We will also discuss appropriate responses once RRD is detected and outline steps gardeners can take to reduce the likelihood of infection and minimize the impact on other roses in the garden. Additionally, we will consider alternative garden options to roses.

No Sun, No Problem ~ Tips from an Accidental Shade Gardener for Creating Your Own Low-Light Oasis

Instructor: *Joanne Royalty*

Bio: A native New Yorker, Joanne and her family have made their home in the Northern Shenandoah Valley since 1977. Joanne earned her Bachelors and MBA at Shenandoah University. After early retirement, Joanne became an Extension Master Gardener and learned about a vital community resource – The Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE). When the opportunity came about for her to work at the Frederick County VCE office as the Program Associate Consumer Horticulture and Invasive Species, she was thrilled! It felt like 'coming home' to a place where she could again use her knowledge, expertise and passion to have a meaningful impact on our community.

Class Description: This class will explore the evolution from a 'plant murderer' attempting to make sun-loving plants thrive in a shade environment to becoming a shade gardener transforming a small garden into a cool and serene oasis.

Rain Barrel WORKSHOP

NOTE: This workshop requires an additional "Materials Fee" of \$65.

Instructors: *Bob Whitehead & Kaye Mallow*

Bio: Kaye Mallow lives in Powhatan and completed the Master Gardening training in 2022. She is a farm girl from the mountains of West Virginia but has been a Virginia resident since 1992. She is retired from the Federal court system. She has 2 children, 9 grandchildren, a dog, and 7 cats. A history buff and a genealogy addict, she also enjoys home improvement projects, landscaping, and vegetable and flower gardening.

Class Description: It's impossible to garden successfully without water. Harvest the precious resource of rainwater for just that purpose! Reduce the wasted water going into your storm drains. During this two-hour workshop, you will build your own 55-gallon rain barrel to take home with you. All materials and tools are provided to complete your rain barrel project.