

# Kansas Advanced Master Gardener Training

## Seminar Descriptions

### **Morning Keynote Speaker**

Gregg Hadley is the KSRE Director for Extension and is responsible for ensuring that the people of Kansas receive the research, education and facilitation needed to empower them to make decisions that improve their lives, livelihoods, communities, state, nation and world. In the opening session, Dr. Hadley will be speaking on the relationship between Extension and Extension Master Gardeners.

### **Natives & Pollinators**

#### **Guide to Planting Natives in NE Kansas**

*Sharon Ashworth, Horticulture Program Assistant, KSRE Douglas County*

The Planting Natives in northeast Kansas Project, undertaken by KSRE Douglas County in collaboration with the Kansas Rural Center and Grassland Heritage Foundation, will provide essential information and guidance to landowners and urban homeowners on how to reconstruct and manage prairie and garden with native plants. For gardeners, the Guide includes plant lists designed for NE Kansas and a list of regional plant suppliers, making it easier for homeowners to add beneficial native plants to their landscapes.

#### **Prairie Reconstruction**

*Brad Rueschoff, District Wildlife Biologist, Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism*

Planning and establishment of native grasses, forbs and legumes including management of new and existing plantings. I will also cover state and federal wildlife habitat programs which may be available to help with implementation and cost share.

#### **Gardening for Birds**

*Jennifer Delisle, Board of Directors, Jayhawk Audubon Society*

The Jayhawk Audubon Society is partnering with National Audubon to promote the use of native plants in our yards, neighborhood parks, and public spaces. Growing bird-friendly plants will attract the birds we love while making our spaces beautiful, easy to care for, and better for the environment. Audubon's Plants for Birds program is designed to enable all of us to have a positive impact by planting for birds, right where we live. This program will focus on the food preferences of backyard birds found in northeast Kansas and the native plants that supply that food, but the tips and tools are applicable statewide.

#### **Bee Lawns**

*Jennifer Moody, KS Biological Survey*

Pollinator or Flowering Lawns utilize a mix of flowering plants and turf grasses mown higher than standard turf lawns. Flowering lawns are designed to present a lawn aesthetic, while supplying resources for pollinators and promoting biodiversity. In my talk, I will provide a brief summary on use of flowering lawns around the world, followed by a discussion of developing native-only pollinator lawns for Kansas.

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### Water Conservation

#### **Phytoremediation**

*Charlie Barden, Professor, Horticulture Natural Resources*

Phytoremediation is the practice of using plants to remove pollutants from the environment. This presentation will describe 2 case studies using trees conducted in the Manhattan area to remove excessive nutrients (Biosolids Farm) and other chemicals (Old Chemical Landfill) from groundwater.

#### **Water Conservation in the Home Garden**

*Bessie Tolbert, Extension Master Gardener, Shawnee County*

Rain barrels, swales, rain gardens and carefully selected plants should all be tools home gardeners use to combat drought and our changing climate. Learn the details of each of these methods and how small changes can reduce the need for supplemental water in your garden!

#### **Aquaponics**

*Beth Wyatt, Extension Master Gardener, Wyandotte County*

Aquaponics - a combination of the aquaculture (growing fish) and hydroponics (growing soilless plants) system that mutually benefits both environments. Learn the history of aquaponics, how to set up a system, and the challenges to grow fish and plants successfully in one system.

#### **Drought Tolerant Plants**

*Dr. Jason Griffin, Professor & Director, John C. Pair Horticultural Center*

In regions of the country that experience regular drought cycles, drought tolerant plants should make up most of the typical landscape. Fortunately you don't have to sacrifice beauty or interest to be drought tolerant. This presentation will explore some drought adapted plants for Kansas and the surrounding region.

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### Edibles

#### **Conservation Practices in the Vegetable Garden**

*Tom Buller, Horticulture Extension Agent, Douglas County*

Learn about using practices such as no-till, cover cropping, and beneficial buffer strips to improve the health and productivity of your vegetable garden.

#### **Growing Tomatoes With Flair and Flavor!**

*Jason Graves, Horticulture Agent, Central Kansas District*

This presentation is on the all-time favorite vegetable that gardeners want to have success with, the tomato. There's nothing to compare to the taste of homegrown tomatoes on your dinner menu. That backyard tomato flavor we crave is an entire field of science still being discovered and explored. In this presentation we will explore some recent and useful studies of tomato taste and flavor and learn to apply that knowledge toward growing our own crop of delicious and flavorful garden tomatoes.

#### **Gardening for Food Access**

*Aundrea Shafer, Program Coordinator, Just Food.*

This presentation will provide some insight into the challenges of hunger in Kansas. Learn about how edible garden programs can be used to help boost food access across your community.

#### **The Giving Grove: Sustainable Urban Orchards**

*Matt Bunch, Giving Grove Orchards*

The horticulturist from the Giving Grove in Kansas City will be discussing their program for urban community orchards, and provide description of their recommended fruit tree varieties and sustainable management techniques.

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#### Leadership Skills

##### **Navigating Conflict: Dealing with “Unhappy” People**

*Diane Oakes, Coordinator for the Douglas County District Court Domestic Mediation Program*

Working with people can be both a rewarding and frustrating experience. This session will provide specific strategies for managing conflicts with difficult people, specifically:

understanding personality types; deflecting criticism, and effective communication strategies.

##### **Search for Excellence**

*Search for Excellence Award Winners*

In this question and answer session you will get the opportunity to hear about the best Master Gardener programs from across the state of Kansas! In addition to moderator questions, volunteers will have the opportunity to ask questions of their own and receive materials from these award winning programs.

##### **Plant-to-Plate**

*Lynn Loughary, Horticulture Agent, KSRE Wyandotte County*

This program is a series where school age youth learn about horticulture and nutrition utilizing interactive games and healthy snacks. The youth learn the relationship between growing plants and eating healthy plant foods – nutrition starts with foods derived from fruits, vegetables, and grains. In this session you’ll learn to teach each portion of the series; soils, plant needs, plant parts and function, digestive system, composting and the water cycle.

##### **Leadership When You’re Not In Charge**

*Kristen O’Shea, Owner, O’Shea Strengths Coaching*

Leadership is an activity not a position. Your role as a Master Gardner is vital to the success of K-State Research and Extension and more importantly the health of your communities. Kristen will highlight ways you can exercise leadership by using your natural strengths to make an even greater impact along with tips for communication to alleviate concerns of overstepping.

##### **Afternoon Keynote Speaker**

Ward Upham, the State Master Gardener Coordinator works a lot with the education component of the program, teaching classes at each of the 10 sites statewide. Also, Upham runs the Horticulture Response Center, which was started in 1996. The program is known for its’ Rapid Response’ with 90% of questions answered within 24 hours. Ward will speak on the history of the program he oversees in a talk entitled; The Kansas Master Gardener Program: A Brief History.

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