

SPEAKER AND SEMINAR INFORMATION

2010 Grand Rapids TGOA/MGCA Convention

Thursday:

10:00 AM: Keynote Speaker: Rebecca Finneran, “**Season Long Color**”

Color in the garden is a matter of opinion. Great gardens should unfold through the season like the scenes of a play. MSU Extension Horticulturist and garden writer Rebecca Finneran will illustrate through a brilliant cavalcade of color images, how each season in the garden reveals itself from the snow kissed mornings of winter through the warmth of the following seasons.

11:00 – 11:45 AM: 3 seminars, choose 1

- “**Photography – Part 1**” by Sherra Schuck

We will go over the basics of photography (i.e. lighting, color, composition, etc.) with a power point slideshow.

- “**The Garden – Kid Connection: Creating Magic**” by Dr. Norm Lownds

Explore the connections between kids and gardens. Discover the magic of the 4-H Children’s Garden and how it connects to kids of all ages. Explore some of the cool themes and see how technology is being used to enhance and expand hands-on gardening experiences. Join us for an engaging, wondering, fun romp through the garden!

- “**Plant Propagation: Be Fruitful and Multiply**” by Dr. Tom Wilten

An instructive and informative power point slide presentation.

Saturday:

10:15 – 11:00 AM: 3 seminars, choose 1

- “**Photography – Part 2**” by Sherra Schuck

We will examine and critique images from individuals who submit their images and/or images from the photography competition.

- “**Capturing the Color and Form of Nature by Pounding**” by Kay Musgrave

Pounding herbs, etc, using boards, hammers on various media such as cloth, water color paper, tissue paper, and book marks.

- “**Grazing My Garden**” by Dr. Ryan Sensenig, Goshen College

Restoration ecology and gardening differ only in degree, not necessarily in their goals or approach. This seminar will encourage us to think about “gardening” at the large scale. Can tallgrass prairie restorations be simultaneously used to sequester carbon, create habitat, and meet our gardening objectives? At which scales is this possible? Can we blend an agricultural approach with prairie restoration using domestic grazers and thus achieve “gardening” at massive scales?

11:15 – 12:00: 3 seminars, choose 1

- “**Horticulture: Plant Materials and Judging – Part 1**” by Peggy Moody

(must attend both parts to receive credit)

Discuss two types of plant materials and practice point scoring the plant materials.

- **“Enjoying Perennials and Other Ornamental Plants”** by John Szymczak

The seminar focuses on perennials with some discussion on shrubs, trees, and spring flowering bulbs. We'll look at many varieties of plants from the good old common standbys to new and unusual varieties. You'll come away with some new ideas for creative combinations in the landscape. We'll also have some fun learning about beneficial fungus, 'Mycorrhizae', and some of the newer problem solver products for the most common pests in the garden. So come and spring into summer as you enjoy beautiful photos, informative discussion, a few laughs, and some great prizes.

- **“ Herbs, a Brief Overview”** by Hildegard Adkins

A very brief comment on the history of herbs and description of as many individual herbs as 45 minutes will allow.

1:15 – 2:00 PM: 3 seminars, choose 1

- **“Woody Perennials: New Trends in Flowering Shrubs”** by Tim Wood, the 'Plant Hunter' of Spring Meadows Nursery.

Shrubs are just perennials that happen to have woody stems. But unlike perennials they don't need to be staked. They stay put where you plant them, and you don't have to cut them back each fall. New efforts in breeding have brought us some great new plants with lots of color and less maintenance. Join Tim as he takes you through a colorful tour of the best new flowering shrubs.

- **“Horticulture: Plant Materials and Judging – Part 2”** by Peggy Moody
(must attend both parts to receive credit)

Discuss two types of plant materials and practice point scoring the plant materials.

- **“Website Basics: How to Start a Website for Your Club or Yourself”**
by Frank Mitch

Defining the purposes of your website. How to get a domain name and a website host. Maintaining and keeping a site up-to-date.

8:00 PM: Banquet Program Speaker:

“Carnivorous Plants” by Steve Lawarre, Director of Horticulture at Meijer Gardens, Mr. Lawarre is a Master Gardener and a Carnivorous Plant expert.