

Growing Together

2022 Western Wisconsin Spring Garden Seminars



SAVE THE DATE: Virtual Presentations. Saturday, March 12

9:30 am. Gravel Gardens -- Gardens that Rock!

Jeff Epping from Olbrich Botanical Gardens

The talk will look at earth-friendly gravel gardens that require less of just about everything – water, mulch, energy, chemicals and most importantly labor – but give back so much more. Jeff Epping, Director of Horticulture at Olbrich Botanical Gardens, created a number of gravel gardens at Olbrich and in his own home garden that you can easily incorporate into your home landscape, as well. Don't confuse these gardens with traditional rock or alpine gardens that look more rocky than green and require a great deal of time to maintain. These sustainable gravel gardens are as colorful as any perennial planting around, provide food and habit for pollinators and other insects and require up to 80% less maintenance than a traditional perennial planting. Jeff will show you how to replace conventional lawns, expensive annual plantings, and labor-intensive perennial beds with these easy-to-maintain gravel gardens. If you want a garden that truly rocks, look no further than a gravel garden.

11 am. Creating an Organic Bee Lawn

Bob Dahm, aka Dr. Organic

Bob Dahm, aka Dr. Organic is the owner of Organic Lawn Care Service in the Twin Cities. His service creates alternatives to traditional lawns including lawns that encourage bees. He believes that lawns are a barren desert to a foraging bee. Even weed flowers like Creeping Charlie and dandelions are not as healthy for bees as we once thought. Organic Bee Lawn was developed by the University of Minnesota Bee Lab to help connect habitat islands and achieve genetic diversity and increase habitat. Even a small corner of your lawn can make a difference. Plant a bee lawn today!

These seminars are open to the public and we welcome both new and experienced gardeners to attend.

Registration for the Growing Together Seminar is due by **March 4**. The YouTube Live link will be emailed to you before the day of the seminar on March 12. Paid registrants will have exclusive access to the recorded presentations for a limited time after the seminar concludes. Registration is at <https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org/> and the \$5 fee can be paid online or mailed to the Eau Claire Extension Office at 227 First St. West, Altoona, WI 54720. Questions can be directed to Andy Heren at UW– Extension at 715 839 4712 or andy.heren@co.eau-claire.wi.us.

Brought to you by Western Wisconsin Master Gardener Associations from: Barron, Dunn, Chippewa Valley, Eau Claire and St. Croix Valley.