



## **Speaker Symposium and Twilight Garden Tour Set for Tuesday August 16.**

Join us for an afternoon of informative presentation at the Spooner Agriculture Research Station auditorium for our first annual summer horticultural speaker symposium Tuesday Aug 16, 2016 from 1 to 3:30 pm. This symposium is free and open to the public. The symposium will be followed by the Twilight Garden Tour which is scheduled from 4 – 7 pm outdoor in the Teaching & Display Garden on Orchard Lane. Symposium speakers and will be available for both events.

The symposium kicks off at 1 pm with Lois Ristow, former Winter Greenhouse employee and owner Pleasant View Farms in Chetek. Lois' presentation titled Herb Uses: Beyond the Culinary will explore some the lore and cultural history of herbs.

University of Wisconsin Horticulture student, Jackie Maher, will explain the five major species of native bees and their roles as pollinators. Jackie will also explain her native bee survey research project and share the findings of native bees collected in Spooner and in River Falls.

At 2 pm participants can learn about the role dragonflies play in our garden, their benefits and connections to healthy ecosystems. Ami is a Conservation Biology PhD graduate student with the University of Minnesota whose research has focused on the common green darner dragonfly.

Dr. Erin Silva, UW-Extension Organic Crop Production Specialist from UW-Madison will discuss tips for selecting the right vegetable variety for your garden. Erin is part of a collaborative research project with public and private vegetable breeders and will share specific traits and variety trial results that home gardeners and commercial growers are sure to appreciate.

The symposium finishes up with Dr. Brian Smith, UW-Extension Fruit and Vegetable Specialist from UW-River Falls. Looking to enjoy home grown peaches, apricots, plums or sweet cherries, why not try containerized plantings? Brian has successfully grown fruit trees in containers for years and will share some of his tips for success. Dr. Smith is also a successful fruit breeder and will share information on his cold-hardy seedless table grape breeding project.

All symposium presentation will be held indoor at the Spooner Agriculture Research Station auditorium located at W6646 Hwy 70, east of Spooner.

For more information contact Kevin Schoessow or Lorraine Toman at 715-635-3506 or 1-800-528-1914 or online at <http://spooner.ars.wisc.edu/events/twilight-garden-tour/> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/spoonerag>. There is no cost to attend.

The Teaching and Display Gardens are located on Orchard Lane, just east of Spooner on Highway 70. Watch for Garden Tour signs.

UW Extension provides equal opportunity in employment and programming including Title IX and ADA requirements. If you have any special needs or require special accommodations, please call our toll free number listed above.



### **Annual Twilight Garden Tour & Speaker Symposium Set for Tuesday August 16.**

The University of Wisconsin Extension, The Spooner Agriculture Research Station and North Country Master Gardener Volunteers will be holding their 18<sup>th</sup> annual Twilight Garden Tour and first annual Horticulture Speaker Symposium on Tuesday Aug 16 starting at 1 pm. This is one of the regions premier summer gardening events. The speaker symposium will be held indoor at the Spooner Station meeting room from 1-3:30 pm, followed by the Twilight Garden Tour from 4-7 pm in the award-winning Teaching & Display Garden located on Orchard Lane, just east of Spooner.

The symposium will include presentations on herbs, backyard fruit, vegetables, native bees as pollinators, and the role of dragonflies in ecosystems.

The Twilight Tour includes speakers, displays, demonstrations, tasting of fresh garden salsa and grilled vegetables. Master Gardener Volunteers and invited speakers will be available to answer your gardening questions and identify plant, insect and disease samples.

The Teaching & Display Garden is an official All-America Selections (AAS) display garden featuring both flowers and vegetables and was awarded a second place finish in 2013 and 2015 and a first place finish in 2014 in a National Landscape Design contest sponsored by AAS. The garden also includes organic vegetable gardening, adaptive and container gardening, displays of table and wine grapes and fruit trees and the newly renovated Monarch and Pollinator Sanctuary perennial garden.

Invited speakers for both events are Brian Smith UW-Extension Fruit and Vegetable specialist from UW-River Falls, Erin Silva, UW-Extension Organic Crop Production Specialist from UW-Madison, Ami Thompson, Conservation Biologist from the University of MN, Jacki Maher, Horticulture student from UW-River Falls and Lois Ristow herbalist from Chetek WI.

As in the past there is no charge for either of these educational events.

The Teaching and Display Gardens are located on Orchard Lane, 1 mile east of Spooner on Highway 70. Watch for Garden Tour signs. For more information please contact Kevin Schoessow at 715-635-3506 or 1-800-528-1914, or online at <http://spooner.ars.wisc.edu/events/twilight-garden-tour/> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/spoonerag>.

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