

Virtual Twilight Garden Speaker Symposium Tuesday Aug 25, 2020

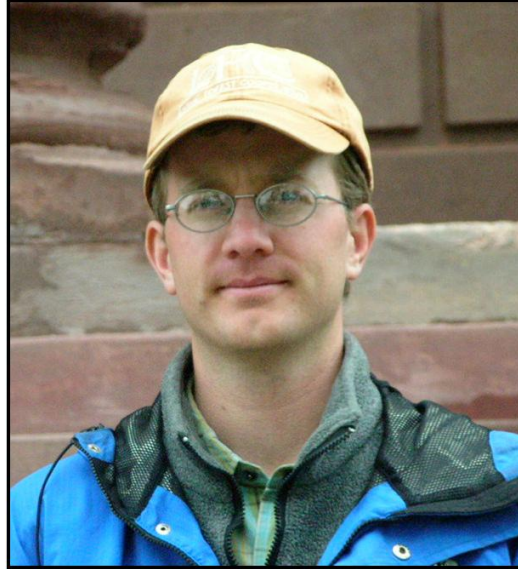
Speaker Biographies



Julie Dawson is an Associate Professor in the Department of Horticulture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the state extension specialist for Urban and Regional Food Systems. Her background is in organic plant breeding and participatory research. Research topics include season extension methods, organic and participatory variety trials and variety selection for small-acreage farms and gardens as well as extension resources for urban growers. She leads a project called the Seed to Kitchen Collaborative with other plant breeders to test varieties with local farmers and chefs, focused on flavor for local food systems.

Presentation title: Seed to Kitchen Collaborative: participatory evaluation of vegetable varieties for local food systems.

Project website: <https://seedtokitchen.horticulture.wisc.edu/>



Jason Fischbach is the Agriculture Agent for UW-Extension covering Ashland and Bayfield Counties. He has served as the co-leader of the Upper Midwest Hazelnut Development Initiative (UMHDI) since 2007. The UMHDI is a collaboration of researchers and early-adopter growers working to develop a hazelnut industry in the Upper Midwest. Jason is a graduate of Carleton College and the University of Minnesota and lives near Ashland on his family's flower, fruit, and vegetable farm.

Presentation title: Hazelnuts: A Nut Crop for Northern Wisconsin.

Project Website: <https://www.midwesthazelnuts.org/>



Solveig Hanson is a UW-Madison Ph.D. candidate in Horticulture-Plant Breeding with a Ph.D. minor in Life Science Communication. Her research revolves around breeding for flavor in table beet, and specifically the earthy flavor imbued by volatile molecule geosmin. She led a participatory beet breeding project in which farmer, chef, and consumer input was used to develop novel, flavor-identified beet cultivars for Wisconsin organic farms and markets.

Solveig discovered plant breeding after co-owning a Northeast Iowa direct market vegetable farm for 8 years and serving as Organic Product Manager at Harris Seeds in Rochester, NY for several more. Solveig remains fascinated with human-plant-land conversations and the cultural values embodied in food plants, and she hopes to spend her postgraduate career sharing that fascination and creating plants that embody resilience.

Presentation title: Earthiness Isn't Everything. Participatory plant breeding yields five novel beet cultivars and reveals that consumer liking of table beet is not organized around earthy flavor.

Project Website: <https://goldman.horticulture.wisc.edu/>