



Registration

please complete form below

Box Lunch Choices No Substitutions

Honey baked ham on croissant, cheddar, lettuce, tomato, potato chips & chocolate chip cookie.

Tuna salad on sliced multigrain, lettuce, tomato, potato chips & chocolate chip cookie.

Vegetarian on sliced multigrain, cucumber, green bell peppers, lettuce, tomato, olives, potato chips & chocolate chip cookie. Ranch & balsamic dressing on the side.

Chef's salad, turkey, Swiss cheddar, tomato, fresh leaf lettuce and potato chips.

Any minor revisions will be advised by email

Please circle your choice here too, to help on the day.

SCHEDULE OF THE DAY

Book Sales & Garden Auction in Main Foyer

8:00-9:00 Breakfast

9:00-9:15 Welcome & Opening Remarks

9:15-10:15 **Teri Speight:**
Growing Community through Gardening

10:15-10:45 Coffee Break

10:45-11:45 **Gary Johnson:**
Root Systems: The Forgotten 50%

11:45-12:45 Lunch & Slide Presentation

12:45-1:45 **Jenny Rose Carey:**
Customizing Your Seasonal Flower Garden

1:45-2:15 Coffee Break

2:15-3:15 **Doug Tallamy:**
Homegrown National Park

3:15-3:30 Closing Remarks & Garden Auction Winners

RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



Brian M. Hughes, Mercer County Executive; Dr. Brian Schilling, Director, Cooperative Extension; Chad Ripberger, County Extension Department Head.
Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey; U.S. Department of Agriculture; and Mercer County Board of Commissioners. Rutgers Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.

2024 CULTIVATING COMMUNITY A GARDEN SYMPOSIUM

SATURDAY MARCH 16TH

Stuart Country Day School
1200 Stuart Road
Princeton
New Jersey 08540

MASTER GARDENERS OF MERCER COUNTY

PROGRAM

Teri Speight: Growing Community Through Gardening

Some think communities are built with buildings, homeowners associations, and other well-meaning institutions. Many overlook how communities are grown through gardening. Gardening is often the common denominator in bringing communities together everywhere.

Gary Johnson: Root Systems: The Forgotten 50%

As students of plant sciences, we were misled from an early age. "Root systems are mirrored reflections of above-ground plant parts." With rare exceptions, this is a false statement. "For trees and shrubs, root systems account for 25 percent of a plant's biomass." Unless you are talking about field and containerized production nurseries, this is a half-truth...literally. "I know all there is to know about root systems." No, you don't. Probably no one does. How do roots start; what energizes and stimulates them to grow; what is normal, abnormal, dysfunctional; how do plants communicate with and support each other via root systems; what landscape practices hinder or help healthy root systems? These and other fascinating root trivia will be discussed with you by someone who has been a root system geek for over 60 years, and is still learning.

Jenny Rose Carey: Customizing Your Seasonal Flower Garden

When we start gardening, we often assemble a random assortment of flowers that appeal to us. This unplanned collection of plants can be made into a beautiful-looking flower bed if you understand how to coordinate them. Putting your flower garden together requires preparing, planning, planting and maintaining, creating a community of plants. Jenny Rose Carey will be describing how, by using flower shape, color, role and texture, you can create a beautiful personalized flower garden.

Doug Tallamy: Homegrown National Park

Our parks, preserves, and remaining wildlands – no matter how grand in scale – are too small and separated from one another to sustain the native trees, plants, insects and animals on which our ecosystems depend. We can fix this problem by practicing conservation outside of wildlands, where we live, work, shop, and farm. Thus, the concept for Homegrown National Park: a national challenge to create diverse ecosystems in our yards, communities, and surrounding lands by reducing lawn, planting native, and removing invasives. The goal of HNP is to create a national movement to restore 20 million acres with natives, an area representing ½ of what is now in lawn. We are at a critical point where we are losing so many native plant and animal species that our natural life support is in jeopardy. However, if many people make small changes, we can restore healthy ecological networks and weather the changes ahead.



SPEAKERS

Teri Speight is former Head Gardener for the City of Fredericksburg MD, and one of the Founding Farmers of the Eitt CSA - Stafford County's first Transitional Organic CSA Farm. A Native Washingtonian, Mother, Grandmother, Steward of our Land, Garden Writer, Region II Director of GardenComm International, and History Lover, she has ancestral sharecropping roots originating in North and South Carolina. Connecting with the earth is authentic to her. Her ancestors' hands have helped build and feed her family for generations. Author of *Black Flora: Profiles of Inspiring Black Flower Farmers + Florists* and co-author with Kathy Jentz of *The Urban Garden: 101 Ways to Grow Food and Beauty in the City*.

Gary Johnson is Professor Emeritus of Urban & Community Forestry with the University of Minnesota's Department of Forest Resources. His 45 years of academia includes the Universities of New Hampshire, Maryland, and for the past 31 years, Minnesota. His research and writings have largely focused on producing better root systems, minimizing construction damage to trees, preventing wind-loading damage to trees, and best planting practices and community engagement.

Jenny Rose Carey was born in England to a family of botanists and gardeners. She moved with her American husband to the Philadelphia area and gardens a four-and-a-half-acre garden called Northview where she has lived for over a quarter of a century. Former Director of The Ambler Arboretum of Temple University and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Garden at Meadowbrook Farm, she has authored of *Glorious Shade* and the highly acclaimed *The Ultimate Flower Gardener's Guide: How to Combine Shape, Color, and Texture to Create the Garden of Your Dreams*.

Douglas Tallamy is an American entomologist, ecologist and conservationist, and professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. Author of the best-selling books *Nature's Best Hope*, *The Nature of Oaks*, and *Bringing Nature Home*. He advocates for home gardens and landscaping that bridge the gaps between parks and preserves in providing habitat for native species.