

John Blair - Sunday Evening Speaker

When John Blair retired from his automotive engineering job, he knew he would need something interesting to do with his time. He found it when he attended a presentation in the winter of 2012 by butterfly expert Brenda Dziejczic on making a butterfly garden. John got busy that spring creating his own butterfly garden at his Westland home that over the next seven summers grew to over 5000 square feet in size. In 2019, having filled all his available gardening space, John and his wife Sheri moved to a new home in rural Brooklyn, Michigan with about 9 acres of land which he is using to make even more butterfly and pollinator gardens as well as restoring large tracts of land to original prairie with native plants. John enjoys giving his inspirational talks to help others get started with their own butterfly gardens and creating more habitat for pollinators. In addition, John gives educational garden and prairie tours each summer and hosted over 500 visitors from sixteen different clubs and organizations last year!



John's garden has appeared in Fine Gardening magazine, Michigan Gardener, the Detroit Free Press and the Garden Answer YouTube channel. John has also authored articles on butterfly gardening for Michigan Gardener magazine. Over the last eleven years, John has given his "How to Make a Butterfly Garden" and Prairie Restoration talks to county Master Gardener organizations, Michigan State University, Greenfield Village, numerous Michigan garden clubs, Church groups and Nature clubs throughout southeast and mid Michigan .

Keynote Speaker - Bonnie Satterthwaite



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Bonnie is originally from Savannah, Georgia and currently resides in Virginia Beach, VA.

She has been involved in the Lawn and Garden industry for over 35 years with a strong emphasis on employee training and consumer seminars. Over the past 21 years she has taught several hundred classes related to the benefits, both plant and human, of organic gardening. She is often a featured speaker at Garden Clubs, Garden Center events, and guest commentat on several garden radio programs.

Bonnie is an avid gardener with a special interest in perennials and annual flowers. She maintains an organic cutting garden as well as helping introduce organic gardening to community gardens. She is currently the Southeast Territory Sales Manager for Espoma. She enjoys golf, gardening, and international travel.

Shikha Singh - Monday Workshop

Shikha Singh is a Biologist for the Jackson County Conservation District and manages their JLW CISMA program (Jackson Lenawee Washtenaw Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area). She has a BSc. in Biology from University of Western Ontario, and her master's and PhD at Michigan State University from the Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife. She has been working on Great Lakes environmental issues for the 20+ years in the fields of water conservation and invasion biology. She works to assist residents and partners in identifying invasive species, providing management information, and how to prevent their spread to new areas. She also gives talks on strategies to increase accessibility and participation related to natural resources outreach and education. Outside of work, Shikha also enjoys nature photography, cooking and playing soccer.



Josh Miller, Landscape - Monday Workshop

Manager – Proven Winners®



Josh offers a unique perspective on the Proven Winners® brand, drawing from his 9 years working on their product development team at Four Star Greenhouse, trialing and selecting new plant genetics. In his current role as Landscape Manager, Josh is chief steward of the Proven Winners® landscape marketing programs in the U.S and Canada, serving the full supply chain - from commercial grower to the landscape contractor - facilitating sales, technical support, and product education.

Program Description – Designing with Annuals

Colorful annuals can make a big impact and elevate the curb appeal of any home, business, campus, or community. A successful display requires careful planning, research, and sometimes a good amount of trial and error. Discover how to maximize your spring investment using modern plant genetics to extract the most value with minimal labor and maintenance. Learn about specific varieties and gardening techniques that will allow you to differentiate your palette to create inspiring, eye-catching displays.