

# 2018 Flower Show Lecture Series Information

## Flower Show Overview

The 2018 Flower Show's theme is Flowers Round the World. Visitors to the Conservatory will be treated to exhibits with an international flair during the **Professional Show** on Friday, August 3rd featuring both Horticultural and Artistic exhibits. Tuesday, August 7th visitors can view cut flowers and potted plants grown by local amateur gardeners during the **Amateur Horticultural Show**. Friday, August 10th international creativity will reappear with the **Amateur Artistic Show**.

A daily lecture series will be held at 1:00 featuring a variety of topics. Rutgers Master Gardeners of Sussex County volunteers will be on hand to assist residents, at the Roaming Home Horticulture Helpline, with advice for gardening problems, promoting proper horticultural practices, recommending sources for informational fact sheets offered through RCE.

**For information on exhibiting visit: [NJStatefair.org](http://NJStatefair.org) under Competitions look for 2018 Flower Show Rules**

## Flower Show Presenters

**Shawna Bengivenni ~ Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>**

*It's Easy to Grow Naturally*

Shawna is a Certified Naturally Grown Farmer in Wantage. Incorporating natural practices like all CNG farmers Shawna does not use any synthetic herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers, or genetically modified organisms. She sponsored a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) for many years and currently provides a wide assortment of fresh produce weekly at the Sparta Farmers' Market. Her farm specializes in open pollinated and heirloom tomatoes. Each year she adds a new culinary treat to the delight of her loyal customers. This year a wide selection of miniature lettuces have been cascading out of baskets and coolers.

Tilling, planting, weeding, watering and harvesting five acres leaves little time for recreation but to see Shawna on a Saturday morning in her tapestry adorned booth at the Sparta Farmers' Market she is genuinely enjoying herself. With each earthen covered bag she hands to a customer so goes a little piece of her.

## **Mary Stone ~ Saturday, August 4th**

### *Garden Dilemmas – Q and A*

Mary Stone is a Landscape Designer, Garden Coach, Writer, Speaker and Owner of Stone Associates Landscape Design & Consulting. Her love for gardening began through 4-H, thanks to her mom. Once old enough to tag along, she became her mom's "assistant" at a garden center where she worked. Mary finds helping others beautify their surroundings often leads to sharing encouragement and life experiences; the inspiration for her weekly column *Garden Dilemmas? Ask Mary!*, published in THE PRESS and online ([AskMaryStone.com](http://AskMaryStone.com)) which began in 2012. During our Flower Expo Lecture Series, Mary looks forward to sharing solutions for your Garden Dilemmas.

## **Steve Komar ~ Monday, August 6th**

### *Compost Your Way to A Greener Garden*

Steve Komar is the Sussex County Agent who specializes in plant and soil science with extensive knowledge in crop management. Stephen's research in plant disease and insect management has been recognized at the state and national level. He has had articles published in several professional and trade journals. Stephen currently is responsible for the educational programs in commercial plant and animal agriculture for Sussex County. Stephen also prepares animal waste management plans at the state level cooperatively with the NRCS.

## **Richard Kawaske ~ Tuesday, August 7th**

### *Planting the Ultimate Container*

Richard Kawaske is not only the proprietor of Fair Acres Farm- Garden Center he is a gardener extraordinaire. Richard has a flair for creative containers incorporating unexpected color combinations and the use of rare tropical plants, making each container a work of art. For those fortunate enough to know Richard know that it is not just the art of his gardening that makes him special it is the love and the pride he puts into everything he does. Richard approaches gardening with enthusiasm and joy and we are confident he will do the same for this lecture.

## **Maureen Verbeek ~ Wednesday, August 8th**

### *Dividing, Storing and Growing Bulbs*

Maureen Verbeek is the Sussex County Fairgrounds Greenhouse Manager and a Rutgers Master Gardeners of Sussex County. If you have visited the Fairgrounds it is likely you have seen Maureen riding her gator filled with garden tools and buckets of water. Maureen is the inspiration for the many gardens throughout the fairgrounds. During the winter months she does not rest she is combing the seed catalogs, planning each garden's unique look and starting

the seeds in the greenhouse. Along with a group of dedicated Master Gardeners she plans and coordinates the care of the amazing gardens in Founders' Park.

### **Giselle Chazotte-Smisko ~ Thursday, August 9th**

#### *Using Native Plants for Attracting Wildlife*

Giselle Chazotte-Smisko is director of the Avian Wildlife Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to wildlife conservation. She is a licensed wildlife rehabilitator and a teacher naturalist having worked for the Morris County Park Commission, Union County Department of Parks and Recreation, and The Raptor Trust. She serves as an officer on the board of Friends of Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge, working with the staff to conserve the habitat and wildlife of refuge and coordinate public programs on a variety of natural history topics.

### **April Fisher Friday, August 10th**

#### *Tips for an Outstanding Floral Design*

April Fisher is a Rutgers Master Gardeners of Sussex County and Native Plant Society member. She is the recipient of the Master Gardener Award of Excellence for her informative lectures on gardening and floral arranging. She has also won several awards for her floral arrangements and horticultural entries here at the fair. April and her husband, David, live in Stillwater and their garden along the Paulinskill has been on the Arts & Heritage Garden Tour. Currently, April is transitioning her garden into an eco-friendly and low maintenance one, so she can spend more time "smelling the roses!"

### **Dave Betts ~ Saturday, August 11th**

#### *Garden Tools; Cleaning, Sharpening and Storing*

Dave Betts is a 2014 Master Gardener graduate. Having a lifelong love of vegetable and flower gardening that seemed a natural extension to his education. Dave is a native of Warren and Sussex County. During his childhood he would spend many hours at his grandfather and uncle's working farm, giving him a wonderful exposure to nature and the actual physical workings it takes to run a successful farm. During his early teens he developed his love for cars. He then went on to the printing/graphic arts industry for the next 47 years; of which the last 23 years of that he and his wife, Sandy, owned their own company, Betts Printing, Inc.

Now retired, Dave enjoys his family of 2 sons and 2 grandchildren. Cars remained a constant interest, especially Fords, and he was finally able to build his own replica of a 1965 Ford AC Shelby 427SC sports car. He is active in many clubs from cars to antique engines and tractors.