

Adventures in Gardening 2018: Edibles New Market Library

4th Saturday of every month, Feb-May, 3-5 p.m.

Each talk will last about 45 minutes - 1 hour, followed by Q&A, door prize raffles, and plant/seed/garden stuff swaps. Attendees are encouraged - though absolutely not required! - to bring extra plants, seeds and garden items to share, swap and discuss with others. They are also very welcome to bring any general garden questions or concerns for discussion.

Feb 24: Berries, the easy and attractive way to grow fruit in your landscape, by Elaine Specht

Imagine gathering fresh fruit from your own backyard for pies, preserves, or to put on your morning cereal. Planting strawberries, blackberries, blueberries, and other types of berries is a manageable way to raise your own delicious and nutritious fruit. This Garden Talk is timed perfectly for early Spring so you can begin preparing your own berry patch to enjoy for years to come.

Speaker bio: Elaine Specht is a member of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association and has a Horticulture Certificate from North Carolina State University. Together with her husband, Elaine maintains vegetable gardens, a substantial berry patch, and several fruit trees, as well as perennial, annual, and native plant beds and other landscaping surrounding their home. She loves the thrill of entering flowers in the Shenandoah County Fair, but above all, enjoys sharing what she grows, either as divided plants, bulbs, seeds, or preserved food from the garden. During her “day job,” Elaine is a communication consultant serving federal government clients.



March 24: *Herbs! Delicious additions to your garden and kitchen*, by Paula Brownlee

This presentation will include discussing ways to assure successful growth of herb plants from seeds or small seedlings to harvest and use in the kitchen. How may a selection of common and less well-known herbs enhance our vegetable dishes and others? How much of a difference would their addition really make to those dishes?

Speaker bio: Paula P. Brownlee is a keen gardener who particularly loves vegetables and herbs. She has had a garden almost all her life, and in many different places. Her father started her off in England, and since then she has grown gardens in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and three regions of Virginia—Roanoke, McLean, and now here. She enjoys the scientific and practical sides of horticulture. But best of all she loves growing and preserving-- and then eating-- the produce from the garden. She hopes to share her enthusiasm with her audiences!



April 28: *Plants are Cliquish Too: Fun with companion planting*, by Sari Carp

Like teenagers, plants, particularly edible ones, hold strong opinions about their friends and enemies. Companion planting is the art of combining plants so they'll thrive, enriching each other's soil and repelling each other's pests. We'll discuss specific combinations of vegetables, herbs and flowers, as well as other edibles like berries and their friends. We'll also cover the issue of juglone, the toxic compound emitted by walnut trees, and what can be safely planted nearby.

Speaker bio: Sari Carp is an escapee from academia, having taught and researched at business schools throughout the world. In 2014, she settled in the Shenandoah Valley, where she is renovating a farmhouse, caring for rescue animals, experimenting with wild garden projects, and figuring out what she wants to do with the rest of her life. She gives frequent talks on gardening related topics, consults on historic garden design and writes regular garden articles for publications including *The Winchester Star*, *The Mountain Courier* and *Cooperative Living*.



May 26: *What's Wrong with my Vegetable Garden? Common problems and how to prevent them*, by Lora Steiner

Soil quality, moisture, pests, disease and many other factors can all impact the growth of plants and quality of produce. This talk will examine some of the most common challenges vegetable gardeners face, and how to prepare for and best prevent them.

Speaker bio: Lora Steiner is an international student advisor by day, with a passion for caffeine, tacos, and her bicycle, La Naranjita. It was her love of eating good food that got her back into gardening, after a two-decade hiatus from being forced to work in her family's garden. Her areas of gardening interest include worm compost, getting rid of lawns, and educating anyone who will listen about the benefits of insects.

