

Gardeners in all shades of green are invited to the Gardeners' Big Day

Never at a loss for topics to explore

One might think that after 20 years of coordinating a program that they would run out of new and exciting topics, but the opposite is true for Gardeners' BIG Day 2020.

University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners have a spectacular line up of presenters for the 20th event anniversary set for April 18 at Spoon River College in Canton.

Extension Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists share their own expertise, invite many of their horticulture contacts, and line up Extension experts to present on a variety of topics of interest to new horticulture enthusiasts as well as further educate long-time gardeners.

This year's session topics include trees, flowers, weeds, climate, tools, composting, and pests.

"This day-long event is structured to provide gardeners with information, ideas, and helpful hints for vegetable and flower gardening. Our planning committee select topics that appeal to Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists, as well as first-time gardeners," explained Bob Keene, Extension Master Gardener (EMG) serving in the Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit.

Keene is part of a team of EMGs and members of the Spoon River Garden Club who work together to plan the annual Gardeners' BIG Day.

The 2020 keynote speaker is Colleen Callahan, director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Callahan is well known throughout Central Illinois and beyond for her career in agriculture communications at WMBD, her service to the National Association of Farm Broadcasters, her role as state director of Illinois' Rural Development for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and now through her role with IDNR.

continued on Page 20



CARLA PRESNELL WAS one of the 2019 Gardener's BIG Day participants. Registration is open for this year's event that is set for April 18. People with all levels of gardening skills and interests are invited.

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