

Medicinal Plants

March 13th at 7pm

Many plants have uses beyond their appearance and taste. They can also be used for their medicinal properties; the trick is knowing which part of a plant to use and how to prepare it. Michelle Berg Vogel is an Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Coordinator serving Calhoun County and she will help you discover a whole new side to your garden in this fun and informative presentation.

Identifying Weeds

April 10th at 7pm

Ken Johnson from the U of I Extension office certified in Plant Pest Risk Assessment and Management, will walk you through the common weeds of Central Illinois and how to identify the tricky look-alike plants from the weeds you want to pull. He will also discuss commonly encountered invasive plants. Experienced and novice gardeners alike will benefit from this presentation.

Raising Monarchs

June 13th at 7pm

Master Gardener Anita Moody and Master Naturalist Stacy McQueen have been raising Monarch butterflies for many years. The Monarch population is still in decline, but with attention and care they have a fighting chance. Learn how you can make a difference and bring more of these precious and helpful butterflies into the world.

Dragonflies

June 12th at 7pm

For centuries dragonflies have been a source of fascination and have inspired myths across many cultures. Dr. Lawrence Zettler, Hitchcock Professor of Biology from Illinois College and illustrator of the book *Dragonflies of North America*, will introduce you to many unique varieties of this incredible insect and answer your questions about their habits, habitat and lifecycle.

Bats in Illinois and Around the World

July 8th at 7pm

Dr. Bryan Arnold, Assistant Professor of Biology at Illinois College, is a behavioral ecologist who studies the social behaviors of bats. Despite their small stature, they have a huge impact on their habitat and are currently under threat. Have your questions answered and learn more about the many surprising and positive contributions bats make to the local environment.

Climate, Soil and Critters

August 14th at 7pm

Climate change is real and happening right now. Its impacts can already be seen on a local level. Duane Friend is an Environmental and Energy Stewardship Educator with the University of Illinois Extension Office who will walk you through what climate change is, how it will impact your garden and trees, what changes you can expect to see in the future and the steps you can take to combat it.