

Garden Fest 2026

Tuesday, April 14th - Thursday, April 16th

12:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Garden Fest Day 1 - Tuesday, April 14th

Time	Event/Activity	Speaker	Program Description
12:00-1:45	<i>A Year in the Bee Yard</i>	Angela Wilbanks Sunnies Bees	Interested in learning all about bees? Guest Speaker Angela Wilbanks of Sunnie's Bees will share insider knowledge on the monthly workings of a hive and the products you get from the hive. Come see what all the buzz is about.
2:00-2:45	<i>Garden Design</i>	Sunny McClendon Staff Presenter	Wondering how to begin or reinvent your garden? Come hear the basics about design techniques to maximize the peace and joy of your patch. We'll talk about styles, balance, labels, "BLING!", and more.
3:00-3:45	<i>Introduction to Floral Design</i>	Amanda Moore & Michelle Davis Staff Presenters	Have you ever wanted to make your own bouquet of flowers but didn't know where to start? This program will demonstrate how to design beautiful floral displays using fresh flowers, greenery, and basic design techniques. You will learn different approaches for color coordination, balance, and creative arrangement styles. By the end of the program, you'll have gained the practical skills to create your own stunning floral pieces. Participants will have the opportunity to take home their own bouquet while supplies last.
4:00-4:45	<i>Nature Journaling</i>	Angela Moore Staff Presenter & Master Naturalist	Join Master Naturalist, Angela Moore, for an introduction to the art of nature journaling and discover the rewards of looking closely at the wonderful world of nature all around us! We will be creating our own nature journals, please join us while supplies last!
5:00 - 6:00	<i>Sowing Seeds Workshop & Seed Swap Grayson Seed Library Grand Opening!</i>	Dolores Romero-Stewart Master Gardener & Master Naturalist	Ready to get your hands dirty? Join us in person for a fun and easy-going workshop and Grand Opening of Grayson's Seed Library! You'll learn how to pick the right potting soil and plant seeds like a pro. Perfect for beginners and green thumbs alike! Bring your curiosity and leave with fresh skills and seeds.

Garden Fest Day 2 - Wednesday, April 15th

Time	Event/Activity	Speaker	Program Description
12:00-1:00	<i>House Plant Boot Camp / Plant Swap</i>	Francelle Papailler Staff Presenter	Why limit your garden to the outdoors? With houseplants, you can experience the joy of nature indoors, year-round! Join us for a fun introduction to houseplants and learn about the best plants for beginners, common tips and tricks, and the many benefits of indoor gardening!
1:00-1:45	<i>Gardening for Butterflies</i>	Margaret Molyson Master Gardener	Over 160 butterfly species have been recorded as either living in or migrating through Georgia. Of these, only 54 have been identified in Gwinnett. Learn from Master Gardener, Margaret Molyson, on how to attract the top ten to your yard by providing both their specific host and nectar plants.
2:00-2:45	<i>Small Space Urban Gardens & Straw Bale Gardening</i>	Lisa Klein ANR Program Assistant & Master Gardener Coordinator	Small Space and Straw Bale Gardening: Gardening in a small space is an art, but don't let that stop you from maximizing your gardening potential! Tune in to learn about various small-space gardening techniques like container gardening, vertical gardening, and hydroponics, while shining a spotlight on straw bale gardening—an eco-friendly method perfect for compact areas. Join Lisa Klein with UGA Extension Gwinnett as she walks you through how to turn vacant spaces into vibrant, productive gardens that nurture both plants and people.
3:00- 3:45	<i>Hydroponic Gardening at Home</i>	Rebekah Berger Staff Presenter	Learn about the different types of hydroponic gardening systems and the types of plants that grow best in each.
4:00-4:45	<i>Fresh & Fun: Asian Chicken Lettuce Tacos</i>	Tiffney Whittington and Allyson Fowler Harvest Gwinnett Presenters	Join us for a light, flavorful cooking demonstration where we'll show you how to make Easy Asian Chicken Lettuce Tacos using fresh ingredients and simple techniques. This healthy twist on tacos uses crisp butter lettuce leaves filled with savory chicken, crunchy vegetables, and a delicious soy-maple lemon vinaigrette. Participants will learn how to build their own tacos while exploring fresh herbs, colorful veggies, and nutritious ingredients that make healthy eating fun and easy for the whole family.
5:00- 6:00	<i>Watercolor Florals</i>	Alexandra Hua Guest Speaker	Watercolors are beautiful but might seem a bit intimidating. Do not fret! This beginner-intermediate watercolor program will guide you step-by-step to create a beautiful floral piece while learning the fundamentals of watercolor techniques. You'll be able to learn how to mix colors, control your brush, and layer pigments to create your floral masterpiece.

Garden Fest Day 3 - Thursday, April 16th

Time	Event/Activity	Speaker	Program Description
12:00-1:45	<i>Blue Bird Houses</i>	Terry Dempsey Georgia Piedmont Land Trust	Build a bluebird house to have a good neighbor! You and your fellow attendees will learn about the proper design and function of a Bluebird House and then you'll get your hands dirty (well, not THAT dirty) when you actually build a birdhouse to take home. Come join us for a fun and informative class. Limited supplies so come early!
2:00-2:45	<i>Rainwater on the Home Landscape</i>	Matthew Nunez Department of Water Resources	Join us as we learn two different ways to capture rainwater by utilizing your landscape, and to help protect and conserve water resources. Rain barrel and rain gardens are the two methods that will be discussed. There will be a hands-on demonstration of the rain barrel and we will take a walk outside to discuss rain gardens.
3:00-3:45	<i>Grow with Harvest! Harvest Gwinnett Community Gardens</i>	Brandon Seay Harvest Gwinnett Program Supervisor	Drop in for a special tour of the beautiful Grayson Community Garden, which opened in 2023 and is located right beside the Grayson Public Library. Speak with garden staff on site to learn more about the Harvest Gwinnett program, which operates 11 community gardens across Gwinnett County. Harvest Gwinnett offers garden plots to community members for annual rental and grows fresh, nutritious produce to help feed local community members in need.
4:00- 4:45	<i>Plants for Pollinators</i>	Stacey Moura Staff Presenter	Want to learn more about plants that pollinators love? Join us to learn about easy-to-grow native flowers, vines, and trees to attract bees, butterflies, and birds to your yard!
5:00- 6:00	<i>It's Tea Trivia Time!</i>	Warwick (Waz) Armstrong Staff Presenter	Come and join Waz, our very own legendary British tea master, to enjoy a selection of delicious and relaxing teas and some cookies, and play a fun trivia game!