



December 2017

## ***Dishing the Dirt with the Sherburne County Master Gardeners***

The Sherburne County Master Gardeners are sending this out to you to keep you informed of our upcoming events, to share garden tips and to let you know what we have been doing. We hope that you enjoy reading this.

### **OUR EXPERTS' FAVORITE GARDENING BOOKS FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS**

***By Extension Communication Specialist  
Gail Hudson***

*December and cold weather arrives quickly in Minnesota (surprise!), and with it comes that perennial question: what gift can I buy the family member or friend with a green thumb? We've tapped our gardening experts for their favorite books to read over the winter months. (And please note—we've included links to the publishers. You'll find them for sale in a number of places.)*

#### ***Learn about Bees in Your Backyard***

*Since the "buzz" in the gardening world these days is all about pollinators, Extension Educator Elaine Evans, whose research concerns wild bee diversity, the rusty-patched bumble bee and bee conservation and is an author in her own right, has this*

*book at the top of her list: *The Bees in Your Backyard: A Guide to North America's Bees*, by Joseph S. Wilson.*

*Elaine says it's a great introduction to the fascinating world of bees through beautiful photos along with accurate, accessible information. She says once you learn what you are seeing, you'll be able to discover the rich diversity of bees, many of which you can find in your own back yard.*

*Want to help pollinators in your garden next year? Extension Educator and the U's Bee Squad Associate Program Director Rebecca Masterman recommends this excellent resource: *Pollinator Friendly Gardening* by Minnesota author Rhonda Fleming Hayes. She says the photographs and text will help you learn about pollinators, which plants support them and what things you can do in the garden to "bee friendly"!*

**SOURCE:** <http://blog-yard-garden-news.extension.umn.edu/>



## POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE? SHARE ON INSTAGRAM!

*Do you have a pollinator-friendly landscape? Did you see a plethora of honeybees, native bees, flies, butterflies and other pollinators in your yard and garden this past summer? Share pictures of your landscape with other pollinator enthusiasts on instagram @flowers4pollinators*

*Not sure how your yard and garden measure up for pollinators? Take the survey "[How Pollinator-friendly is your landscape?](#)" *and find out!**

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### LEARN AND GROW GARDEN EXPO

**SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2018**

**8:45AM – 3:00PM**

**BIG LAKE HIGH SCHOOL**

**REGISTER TODAY**

<https://www.sherburnecountymastergardeners.org/learn-and-grow-garden-expo/>