

# Project GREEN and the Iowa City Public Library present



## Second Sunday 2025 Winter Garden Forums\*

Meeting Room A — 2 to 4 p.m.

**Free to the Public**



**Sunday, Jan. 12, 2025, John Weeg, *Hügelkultur, Water and Roots: Why Bury Old Wood?***

While John has been gardening for most of his life, he trained only a few years ago to become a Master Gardener. This transplanted Iowan's focus is on the soil, the foundation of gardening. He has constructed several hügelkultur sites to compare which configurations improve soil performance. Hügelkultur is a horticultural technique that forms a mound using decaying wood debris and compostable biomass plant materials. The structure is then planted as a raised bed. Erected with minimal cost, Hügelkultur offers a blend of ecological benefits and practical advantages, making it a valuable tool for gardeners interested in enhancing soil health and sustainability. John earned a B.S. from the University of Iowa in computer science and completed post-graduate work at Michigan State University. He is a database administrator at ACT, a for-profit organization that offers programs, services, and research focused on education and workplace success.



**Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025, Karelyn "Kari" Pohl, *Creating a Pollinator MicroPrairie in Your Landscape.***

93% of Iowa's land is dedicated solely to mono-crops making the state one of the most altered landscapes on earth. Learn how to create a native sanctuary in whatever space you have available, and do your part to give back to the pollinators. Kari worked as a science teacher in the Cedar Rapids Community School District before joining Integrated DNA Technologies as a development scientist. She holds a B.A. in biology from the University of Northern Iowa and an M.A. from Montana State University-Bozeman. Kari has been a Master Gardener since 2018 and has been involved in gardening for many years, starting with small containers and raised beds. She is passionate about sustainable agriculture and supporting pollinators and is developing her acre of land into a homestead. Kari enjoys sharing her gardening knowledge and regularly attends classes and workshops to expand her expertise.



**Sunday, March 9, 2025, Nick McGrath, *Protecting Biodiversity: Avoid Invasive Species.***

A certified arborist, Nick joined TreesForever as a full-time field coordinator in 2021. He led the Eastern Iowa TreeKeepers 2024 Spring Course, a six-week program covering tree advocacy, biology, identification, maintenance, pests and pruning. Previously, he worked as a retail nursery manager and for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources where he collaborated with private landowners, cities and counties across east central Iowa recovering from the historic derecho and replanting for the future. Nick holds a B.A. from the University of Northern Iowa. He began his career as a public school educator. His passion for education and arboriculture is strengthened through his work, teaching Iowans about the importance of trees with innovative instruction and research-based science. Outside of work, Nick is a cross-country track and soccer coach, husband, father and caregiver to many Redbud cultivars.



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\*Second Sunday Garden Forums are free and open to the public.

Attendance provides Iowa State University Extension Master Gardeners CE hours.

Second Sunday Garden Forums are livestreamed on the Iowa City Public Library TV and YouTube channels, and promoted in our newsletter and on Project GREEN's website – [www.projectGREEN.org](http://www.projectGREEN.org)

Visit Project GREEN website for more information [www.projectGREEN.org](http://www.projectGREEN.org) or on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/www.projectgreen.org/>