



Three Area Groups Co-Sponsor Gardening Presentation

The Syracuse Wawasee Garden club, Chautauqua Wawasee and Wawasee area conservancy foundation are jointly sponsoring a presentation, discussion and workshop focused on “Gardening in the Face of a changing climate”. The workshop will be held at the Oakwood Resort Inn, Syracuse, IN, February 8 from 1:00 – 4:00 PM and led by John Edgerton. The event is open to the public and free to attend.

This Workshop will be led by John Edgerton of Shelbyville, Michigan. John has been doing small-scale farming for forty years, striving always to work in cooperation with nature. In this workshop we plan to explore holistic, resilient, sustainable techniques for gardening and small farming. We will want to look at the importance of healthy soil, healthy plants and helpful insect habitat. We will also want to think about variety selection and other ways to account for climate-related imbalances of diseases and insects. We will share what others in the bioregion are doing to address these issues. Finally, we want to think beyond our own personal garden: We will consider the importance of collaborating and cooperating in our wider communities to build on food security and justice.

John Edgerton lives with his partner and fellow farmer, Amy Newday. Together, they have done both market gardening and community supported agriculture. John has done dozens of workshops on gardening and seed-saving, most recently, at conferences sponsored by the Michigan Food and Farm Alliance, Michigan Integrative Food and Farming Systems, and KEEP GROWING DETROIT. He and Amy have worked with the Inter-Tribal Food Summit to grow out and rematriate several varieties of indigenous Northern flint corn. They also work with a network of northern gardeners to perform grow-out trials of Upland Rice varieties to determine suitability for our northern bioregion. John and Amy co-taught a course for seniors at Kalamazoo College on “Slow Farming” a form that is committed to limited and appropriate technology. John co-founded a local community garden in Martin MI. He has also served as a schoolteacher in the Martin Michigan public school, and, long ago, at the Learning Center, a parent-teacher non-public cooperative elementary school, in Fort Wayne.

The Syracuse-Wawasee Garden club was founded in 1961. They currently have 20 members who meet monthly. Their goal is to promote beautification in the town and to learn about gardening and horticulture. They plant and maintain all the town gardens in Syracuse plus 30 hanging baskets lining the streets of the downtown area. Their Facebook is <https://www.facebook.com/swgardenclub/>

The Wawasee Area Conservancy Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization created to protect, preserve and enhance the Wawasee Area Watershed for present and future generations. The foundation is dedicated to promoting education, encouraging best management practices to reduce erosion and acquiring wetlands and endangered shoreline areas. Their website is <http://wacf.com/>

Oakwood Foundation Chautauqua-Wawasee is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization focused on providing life-enriching programs with cultural, educational and entertaining events to the Kosciusko community and northern Indiana. The programs strive to conform to four pillars: Education, Arts, Recreation and Religion and serve interests of families, seniors, retirees, students and young adults. Their website is <http://www.chautauquawawasee.org>