Library Blitz 2018 Emily Smith

1. What’s New?

Hand-outs are of area Nurseries and garden centers. We do not favor or recommend one over another. Numerous sources were used to compile this material i.e. websites, online browsing, interviews, catalogues and observations.

This training is interactive. The audience will give the response when asked “Why does it matter?” All answers will be praised and if additional answers are needed the trainer will add “an also…”

2. Before you buy Look and Ask Look at websites, local nurseries, look at your property, look at your neighbors, look at the space you have and how you picture filling it. Do you want your garden to be filled with fragrance? Do you want it to be cutting garden? A pollinator garden to attract butterflies and bees and insects to pollinate and then move on? A tiny fairy garden for your granddaughter or a wild and fluffy meadow garden? Do you want to specialize in one type of plant like Hydrangea or Hosta or Geranium; there are plenty of varieties in those three. How about a deck or porch or patio filled with containers of green Spikes and Asparagus fern and red Geranium and yellow Daisies.

3. Ask yourself these questions?

4. What Zone are we in? Zone 5 -10 to-20 degree temperature.

Why does it matter?

Right plant for the right temperature or it will die. I.E. Ohio vs. Florida. It is a Waste of $ to plant what cannot survive here.

5. What plant type do you want? Ask audience “What types are there?” annuals, perennials, bulbs, tubers, shrubs. Fragrant stunning color or shape.

6. Height? Width? Why does it matter? Short up to 18in. Medium 18-26 in. Tall 26-36 in.

7. What are your soil conditions? What soil conditions are there -- **“horrible” sandy clay acid normal. Loam too wet** drought area .Why does it matter? There are many suggestions on-line and of what to do and what to plant in there areas.

8. Sun vs. Shade Essential! Why does it matter? You can hurt plant growth or even kill a plant if it is planted in the wrong light location. What are the ranges of light? Full sun, mostly sunny, half sun /half shade, mostly shade, full shade.

9. Bloom Time When do you want the plant to look its’ best?

Spring, late spring/ early summer, summer, late summer/ early fall, fall. Do you want Rotating so that you always have color? Do you want it bright for your favorite season? If you are a snow bird, plan for that also.

10. COLOR and Fragrance lots of options, varieties of shades and planning for cutting and arranging, even a night garden of white only with distinguishing fragrances

11. Then and only then shop, browse, window shop. Buying plants is addictive, expensive, lots of impulse buying and we tend to buy the same type of plants over and over. Spring is an exciting time and we feel alive so we surround ourselves with color and the newness of life. As a consequence, our budget suffers.

OH my, do you want native, pollinators, deer resistant, drought resistant,,,,,

12. Now let’s look at new varieties for 2018.

What can you identify?

13. Echinacea- cantaloupe, Cheyenne Spirit and Tomato Soup

14. Purple Viola- Celestial Northern lights, Delphinium- blue knight, Campanula

15. Hydrangea- Passion All these plants do well in Zone5. Hydrangea is native to this area.

16. Digitalis Foxglove -Thimble and Hollyhock -old farmyard. These are perfect for an English country garden or a cottage garden. Also think to include Columbine, Vibirum, Asters Delphinium and Spiraea.

17. Miscanthus-grasses and Hosta-Mouse Ear, which won a blue ribbon in the Ashtabula fair recently. You might like several variety of Sedum in a dry spots.

18. Spirea-candy corn and Mum-Matchstick

19. Viburnum –Wabi –Sabi, very popular, versatile and hearty in this Zone Coreopsis-crazy cayenne.

20. Delosperma Fire Spinner

21. Daisy Rudbeckia-Prairie Sun and Clematis Wildfire

22. Blue Aster-Bluebird and Viburnum

23. Saving a plant Florida style.