**Brainerd Library 2015 Presentations**

**January:  Kitchen Gardening for Beginners**

Vegetables, fruits, and herbs can be combined to make a kitchen garden both beautiful and productive.  This presentation will cover design options, site preparation, plant selection, and common maintenance questions.

**February:  Houseplants:  Clean Air Machines**

Poor indoor air quality has been linked to health problems, especially in children.  The U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has conducted research on the effects houseplants have in reducing or eliminating toxins from the air.  This seminar will present some of the results of the NASA research, common toxins found in homes, the top houseplants most effective for reducing household toxins, and how to care for indoor plants.

**March:  Lettuce and Salad Greens in Your Garden**

Lettuce and salad greens are easy to grow and good for you.  They can be grown indoors and/or outside for most of the year.  This presentation will discuss variety selection, site preparation, maintenance, and harvesting.

**April:  Getting to Know Woodland Plants**

Those of us living in Minnesota are fortunate to encounter a diversity of plant environments.  This class will focus on Woodland Plants, from native early spring ephemerals to the late blooming blue Bottle Gentian and many more.  We will discuss flowering plants and those known for their foliage, with the intent of introducing varieties that will add interest and color to tree shaded areas of your yard and garden.

**May:  Garden Seeds:  Starting, Seeding, and Sowing**

Looking for something different to plant in your garden?  This presentation will offer information on where to find the seeds you’re looking for and how to start them indoors for the best result.  In addition, you’ll learn how to gather seeds to give yourself a head start on next year’s garden.

**June:  Tomatoes:  Seed to Saucepan**

Learn how to grow and harvest the best tomatoes ever!  Planning, planting, growing, maintenance, care, harvest, and kitchen preparation will all be discussed.

**July:  Lilies:  Aristocrats of the Garden**

Lilies are an elegant, colorful addition to the flower garden and landscape.  You can have lilies blooming from mid-June through mid-September by choosing a combination of cultivars.  This seminar will provide information on the planting and care of lilies, pests and diseases, and suggestions for garden uses.  Lilies that grow well in our northern climate will be featured.

**August:  Trees:  Choose Wisely and Plant Properly**

Which tree should you choose?  How big should it be?  What is the best way to plant it?  How do you take care of your new planting for the first year or two?  Learn what the latest research shows should guarantee a leafy success.

**September:  Gifts from the Garden**

Your garden can be great source of lovely flowers, fruits, vegetables, and herbs from which to make wonderful gifts to give to yourself or to a friend.  Flavored oils and vinegars, fragrant herb bundles, jams and jellies; they can all be found on the long list of possibilities.  This presentation will provide you with an incredible number of ideas on how to enjoy and share the bounty of your harvest.

**October:  Hostas from Minis to Giants**

Hostas are the stars of the shade garden and range in size from miniature to giant.  Cultivation information will be provided on best practices for planting, care, pest resistance and other factors important to the success of growing hostas.  Suggestions for using hostas in the landscape will also be given.

**November:  Fact or Fiction:  Garden Myths Meet Research-Based Science**

Are Grandma, Pinterest, and magazine articles leading you astray?  We’ll look at some common garden practices to see if science supports the claims.

**December:  Garden Voices:  Writers in the Garden**

Writers often have wonderful gardens which are beautifully described in books and articles that offer inspiration for our personal gardening style.  This presentation will highlight the writing and gardens of such individuals as Beatrix Potter, Virginia Wolf, Vita Sackville-West, Charlotte Moss, Bunny Williams, C. Z. Guest, and other gardeners.

- See more at: http://www.crowwingmastergardeners.org/index.php?page=35#sthash.lShxRGbO.dpuf