

Elkhart Historical Society
Press Release

For Immediate Release
March 6, 2024

Not one, but three headliners will present the next Elkhart Historical Society Dinner Lecture on Friday, April 26, 2024, **“How to be Successful with Native Plants” (to support pollinators).**

The trio comprised of Susan Helm of the Springfield Parks Foundation, Mona Maas, creator of Elkhart’s Pollinator Habitat, and Joan Moody from Lincoln Welcome Garden, will encourage and delight you with their sagas of native plants and how to ensure their success-



- which almost simultaneously assures pollinators survival as well. All three are University of Illinois Master Naturalists who are active retirees spreading the word for Pollinators in our local communities. Joanie developed and maintains the Logan County Welcome Garden with the City of Lincoln; Susan has developed more than 10+ Native Plant Gardens with the Springfield Park District; Mona did the same at our Pollinator Habitat with the Village of Elkhart.

Join them for an entertaining presentation on their successes (and failures) in developing native plant gardens, large and small. Bees, butterflies, and other pollinators are on the decline worldwide, but you can make a difference for them right in your own garden. Monarch caterpillars feed exclusively on the leaves of milkweed, the only host plant for this iconic butterfly species. Eradication of milkweed both in agricultural areas as well as in landscapes is one of the primary reasons that monarchs are in trouble today!

They will share “How to’s” on introducing native plants into your landscaping to support pollinators, as well as a list of sources of native plants for this area. They will inspire you to begin (or continue) to develop your own native plant plot! The trio plans to bring plugs of rose milkweed for everyone, for which a \$2 donation to cover the cost would be appreciated.

The Lecture will be held at Horsefeather’s Wild Hare Café in Elkhart. Doors open at 5 p.m. and dinner service will begin at 5:30 p.m. The two entrees will be breaded chicken with a lemon cream sauce or beef stroganoff. The cost is \$45 per person. **Reservations are required and should be made by calling 217 947 2238.** The deadline for reservations and payment is April 15.