



## Wilson's Nursery

# Looking forward to Spring 2024!

It's amazing how fast time passes. It is just over a month and we will be welcoming our potting team back to the farm for the 2024 season. Those of us in the office are really looking forward to seeing our coworkers and colleagues again soon!

Our team is ready and available to assist you with whatever you need in the way of plant material and delivery. Please send your plant lists to us at: [orders@wilsonsnurseryinc.com](mailto:orders@wilsonsnurseryinc.com) and we will get you something back right away!

We would really like to meet up with any of you looking to discuss your Spring needs. Please give us a call to get something setup.

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Thank you to everybody who paid us a visit this Tradeshow Season! A big thank you to the MNLA, NDNGLA and SDNLA for putting on such great events this year. We are grateful to be able to participate and share with all of those in attendance.

Please come see us at our booth in March at the Shade Tree Short Course!

[Northern Green](#) - St. Paul, MN, January 23-25, 2024

[NDNGLA Tradeshow](#) - Fargo, ND, January 29-31, 2024

[SDNLA Tradeshow](#) - Sioux Falls, SD, February 4-6, 2024

[MN Shade Tree Short Course](#) - Arden Hills, MN, March 12-13, 2024

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## Announcement:

Our very own fulfillment manager and author of the famous 'Connie's Corner' will be giving an interactive talk about growing trees next month! Please mark your calendars for:

**March 9, 2024 at 10:00 AM at Tonkadale Greenhouse!**

You can RSVP for this event here:

<https://tonkadaleevents.eventcalendarapp.com/u/50268/278153>

Here is a short description as to what her talk will be covering

(written by Connie):

Let's explore all of the reasons why we choose to incorporate trees into our lives! We can share our aesthetic, environmental and functional goals. Then we'll delve into tree selection; specifically how to select trees that work for you. Due to recent interest in fruit trees, I'll give you a realistic assessment of managing a home micro orchard. After that we will talk about how to make trees comfortable in their new homes. I will give you some concise, planting and maintenance basics that will be easy to retain and implement. New pests, diseases and environmental challenges seem to pop up every day. We will discuss how to mitigate those impacts and raise the next generation of healthy trees!

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## Connie's Corner

### *Basic Human Needs*

by Connie Kratzke

*Today I am getting back to routine after a highly enjoyable, Northern Green. After I made it home yesterday I nearly collapsed. The older I get, the more introverted I become. While I thoroughly enjoyed myself and every interaction, I need to re-energize a bit. That's not something I always allow time for. Writing this column is a great way to reflect on the whole experience and renew.*

*I took twenty-eight damned pages of notes. That's not counting both sides, which I used the majority of the time. Needless to say, I have issues. The content was great, though! James Robilotta was amazing! I haven't enjoyed a keynote that much since R.T. Rybak. While I've never heard a bad one, James T. Robo knows how to connect. His quotes were truly impactful. There is definitely an art to saying deep things without wasting words. All of the seminars I attended were truly worthwhile. They echoed the same message over and over: mental and physical health matter. "Work-life balance" is a thing. Being authentic is the only way to lead.*

*This year's tradeshow was quite an interesting experiment! Our booth was always busy. Not escaping to walk the tradeshow floor was my only regret. That might*

*seem like a negative, but the connections made were meaningful. Few feigned interest for candy. Being there with our group made me proud. This thing we're building revolves around relationships with partners who care. I felt the love. Hort people help and learn from each other. As I say this, I must call myself out for hiding from other humans yesterday. Between classes, you may have seen me sitting in relative isolation. I was simply reflecting; trying to absorb the whole experience.*

*One of the many things I pondered was what to write about today. Two of my title considerations were, "Soylent Green" and "People Who Need People." My mind is an interesting place to say the least! What took me the "basic needs" direction is content I absorbed from Alicia Rihn, Sam Gembel, Rayne Gibson and Aubrey Olson. They all spoke on different topics, but their message shared a common theme. Humans want more from life today. Food, water, shelter and clothing are no longer enough. Survival and living are not synonymous. We want to participate in things that matter. "Be the change," is a widespread philosophy. Compromising mental and physical health to get the job done is no longer mandatory. Thanks, Millennials! There was a time when I didn't get it. Now I embrace it.*

*This bold generation is financially prioritizing yoga spaces. Yoga spaces. I have to say it twice because I hear non-Millennial peers chuckle every time they hear the word yoga. When I started in this industry, yoga spaces weren't something you found in many Midwestern backyards. But "yoga space" is really just another way of saying "sensory garden." People are asking for a garden experience. They want to be truly present and take it all in. Beyond that, they want to allow themselves the time. They expect that benefit. There is so much to be learned from this information.*

*As I look out the window on my dormant gardens, I recall what they feel like when they're awake. Sweet aromas float in the breeze, drawing in colorful pollinators. Their buzz and the murmur of the wind through the trees is hypnotizing. Now, I haven't added yoga to my stagnant and punishing exercise regime yet; but when I do...*

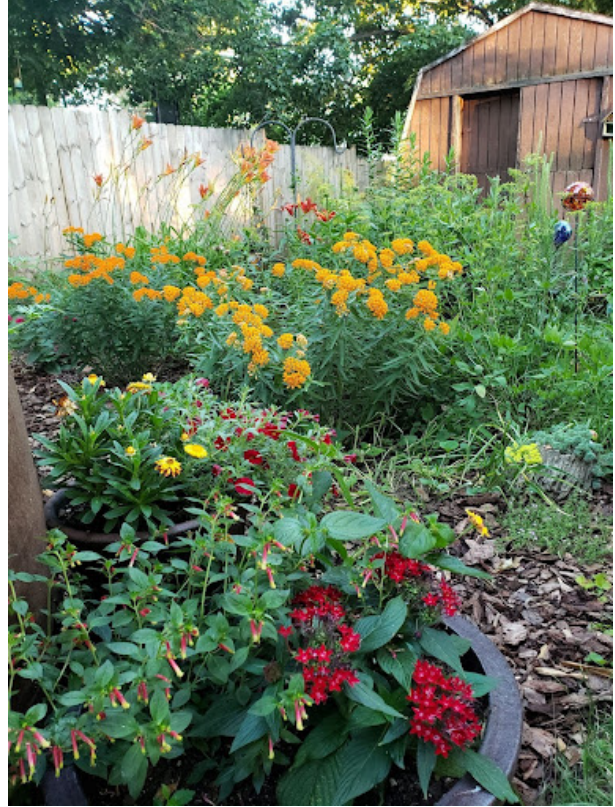
*Designing around the concepts of good health and environmental responsibility creates fun possibilities! There are so many different ways to unite those goals. Native plants are excellent tools, of course. They play multiple roles. Plants with aromatic flowers soothe spirits and attract beneficials. *Asclepias incarnata* produces my favorite garden perfume. Natives used in their preferred environments thrive without care once established. Fragrant foliage plants like *Calamintha*, *Nepeta*, *Monarda* and *Agastache* are uplifting to be around. Perennials like *Stachys* and *Artemisia* are soothing to the touch. All of these low-care plants can be utilized in almost any sunny garden. I'm going to end my trot down this trail because the possibilities are infinite.*

*People want to grow produce and become more self reliant. They hope to reduce energy usage with shade trees and cut water consumption with xeriscape plants. Folks are willing to stop using pesticides altogether and foster habitat for beneficial insects. These goals can be united with great design to please every sense. Areas for yoga and other activities can be incorporated to enhance physiological health and quality of life. The result can be breathtaking! No one has to choose between living in chaos and supporting a cause.*

*The Millennial generation is ok with a little mess, funk and character. They value individuality and a story. Filled with eco-anxiety, they don't expect things to be okay if they do nothing. Our direction and input is needed. Failure is discouraging and traumatic. Anything we can do to support these positive shifts towards healthier, more responsible living is our task. We're all a part of something bigger. Yes, that's obnoxiously cliché, but it's true. I hate many of the new terms, like, "extroverted introvert." Yet, I am one. We have always known that mental and physical health are of equal importance. No one is surprised that Mother Earth is pissed off at us. Now we have a much greater calling. That's pretty cool!*



*Above left: the excellent garden many of you may have seen at Castle Danger Brewery in Two Harbors Above right: a beneficial insect posting in an artsy way.*



*Above left: a couple of different bees mingling on a Helianthus along the Luce Line horse trail. Above right: a little hunk of my pollinator garden. Below: Happy little tree frog hanging out with Helen Von Stein.*



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**Winter Hours of Operation**  
Monday-Friday 7:30am-4:00pm

**\*Please email all quote requests and  
orders to us at:  
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