



# GROW THE GOOD LIFE 2025, March 15, 2025

## CRITTER CONTROL: Protect Your Plants from Unwanted Guests

Sponsored by the Bedford Area Master Gardeners Association, this live and in-person seminar includes presentations from four horticulture experts. **This event is for all who are tired of having well-tended and maintained plants demolished by hungry critters.**

Participants may attend virtually **via Zoom or in-person** at Bethlehem United Methodist Church, 13586 Old Moneta Road, Moneta, VA. The program begins at 9:30am and ends at 3:45pm. Doors open at 9am with light breakfast, coffee and tea provided. **Choose your lunch option below.** Local vendors will be on-site with a variety of home and gardening products available for purchase. Professional tool sharpener, Justin Kelley, will be on site with his sharpening equipment! **Bring your garden tools to be sharpened for a fee while you attend the sessions.**

### SIGN UP NOW!

**Registration Fees: \$40 In-person (includes lunch); \$30 Virtual attendance via Zoom. No on-site registration.**

**No refunds unless event is cancelled.**

On-line registration available through Eventbrite at:

- [Click here to register](#) for In-person Attendance.
- [Click here to register](#) for Virtual/Zoom Attendance.

For problems registering for this event, please send an email to [Grow the Good Life 2025](#).

To register by mail and pay by check, complete the form below. Mail this form with payment to: Bedford County Extension Office c/o GTGL, 1257 County Farm Road, Suite B, Bedford, VA 24523. **Make check payable to BAMGA**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

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**REGISTRATION DEADLINES:** In-person Attendance: **March 6, 2025**, by 2pm either through Eventbrite or dropped off at the Bedford Extension Office. Virtual Attendance: **March 12, 2025**, registration only through Eventbrite.

**Lunch provided by The Blue Lady Restaurant. Lunch is included in the registration cost.**

*Please choose from the following menu options by checking your selection:*

\_\_\_ Option 1: Turkey Sandwich served on whole wheat bread with provolone cheese, lettuce, tomato, mustard/mayo on the side. Includes a side of pasta salad and a chocolate chip cookie.

\_\_\_ Option 2: Ham Sandwich served on a croissant with Swiss cheese, lettuce, tomato, mustard/mayo on the side. Includes a side of pasta salad and a chocolate chip cookie.

\_\_\_ Option 3: Lunch Salad - mixed greens, hard-boiled egg, feta cheese, dried cranberries, cucumbers, and tomatoes. Balsamic dressing on the side and a chocolate chip cookie.

Beverages include coffee, hot tea, a variety of soft drinks (diet/regular), and iced tea (sweet/unsweet).

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. If you are a person with a disability and desire assistance or accommodation, please notify Scott Baker at the Bedford Extension Office at 540-586-7675 (TDD number 800-828-1120) during business hours of 8:30am to 5:00pm.



## Grow The Good Life 2025

**9:45am - 10:45am Holly Scoggins, PhD**



### **“Those Pesky Varmints! Gardening with Deer and Rabbits”**

Herbivore pressure can make gardening frustrating; unfortunately, there is no easy fix. We'll talk about plant choices – why some plants are “delicious” and others less palatable – along with other strategies that can help give your landscape a fighting chance!

**11:10am - 12:10pm James A. Parkhurst, PhD**



### **“The Battle for Supremacy of the Home Landscape: Who’s Winning & Is There Hope?”**

Jim will examine the suite of wild animals that commonly visit home gardens and landscapes, with an eye focused on their behaviors and feeding traits and then will discuss the options and legal parameters of what homeowners can and can't do in their efforts to maintain healthy and aesthetically pleasing landscapes.

**1:15pm – 2:15pm Robyn Puffenbarger, PhD**



### **“Gardening for Birds”**

Robyn will discuss how, by making our yards more bird friendly, we can encourage them to linger in our spaces, especially in the spring/summer when they are raising their young and are voracious predators of insect larvae. Robyn will also talk about the ecosystem and building your plant community. By following some of Robyn's suggestions you might add some new birds to your backyard habitat!

**2:35pm – 3:35pm Mike Raupp, PhD**



### **“Aiding and Abetting Mother Nature’s Hit-Squad”**

Mike will discuss how your landscape and gardens can be a refuge for beneficial insects that provide the vital ecosystem service of biological control, the natural system of putting a beatdown on plant-damaging pests. You'll meet various beneficial insects and other arthropod allies. Learn simple steps to enhance their abundance and contributions as well as ways to conserve them in gardens. Mike will also talk about organic approaches to managing key insect and mite pests, including the use of OMRI listed insecticides.

**Presented by Bedford Area Master Gardeners Association in partnership with Virginia Cooperative Extension**

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