Duane Dedene
Duane is an American Rose Society (ARS) certified Master Consulting Rosarian who has been growing roses for more than 40 years. Starting with his parents’ yard and later to his own garden for over 28 years, Duane’s garden has been evolving ever since. He is currently the President of the Metropolitan Rose Society – a local rose society serving the metro Detroit area. Duane’s philosophy to roses is simple. Purchase roses with an ARS rating in the upper 7’s and above and as low a hardiness zone rating as possible. That said, he also tries out some to the new introductions on a regular basis.

Dian McConnel
Dian is a Huron County resident and member of the Huron County Master Gardener Association since 2007. She is an active member, having served as Treasurer for several years and has participated in many of the Association’s annual projects. This has earned her Advanced Master Gardener certification. Dian describes herself as more of a plant collector than a gardener, with a special interest in heirloom plants. Her current collections include many antique iris, heirloom dianthus or pinks, a number of roses descended from the family of the American climber ‘New Dawn,’ and a small but growing collection of heritage daffodils.

Ahmad Bajjey
Ahmad is the morning meteorologist with NBC25 and FOX66 for the Great Lakes Bay Region. A graduate of Central Michigan University, he has served the region for more than 5 years. Ahmad has held talks and presentations with multiple school districts as well as community centers and has provided forecasts for both MBS and BISHOP International airports in the region. He has been awarded honors by the Associated Press and Michigan Association of Broadcasters for Best Weathercast and Best Meteorologist.

Elly Maxwell
Elly has been the entomologist at Dow Gardens since 2006. She earned a M.S. from Auburn University and a B.S. from M.S.U., both in entomology. Her responsibilities include Integrated Pest Management, beekeeping, tending the pollinator garden and coordinating turf care. A favorite component of her job is Butterflies in Bloom an event which, under her care, has evolved from displaying native-only butterflies to showcasing butterflies from around the world. She enjoys sharing her enthusiasm with the public, volunteers, and garden clubs. Most of all she wants to engage and interest children. She created a summer insect collecting class and a summer bug club to inspire youth. She teaches many classes to all ages, both at the gardens and throughout the state.

SPRING INTO GARDENING CONFERENCE
Huron County Master Gardener Association
144 Hartshorn Street
Bad Axe, MI 48413
Saturday, March 17, 2018
A day-long conference and expo held at Knights of Columbus Hall 1038 S. Van Dyke (M-53) Bad Axe, MI
Sponsored by the Huron County Master Gardener Association - and - Huron Daily Tribune
2 EVENTS in 1

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**Fancy-Leaved Geraniums have spawned an expanding interest in these colorful plants that include both old and new varieties.** Once wildly popular as bedding plants during the Victorian Era when they were prized for their foliage rather than their blooms, these plants are experiencing a huge comeback, with modern breeders adding some delightful variations. This brief presentation will introduce both old and new varieties and cover uses, culture and sources.

**12:20-1:10 PM  LUNCH, shopping, exhibit visitation, & door prize drawings.**

**1:20-2:30 PM  Elly Maxwell**
Class: **BEEKEEPING**

Back by popular demand, Elly will educate and entertain us with the highlights and details of bees and beekeeping.

**2:30-2:50 PM  BREAK, shopping, refreshments, exhibit visitation, & final door prize drawings.**

**2:50-4:00 PM  Ahmad Bajjey**
Class: **Weather for Gardeners**

Highlights are: Forecasting rainfall, storms, and how to prepare for their arrival. How meteorologists put together a forecast. How to find your current soil moisture. Combat drought and how to know if conditions are worsening or improving. Great Lakes water levels and forecast.

**4:00 PM  WRAP-UP, final shopping & exhibit visitation as Expo closes**