



Photo credit: Michelle Morgenstern Photography

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Michele has inspired hundreds of people to dig in, get dirty, and enjoy their gardens in the past decade. With UCONN Advanced Master Gardener and CT NOFA ([ctnofa.org](http://ctnofa.org)) Organic Land Care certifications, she is a trusted **Garden expert** with a growing following.

Michele's enthusiastic presentation style make her a repeat **speaker** for garden clubs and community organizations throughout Connecticut and New York. She offers engaging **educational workshops**, including via online meeting sites (Zoom, WebEx, GoToMeeting.)

Michele enjoys sharing results of her continuous learning, experimentation, and careful observation of plant and wildlife behaviors in her own garden with others. She writes and publishes her own *Garden Advice* newsletter (<https://bit.ly/GardenTipsNews>) for an ever larger group of garden lovers. Her article, "Wicked and Wonderful Weeds" appeared in the March 2022 issue of *Connecticut Gardener magazine*. She was a past **garden contributor** to *The Quinnehtukqut*, **Sierra Club's CT** chapter e-newsletter with a distribution of 40,000+.

Michele volunteers on the **Sherman Conservation Commission** and writes periodic articles for their **Conservation Corner** column in the *Town Tribune* newspaper. She also **mentors UCONN Master Gardeners** in Fairfield County's office, helping the public solve garden issues.

Previously, she held multiple Vice President positions and facilitated corporate training programs and managed complex global projects at Citigroup and with Connecticut's Union Savings Bank. She lives and gardens in a pollinator-friendly setting in Sherman, CT.

### Happy customers

Excellent. Your talk and photos are incredible. We will definitely have you back. ~J.G.  
Your writing...makes me feel hopeful the world is spinning in the right direction ~D.B.  
Your content was organized...and your presentation enthusiastic. ~L. E.  
Thank you for sharing your vast knowledge! Such a pleasure! ~P. H.  
Please continue to invite Michele [to Danbury Library.] She's great. ~Anon.



Speaker topics & options - talks are 60 minutes, including Q&A experienced Zoom presenter

- \* **Prince Edward Island: The Landscapes of Canada's Garden Province (will offer if interest)**—the vistas and gardens of this island paradise
- \* (new) **A Walk Through my Spring Garden**—a color-drenched visual stroll of favorite bulbs, perennials & trees; especially popular after long winters
- \* (new) **Invasives - Identification, Management and Reclaiming Your Landscape**—non-chemical methods to reclaim property from invasives
- \* **Fearless Pruning** —combination of slides, Q&A, pruning concept demonstrations
  - Greatly simplified tips that turn fear into confidence; highly interactive and gets audience involved; great winter topic
- \* **Landscape Design Basics** (in development)—simple concepts behind a more beautiful, visually appealing garden
- \* **Pollinator-Perfect Gardens** — slides with close-ups of plants & insects + extensive slide notes
  - Pollinator plant lessons from my garden, retail sources of “true” pollinator plants and planting tips that increase pollinator visits
- \* **Bulbs: the Bold & the Beautiful**  (good fall topic)—how-tos, planting tips, spotlight on less common choices
  - Walk through the calendar year and see how careful selection provides blooms year-round, both inside and outside your home
- \* **Wicked and wonderful weeds...and what to do about them** — how-tos of organic control methods + slide notes, how to ID common weeds
  - *Attendees encouraged to bring weeds for identification; best offered when weeds are growing from early April to fall freeze*
- \* **Winging It: Gardening for Birds, Bees and Butterflies**—plants and practices that attract these species and support their needs year-round
- \* **Winter Seed Sowing for Pollinator Plants**—hands-on; learn an easy, affordable method for growing pollinator plants from seed while turning the winter season into an advantage (event organizer provides potting soil, seeds, and clean, clear milk jugs (+ duct tape) or 4-inch pots and labels)
- \* **Dahlias: Not Your Momma's Passé Flowers** —this old-fashioned flower is hot with brides and home gardeners again, growing tips, today's most popular cultivars & where to find them; includes handout of tuber sources
- \* **Putting the *Pollinator-friendly* Garden to Bed in Fall** —gentle methods of fall maintenance that safeguard pollinators and soil quality
- \* **Container Garden Design Tips & Trends**—create containers with staying power, as well as new products and small-space solutions
- \* **Grow An Organic Vegetable Garden**  - learn to grow your own nutritious organic food without harmful synthetic chemicals
- \* **How-to's of Easy Home Composting**—learn the simple steps of creating your garden's best soil amendment and reduce waste

