

# Natives at Noon: Lunch & Learn Webinar Series

Hello! I'm your host, Lisa Kuder, from UMD Extension. Join us on the **first Wednesday of each month from noon to 1** as we delve into various topics related to native plants. Whether you're a novice or a seasoned professional, this series provides an opportunity to expand your knowledge and engage with experts in the field. Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists, these sessions are an excellent way to earn Continuing Education Units. Although the presentations are **free of charge**, **registration is required** to attend. Don't miss this chance to enhance your understanding of native plants while enjoying your lunch. Register to attend one or more of the first three live only sessions.

## JAN 7th - Microforests for macrosolutions



**John Evangelista** is the Executive Director of Groundwork Elizabeth. He collaborates with City government and community groups to plant microforests to address climate risks in formerly redlined neighborhoods and brownfield areas. Using the Miyawaki method—restoring forests by planting native trees on deforested, degraded soils—these microforests improve soil permeability, mitigate flooding, improve air quality, reduce the heat island effect, and help replenish biodiversity. Health and well-being in the target neighborhoods will also improve as a result of cleaner air, less noise pollution, and the presence of community spaces

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## FEB 4th - Rethinking lawns: turning green carpets into diverse ecosystems

**Dr. Liz Anna Kozik** is a Research Scientist at the Chicago Botanic Garden. She is an interdisciplinary researcher who started doing native prairie restoration and ended up using those skills and knowledge to figure out how we can incorporate our native plants into our lawn landscapes. With the Rethinking Lawns ([rethinkinglawns.com](http://rethinkinglawns.com)) team at Chicago Botanic Garden, Chicago Park District, and University of Michigan Flint, she studies and tests the methods and benefits of changing our existing lawns into more diverse spaces that can benefit both people and the living world. [\*\*REGISTER HERE\*\*](#)



## MAR 4th - Importance of mycorrhizal fungi for plant propagation: where to start?



**Dr. Adriana Corrales** is Lead Field Research Scientist & Underground Explorers Program Director at the Society for the Protection of Underground Networks (SPUN), which is a non-profit organization focused on the conservation of mycorrhizal fungi. Most of her work focuses on the ecology of tropical mycorrhizal associations in lowland and montane forests. Before joining SPUN, she was an Assistant Professor at Universidad del Rosario in Colombia for six years. Dr. Corrales is a Forest Engineer with an MS in Environmental Conservation from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia and a PhD in Plant Biology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. [\*\*REGISTER HERE\*\*](#)