



**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**

2025 Master Gardener Annual Update Conference

Speaker Bios



Amanda Bachmann

SDSU Extension Urban Entomogy Field Specialist

Amanda Bachmann, PhD: Amanda Bachmann is the Urban Entomology Field Specialist with SDSU Extension and is based in Pierre. She has a background in vegetable pest entomology and earned a PhD in Entomology from Penn State. As an urban entomologist, she works not only with the 'traditional' urban pests like bed bugs and mosquitoes but also urban pollinators and other beneficial insects as well as helping specialty crop producers with insect issues. With the SDSU Extension horticulture team she is an instructor for the South Dakota Master Gardeners, and is one of the regular hosts for Garden Hour. She is an executive committee member for the South Dakota Volunteer Naturalists, and a state co-coordinator for SD SARE.

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Marty DeWitt

Photographer

Marty has been involved with photography for more than 50 years, much of which spanned his 40-year career in the state parks of Vermont and South Dakota. His main interests are nature, wildlife, birds, night sky and scenic landscape images.

His images have appeared in many issues of the South Dakota "Conservation Digest" and other Game, Fish and Parks publications and websites. He has also had photos published by the Rails to Trails Conservancy, the L.L. Bean website, numerous calendars, local tourism guides, multi-media and theatrical productions, newspapers and even CD and cassette tape covers.

Marty is a long-time member (and current president) of the Sioux Falls Camera Club, and has received many awards for his images on both the local and regional level. In his retirement, Marty can be found assisting customers at Harold's Photo in Sioux Falls, teaching photo classes and leading workshops around the state.

Marty, and his wife Cathy, have made it their mission to visit as many national parks and monuments as possible. With nearly 160 already in their rearview mirror, he has been able to capture many beautiful images of our nation's grandest landscapes.



Laura Edwards

SDSU Extension State Climatologist

Laura Edwards is the South Dakota State Climatologist/SDSU Extension Climate Field Specialist located at the Aberdeen Regional Extension Center. With an education and career built around climate research, Laura draws upon years of experience to develop tools, resources and information on how weather impacts horticulture and agriculture in South Dakota. She is a member of the American Meteorological Society; American Association of State Climatologists; National Association of County Agriculture Agents; and the South Dakota Association of Agricultural Extension Professionals. Laura received her M.S. in Meteorology from the University of Maryland.

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Mary Lahr Schier

Author

Mary Lahr Schier is author of *The Northern Gardener, From Apples to Zinnias, 150 Years of Garden Wisdom* (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2017). For 18 years, she edited Northern Gardener magazine, the only magazine dedicated to gardening in USDA Zones 3, 4 and 5. Her current project is a newsletter for garden writers available at maryschier.substack.com. You can follow her on Instagram at @mynortherngarden_mary.