You remember what the world was like back then, in full pandemic mode, there were just too many unknowns to have an in-person class. "How about having a training class by Zoom?" someone asked. The overwhelming response was "No way!" because that would completely leave out the camaraderie, the socializing, the group bonding that comes with an in-person class and is a critical part of our intern training. And how would they navigate the 50-hour volunteer requirement, which was already problematic for the 2020 class? Then Chris Epes piped in, "You could skip a training class next year. Could you try offering a shorter series for the gardening public instead?" "Hmmmm, are we allowed to do that?" mused the Team. Yes we were, and thus was born the Master Classes for Norfolk Gardeners, a public education series for home gardeners of Norfolk.

For the next few months, the Team plotted and fretted over how to pull this off. We wrestled over big questions such as: which basic classes to offer? Who should the speakers be? When do we hold the series? How do we register everyone and send them emails? What medium do we use for the class? How do we publicize the class? How much do we charge and how do we get paid? How many people would register for the series, is there demand for something like this, and is it really worth the effort? There were a million other questions as well. We basically started from scratch, and it took a great team effort to work through all of these questions.

The Team figured it out slowly, and bit by bit the series took shape. Finalizing the topics, speakers and the schedule was critical, as it gave us a framework to work around and fill in the details, and also allowed us to publicize the event (thanks to the Communications Committee for a great effort). As to the all-important question of how many people would actually take the course, enrollment gradually gained.

Let’s Talk About Pollinators

Date: Saturday, August 7, 2021
Time: 10 – 12
Where: Knitting Mill Creek Community Garden – corner of Mayflower and Georgia in Colonial Place behind Fellini’s

Chat with Norfolk Master Gardener Kate Melhuish at our Butterfly Table to learn how to attract them to your garden.
Check out our All American Selections Demo Garden - see how much it’s grown since our last event – Let’s Talk About Tomatoes.
Pre-register at knittingmillva@icloud.com - we will enter your name for the pollinator grow bag!

Knitting Mill Creek Community Garden