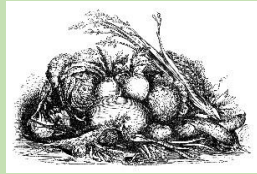


## Lectures and Workshops with Judith Sumner

[www.judithsumner.com](http://www.judithsumner.com)

[sumnerbotany@gmail.com](mailto:sumnerbotany@gmail.com)



### **Birds' Nest Botany**

A slide illustrated talk on birds' nests, their construction, plants used in nest building, zoopharmacognosy (use of medicinal plants by animals) in nest building, and what gardeners can do to help bird populations to thrive.

### **Botany for Gardeners**

A slide illustrated talk on basic botanical topics, from seed germination and light requirements to pruning and soil nutrients; this talk answers the “why” about many aspects of plant growth and horticultural practices.

### **Flowering Plant Families**

A slide illustrated talk on many of the most important horticultural plants families, including the rose family, lily family, composite family, orchid family, and several others; this can offered as a workshop with specimens to dissect and identify using a basic key.

### **Ecology for Gardeners**

A slide illustrated talk on garden ecosystems, soil structure (including invasive earthworms), composting, companion planting, dormancy, cultivating native plants, pollinators, and several other topics of ecological interest

### **Herbs, Herbals, and Herbalists**

A slide illustrated talk on early herbals and the botanists who wrote them, including Dioscorides, the Renaissance herbalists, John Gerard, and others; the curious Doctrine of Signatures and various ancient and modern herb and spice uses are part of the herbal story.

### **Botanical Names for the Fearful**

A slide illustrated talk on plant names and botanical Latin, the origin of binomials and the work of Linnaeus, the names of cultivated varieties, why names change, pronunciation, and sources of information on botanical nomenclature; includes comprehensive handouts on plant names and their history.

### **The Natural History of Medicinal Plants**

A slide illustrated on the role of plant compounds in nature, the evolution of natural toxins and their use as medicines, the cycling of medicinal compounds in habitats, and zoopharmacognosy (use of medicinal plants by wild animals).

### **Pollination: Birds, Bees, Flowers, and Seeds**

A slide illustrated talk on pollination and pollinators, the importance of bees as pollinators, butterfly and hummingbird plants for gardens, how to support and promote pollinators in nature

### **The Herbal Botany of Tea and Tisanes**

A slide illustrated talk on the brewing of various plants to make teas and tisanes, from Asian tea to the liberty teas made from herbs by Colonial American patriots; can be accompanied by a tea tasting.

### **In a Pickle: The Science, Art, and Lore of Pickling**

In this illustrated talk and demonstration, we will investigate the origin and discovery of vinegar, the anti-microbial properties of herbs and spices, pickling lore, and historical and modern pickling methods; the program includes tasting of several homemade pickle varieties.

### **Eating Local: Fruit and Vegetable Botany**

A short slide-illustrated lecture on fruit types, followed by a workshop with hands-on dissection of pomes, drupes, nuts, capsules, and diverse other supermarket fruits and crops; an excellent program for teachers and others involved with classroom botany.

### **Household Botany: Plant Uses in American Homes**

A slide-illustrated lecture on historical plant uses as foods, medicines, tonics and bitters, dyes, household herbs and diverse other uses in colonial homes.

### **Lights, Water, Action! Understanding Plant Growth**

A slide illustrated lecture on plant growth, meristems (growing points), cell structure, plant parts and their functions, seed germination, and the important of plant nutrients and water to plant growth.

### **Herbal Medicine and Magic: Sorting Facts from Fancy**

Plants are the most reliable sources of effective medicines, but herbal botany is comingled with fanciful tales and magical lore; in this slide-illustrated lecture, we sort out fact from fancy, legends from legitimate cures; we trace the evolution of modern drugs from traditional herbal and ethnobotanical origins.

### **World War II Botany: How Plants Won the War**

A slide illustrated talk on plants in wartime, from victory gardens and English County herb committees, to antibiotics, agriculture, camouflage, malaria, typhus, and bocage warfare; based on Judith's book *Plants Go to War: A Botanical History of World War II* (McFarland, 2019), the first botanical history of World War II.

### **Plants @ Museums: Botanical Art and Symbolism**

A gallery walk at the Worcester Art Museum, with discussion of plants as portrayed in mosaics, Asian sculpture, landscapes, religious art, and still life paintings; alternately this program can be offered as a slide illustrated lecture.

### **Linnaeus, Classification, and 18th Century Botany**

A slide illustrated lecture on the life of Carolus Linnaeus and his work as a physician, naturalist, and botanist; the program include the Linnaean system of classification, the development of binomial nomenclature, and his "apostles" and their worldwide travels.

### **Garden Herbs: Their Cultivation, Cookery, Cures, and Caveats**

A slide illustrated lecture that traces the European herbal tradition among plants carried by early settlers to the New World; many of these species escaped dooryard gardens and naturalized in our local flora, which now includes many plants once used in cookery and food preservation; we examine a range of medicinal and culinary species—from use in ancient traditions to gourmet cookery, military history, and modern medicine.

### **Potions and Potables: The History and Chemistry of Herbal Drinks**

From fruit wines and colonial punches to quasi-medicinal herbal bitters, plants have been preserved and extracted in alcohol for centuries. Beginning with the natural history of yeast fermentation, the slide illustrated talk investigates the various herbs, spices, and alcohol that since ancient times have been combined into desirable beverages for both the sickroom and in the parlor.

### **Victory Gardens: How a Nation of Gardeners Helped to Win the War**

Victory gardens provided food and promoted morale during World War II; in this slide illustrated talk we will trace the victory garden movement, including urban gardens, school gardens, food preservation, and ration book cookery; we will also look at the British Dig for Victory campaign, Hedgerow Harvest program, and Women's Land Army.

### **Vernacular Gardens: The How and Why of Dooryard Horticulture**

In this slide illustrated talk, we will examine the plants found in dooryard gardens, the easily cultivated and propagated species common in vernacular gardens in both northern and southern communities.

