

Topics and Speakers for the “All Things Green” Conference 2017



Sustaining Natures Green System (Part One and Two):

Dr. Malcolm Guidry, Urban forester for City of Mandeville and Dr. Fred Fellner, Green Infrastructure Director for LSU Complex. Dr. Malcolm Guidry is a consulting arborist in Mandeville, Louisiana. He holds a BS of Science, Agricultural and Plant Sciences, Masters of Science of Agriculture Extension and Plant Sciences, Masters of urban forestry and Doctorate in agricultural extension education, horticulture and plant sciences. Dr Guidry’s experiences includes: expert witness, forensic investigations, tree appraisals, tree health diagnosis, constructions, assessment and management. He serves on the US Forestry Research Advisory Council, teaches at Tulane University and Slidell Vocational School. Other work experience includes vocation rehabilitation at Southeast Louisiana Hospital, vocational educator at Feliciana Parish School board, county agent with the Florida and Louisiana Extension Services.



Color in Your Town and Garden- Bloom Town

GardenMama.com

Nellie Neal has been known as ‘The GardenMama’ to her weekly radio audiences on the SuperTalk radio network since the turn of the century. A native of Monroe, LA, she grew up in a family of gardeners, majored in English and Horticulture at LSU (BS 1974), and has lived and gardened in the Southeast most of her life. Nellie has researched, grown, sold, given away, written and taught about cut flowers during her career and is presently knee deep in the MS Grown Cut Flower Association. These days she writes about gardening, speaks to large and small groups, and consults with individuals about their gardens. The author of 11 books including *Gardener’s Guide to Tropical Plants* (2013), *Month by Month Deep South Gardening* (2014), and *The Nonstop Color Garden*

(2015), Nellie is presently at work on #12.



Prepare for the Next Storm: Charlie Marcus is the Urban Forestry Assistance Coordinator for Legacy Arborist Services. Since 2014, Charlie has worked with LAS clients in both the public and private sectors. He provides services throughout Florida and the southeastern Gulf Coast from his Tallahassee office. Charlie has practiced both forest land management and urban forestry in Florida since the late 1970’s. During the final 10 years of his 35 year career with the Florida Forest Service, Charlie served as their statewide Urban Forestry Programs Coordinator. He has earned the ISA Arborist Certification and Tree Risk Assessment Qualifications. Charlie is a native of Rhode Island and has earned a BS degree in Forest Management from the State University of New York College of Forestry. He has three daughters and three granddaughters.

Environmental Justice, Social Equity and Greenspace:



Cassandra Johnson Gaither is a Research Social Scientist with the Southern Research Station, USDA Forest Service, in Athens, Georgia, 30602. Email: cjohnson09@fs.fed.us. Her research interests address human perceptions and interactions with nature and the environment. She has published research addressing social group visitation to wild land recreation areas, environmental justice as this relates to minority,

lower income groups, and immigrant access to outdoor recreation facilities, and more recently, the intersection of socially vulnerable populations and climate change. Her work currently focuses on the intersection of property ownership and social vulnerability in the South and the implications of the same for national forest management.

Fruit Orchards for Community, Home or Business:



As a native of Madison County, Mississippi, I have been raised in a state centered around agriculture. However, upon apprenticing on organic farms in the Northwest, I realized all agriculture is not the same. I took to heart the beneficial qualities of fresh produce grown using natural and sustainable practices. The beginning of my agricultural career began in 2011, at an organic farm named Green Fire Farm, located in the Hoopa Valley of Northern California. Since then, I have traveled around the United States learning about natural farming practices, on established farms including Rolling River (CA), Crickets' Cove (VA), and Native Son (MS). I finally returned home, to Jackson, MS, in the Fall of 2014 to seek out a small piece of land to start a farm. I established The Garden Farmacy in the Spring of 2015. And, have since been providing healthy, sustainably grown produce throughout the Jackson Metro area. I have personally delivered produce to hundreds of local residences, locally owned restaurants, and farmers' markets throughout Jackson in the past three years. The Garden Farmacy's mission is to provide you, and your family, access to the healthiest, most nutrient dense fruits and vegetables possible, using responsible and sustainable farming practices.

The Garden Farmacy is 6 acre agricultural homestead, located in Bolton, Mississippi. We specialize in producing 24 different varieties of fruits, vegetables, and herbs throughout the Jackson Metro area.

What makes The Garden Farmacy unique, Our dedication to sustainable farming: Improve local biodiversity, and promote healthy ecological homeostasis.

Our food crops are raised using hand tools, in order to work the soil deep, without compaction. Reduction for dependability upon fossil fuels.

Full responsibility for the life cycle of our food crop production, from seed to harvest. All food crop seeds are sprouted on-site, in our own greenhouse.

All marketed food crops are grown on-site, at The Garden Farmacy.

NO spray on our food crops with ANY form of chemical pesticide or herbicide.

NO use ANY chemical-based fertility.

8 years experience of growing delicious food crops, and high quality herbs.

Fruit Orchards for Community, Home or Business:



Larry Stephenson lives in Carroll County, MS. His nursery business, Southern Cultured Orchards and Nursery, specializes in locally-adapted, heirloom and exotic fruits, ones that will perform in the heat and humidity of Mississippi with minimum care. His current passion is Deep South apples, and he is trialing heirloom varieties from north, central, and south MS and AL. He also experiments with Asian persimmons, goumis, pawpaws, and citrus, with a focus on sustainable growing methods and low maintenance. Larry is the Editor of the Southern Fruit Fellowship Newsletter and a long-time member of the North American Fruit Explorers.

"...go forward and graft, set, plant and nourish up trees in every corner of your ground, the labor is small, the cost is nothing, the commodity is great, your selves shall have plentie, the poor shall have somewhat in time of want to relieve their necessitie." – John

Gerard, *The Herbal*, 1597



Bird-Friendly Spaces and Working with Schools:

Ken Hackman is a noted conservation educator and author of numerous magazine and newspaper articles, and speaks to many garden and civic groups throughout the state of Mississippi. He has twice been named State Conservation Educator of the Year, in 2002 by the Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts, and in 2007, by the Mississippi Wildlife Federation. In 2001, Ken was named Madison Central High School's Teacher of the Year, as well as the Madison County School District's Secondary Teacher of the Year. In 2007, Ken was also named as a Jackson Metro Area Outstanding Educator. He has been featured in national and regional publications for his work connecting youth with our natural heritage. He currently serves as the Past President of the Mississippi Ornithological Society, and is heard as guest host for Nellie Neal's Weekend Gardening Show throughout Mississippi, where he is known as the Bird Man. Ken teaches Invertebrate Vertebrate Zoology at Madison Central High School, and lives in Madison with his beautiful wife of 34 years, Ruth. They have two daughters: Mandy, a 6th year high tech video production teacher at Madison Central, and Allyn, a freshman Broadcast Journalism student at Mississippi State.



MS Green Sustainability Conference to feature Urban Farms and Green Agritourism:

Shelly Johnstone, AICP, graduated from Ole Miss with a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration and a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning. Shelly is the owner of Johnstone & Associates and consults with communities on planning and community development issues. She is retired from the position of Director of Community Development for the City of Hernando, and was also the Deputy Director of Planning for the city. She was responsible for the city's environmental work (Hernando has an EnHance city designation from MDEQ) and was the city's Urban Forester.

She developed and managed the successful Hernando Farmers Market, which finished number one in Mississippi and number five in the nation in the America's Favorite Farmers Market contest. Shelly is the President of the North Mississippi Land Trust Board of Directors and serves on the Board of Directors of the Mississippi Sustainable Agriculture Network and the Mississippi Food Policy Council. She is a certified planner (American Institute of Certified Planners), a graduate of the George McLean Leadership Institute and the Mississippi Economic Council's Advanced Leadership Program, and is the Northern Representative for the Mississippi Chapter of the American Planning Association.



"Pollinators for the Community and Home Gardens"

Carson will talk about pollinating insects, like butterflies, bees, and even flies, are an essential part of our ecosystem. Learn to identify the common garden 'guests' in our region, and how to support them in your landscape through plant choice, design, and maintenance techniques.

Carson Ellis manages two gardens at the Memphis Botanic Garden, the Anne Heard Stokes Butterfly Garden and Delta Heritage Garden. She is passionate about environmental sustainability and the conservation and promotion of native plant species and communities and practices these values in her gardens. Before moving to Memphis in 2015, she interned at both the Asheville Arboretum and Highlands Biological Research Station in North Carolina and has an associate's degree in Horticulture Technology from Haywood Community College as well as a BA in Environmental Science from Mount Holyoke College.



Low Maintenance Plant Material for Your Garden or City: Currently

Extension/Research Professor of Horticulture at the Coastal Research & Extension Center, Mississippi State University, 90% Extension/10% Research appointment

AND is the host the awarding winning Mississippi State University Extension Service's Southern Gardening TV, radio, and newspaper columns. Gary and his wife Katie, who is an IBM analyst, live in Ocean Springs, MS. They are urban homesteaders and operate Heritage Cottage Urban Nano Farm designed to be a demonstration urban farm to grow an abundance

of locally grown specialty vegetables and produce all year long.

Safety in the Landscape: OSHA, US Department of Labor

COURTNEY W. BOHANNON is the Acting Area Director for the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Mr. Bohannon is a native Californian, and received his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of California at Davis in 1989. Mr. Bohannon moved to Jackson Mississippi to work for OSHA following graduation. While employed with OSHA Mr. Bohannon has conducted numerous accident investigations, general industry, construction industry, and maritime industry inspections. Mr. Bohannon's duties also included providing assistance to the general public on OSHA Standards, procedures, and general safety and health information. During his tenure with OSHA Mr. Bohannon has served the agency in various capacities including: Safety Engineer, Response Team Leader, Compliance Assistance Specialist, Assistant Area Director, and currently serves as Acting Area Director for the Jackson Area Office of OSHA.



Urban Forestry and MS Arboreta Trail:

Donna Yowell is the Executive Director for the Mississippi Urban Forest Council and conducted statewide conservation programs such as: Scenic Communities of MS, MS Arboretum Trail, Green Revitalization for MS, If Tree Could Talk, Communities, Edible Forests of MS, MS Grown Cut Flower Association, Ribbons of Green, Bloom Town and others. Her experience includes community development programs for over 30 years. She has served as a local elected official and planning and zoning board for 10 years. She also served as an advisor to the US Secretary of Agriculture for 8 years and Chair for the MS Commission on the Status of Women and Children. She has a BS in horticulture from MS State University and taught cut flower farming, urban forestry and community development

for over 30 years. She also served on the FEMA team and the National Association of Floodplain Managers for 8 years in storm preparedness and mitigation.



Smart Landscapes and Water Conservation: Bob Brzuszek, ASLA, is an assistant professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture at Mississippi State University. He teaches a Landscape Systems and Plants class which uses greenway ecology principles for community design. Before coming to Starkville in 2003 to teach, he was the senior curator of the Crosby Arboretum, Mississippi State University Extension, for 14 years in Picayune, Mississippi. Bob received his master’s degree in landscape architecture from Louisiana State University in 1990, and his undergraduate degree in horticulture from Michigan State University

in 1984, his home state. Mr. Brzuszek’s areas of research interest include Native plant community restoration and gardening; Public gardens and arboreta; Historic landscape research, and Urban/wildland interface issues.



Community and City Green Designs: Robert F. Poore, ASLA, is a Landscape Architect and Ecologist. Owner of Native Habitats, Inc. in Flora, MS. Mr. Poore is the recipient of The American Native Landscape Award, Mississippi Urban Forest Achievement Award, Mississippi Wildlife Federation Special Merit Award, Alumni of the Year Award from the School of Landscape Architecture at Mississippi State University, and Presidents Award of Excellence from The Mississippi Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects for Research in Plant Community Patterns, for the Crosby Arboretum.



Forest in the City Tree Tour: Stephen Dicke: G. L. Switzer Distinguished Extension Professor in Forestry, Mississippi State University, Located at: Frank T. Withers Central Mississippi Research and Extension Center. Education: Ph.D. Forest Resources, Mississippi State University, M.S. Horticulture and Forestry, University of Nebraska, B.S. Forest Management, University of Missouri. Credentials: Certified arborist, International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), **Past President**, Professional Arborist Association of Mississippi