

MEMPHIS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY 2018 NATIVE PLANT CONFERENCE

Cultivate Wild!

OCTOBER 25-28, 2018

Growing out of the Memphis Horticultural Society's mission of educating the public in gardening to help to preserve the natural environment, the 2018 Native Plant Conference is designed to increase interest in and knowledge of propagating and preserving native southeastern plant species in the landscape. Past participants of the conference have included landscape architects, commercial nursery operators, Master Gardeners, garden club members, botanists, and horticulturists from universities, native plant societies, botanical gardens, and arboretums. Both professionals and laypersons will gain valuable knowledge from the informative and diverse lectures and field trips. Most importantly, the conference schedule allows for informal sessions where participants can exchange ideas. We encourage you to make good use of this opportunity.

The Memphis Horticultural Society wishes to thank the following conference partners:

- Dixon Gallery & Gardens • Lichterman Nature Center • Memphis Botanic Garden •
- Overton Park Conservancy • Shelby Farms Park Conservancy •
- Wolf River Conservancy • Nonconnah Creek Conservancy •
- Meeman-Shelby Forest • Strawberry Plains Audubon Center •
- Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs •

*A generous donation was made to this conference
in memory of Larry Wilson, one of the native plant legends of the MidSouth.*

2018 NATIVE PLANT CONFERENCE

Cultivate Wild!

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

3:00 – 5:00pm	MEMPHIS BOTANIC GARDEN	THURSDAY: <u>Conference Registration</u>
7:30 – 9:00am		FRIDAY: Conference Registration, Plant Vendors SATURDAY: Plant Vendors

MORNING PLENARY SESSIONS MEMPHIS BOTANIC GARDEN

9:00 – 9:30	INTRODUCTORY SESSION	FRIDAY: Luke Hall – <i>Geology 101 = Native Plant Palette</i> SATURDAY: Luke Hall – <i>Soils, Weather, Time</i>
9:30 – 10:30	KEYNOTE	FRIDAY: Thomas Rainer – <i>Joyful, Abundant Gardens: How our Designed Landscapes can be a Resistance Against Looming Ecological Extinctions</i> SATURDAY: Larry Mellichamp – <i>Why Grow Natives...</i>
10:30 – 10:45	BREAK	
10:45 – 11:45	KEYNOTE (CONTINUED)	FRIDAY: Thomas Rainer – <i>Inspirations: An Exploration of the Plant Communities and Designers that Give me Hope</i> SATURDAY: Larry Mellichamp – <i>Great Natives for the MidSouth</i>
11:45 – 1:45	PLANT VENDORS / TRAVEL / LUNCH	

AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS PICK ONE TRACK FOR FRIDAY AND ONE FOR SATURDAY*

Each Track's sessions will be held at either the Memphis Botanic Garden, Dixon Gallery & Gardens, Lichterman or Shelby Farms based on number of registrants. Session locations and directions will be provided with registration confirmation.

TRACKS*	TRACK A	TRACK B	TRACK C	TRACK D
1:45-2:45	Cathy Justis <i>Inspiring Conservation in the Wolf River Watershed</i>	Jason Hoeksema <i>Mutualism between Plants and Mycorrhizal Fungi</i>	David Lincicome <i>Conserving Tennessee's Natural Heritage and Capacity Building for Plant Conservation through Establishment of the Tennessee Plant Conservation Alliance</i>	John Rowden <i>Creating Habitat for Birds</i>
2:45-3:00	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
3:00-4:00	Bart Jones <i>Creating Habitat for Butterflies</i>	Allan Trently <i>The Latest Plant Discoveries in West Tennessee: The Good and the Bad</i>	Heather Holm <i>Common Native Bees: Their Life Cycle, Foraging Behavior and Role in the Pollination of Native Plants</i>	Isobel Ritch <i>CLARB certified, LEED AP BD+C and SITES AP= WILD? How a Professional Translates 'Cultivate Wild' to the Public</i>
4:00-4:30	TRAVEL/BREAK			

EVENING PLENARY SESSION

FRIDAY	Dixon Gallery & Gardens—Hughes Pavilion 4:30-6:00: Social, BBQ Dinner, Cash Bar 6:00-7:00: Chris Cosby – <i>Nomadic Natives: Plant Distribution from a Deep Time Perspective</i>
SATURDAY	First Congregational Church—Cooper-Young Neighborhood 4:30-6:00: Social, Appetizers, Cash Bar— Dinner on Your Own 6:00-7:00: Mike Larrivee — <i>The New American Wilderness</i>

PLENARY & CONCURRENT SESSIONS

FRIDAY MORNING PLENARY SESSIONS— MEMPHIS BOTANIC GARDEN

9:00am: INTRODUCTORY SESSION — Luke Hall — *Geology 101 = Native Plant Palette*

Luke Hall, a Memphis geologist, will start each day with Geology 101 for the MidSouth. On Friday, he will remind us of how we got here geologically from deep time. Glacier? Ocean? Tectonic plates? We will learn about the geographic region we live and garden in that gives us a distinct plant palette.

9:30am: KEYNOTE — Thomas Rainer — *Joyful, Abundant Gardens: How our Designed Landscapes can be a Resistance Against Looming Ecological Extinctions*

This century is poised to be one of great ecological extinction. Scientists estimate that by the middle of this century, 30-50% of all species on the planet may go extinct. This looming reality should wake us up and radically shift how we design and plant our landscapes. This groundbreaking talk presents a powerful alternative to traditional horticulture—designed plantings that function like naturally-occurring plant communities. Join landscape architect Thomas Rainer, a leading voice in ecological landscape design, to learn how plants fit together in nature and how to use this knowledge to create landscapes that are resilient, beautiful, and diverse.

10:45am: KEYNOTE— Thomas Rainer — *Inspirations: An Exploration of the Plant Communities and Designers that Give me Hope*

This talk explores sources of inspiration and hope: both places and people that hint at possible solutions for a changing world. Join landscape architect Thomas Rainer as he takes us on a very personal journey of the places and people that inspire change. This includes gorgeous wild plant communities whose rich patterns and structure offer compositional allegories for designed landscapes. It also includes a look at some of the most innovative plantsmen and women in the world, whose designs and techniques could be used by gardeners and designers here in the U.S.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS

TRACK A

1:45pm: Cathy Justis — *Inspiring Conservation in the Wolf River Watershed*

Wolf River Conservancy Education Director Cathy Justis will discuss the Wolf River, touching on its history and ecology, its water quality issues, its importance to the community, and the Conservancy's efforts to connect people of all ages and backgrounds to a specific river and watershed in the place where they live. These efforts include the coordination of the Wolf River Greenway trail project, a multi-faceted education program, hands-on habitat restoration and stewardship projects, and canoeing and kayaking on the Wolf River. She will spotlight several of the plant and animal species living in or around the Wolf River and discuss efforts to establish native plants on school campuses and public places.

3:00pm: Bart Jones — *Creating Habitat for Butterflies*

This talk will focus on the challenges of creating good butterfly habitat in an increasingly difficult environment, on both large and small scales.

TRACK B

1:45pm: Jason Hoeksema — *Mutualism between Plants and Mycorrhizal Fungi*

Plants are constantly engaging in intimate interactions with other species. Some of these interactions are mutually beneficial to both parties, and are thus called mutualisms. One of the most important mutualisms for plants occurs with mycorrhizal fungi, which live in the roots and surrounding soil of most plants. In return for sugars from the plant, these fungi provide several types of benefits to plants, including enhanced nutrient uptake, drought and heavy metal tolerance, and resistance to pathogens. However, there is a great deal of variation in the degree to which plants benefit from these associations, due to both evolutionary history (of the plants and fungi) and environmental factors (such as soil nutrient availability). Knowledge of these associations (including factors driving variation in their benefits), can be of practical use in forestry, agriculture, horticulture, native plant gardening, and edible mushroom foraging.

3:00pm: Allan Trently — *The Latest Plant Discoveries in West Tennessee: The Good and the Bad*

Since beginning the job with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation ten years ago, there have been a number of interesting botanical discoveries in West Tennessee. These include range extensions, rediscoveries, inventories, invasive exotic plant expansions, and new location records for rare native plants. This talk will present a summary of these new discoveries.

PLENARY & CONCURRENT SESSIONS

FRIDAY & SATURDAY AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS

TRACK C

1:45pm: David Lincicome — *Conserving Tennessee’s Natural Heritage and Capacity Building for Plant Conservation through Establishment of the Tennessee Plant Conservation Alliance*

David will provide a brief overview of the Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, in particular highlighting rare plant recovery projects carried out by the division, and discuss the formation of a Plant Conservation Alliance in Tennessee. In January 2017, 25 native plant enthusiasts from across the state met at Cheekwood Botanical Garden to form the Tennessee Plant Conservation Alliance. The alliance is a network of private and public entities, including specially trained volunteers, that agree to work together to leverage expertise and resources for a common goal to conserve and restore the state’s imperiled plants and their habitats. In close coordination with the Division of Natural Areas, which has lead responsibility for plant conservation in the state, the alliance will prioritize native plant species and plant communities for conservation projects. The alliance will be project driven and focus on preventing plant extinctions in the state.

3:00pm: Heather Holm — *Common Native Bees: Their Life Cycle, Foraging Behavior and Role in the Pollination of Native Plants*

This presentation explores the nesting habitat, life cycle, pollen collection, brood rearing, and general characteristics of common genera of native bees occurring in north-central and eastern United States and southern Canada. The pollination of native plants and the mutualism between native plants and native bees is highlighted. Heather also discusses the presentation of floral resources and how the physical characteristics of bees can influence the bees' effectiveness as pollinators.

TRACK D

1:45pm: John Rowden — *Creating Habitat for Birds*

Audubon’s Bird-friendly Communities conservation strategy is guided by the principle of improving communities all over the country by providing birds with food, shelter, safe passage and places to raise their young. Native plants provide resources that support birds in each of those areas, and research is demonstrating that even small patches of habitat planted with natives – down to the yard and neighborhood scale – can benefit birds. In 2016, Audubon introduced the nationwide Plants for Birds program that provides resources and support, with the goal of helping people put native plants in the ground in gardens, yards, and community spaces. John will identify ways that everyone can help provide the habitat that birds need.

3:00pm: Isobel Ritch — *CLARB certified, LEED AP BD+C and SITES AP= WILD? How a Professional Translates ‘Cultivate Wild’ to the Public*

Have you ever wondered who decides what plants are utilized in commercial plantings, . . . our parks . . . our offices, . . . our urban open spaces, . . . our highways? Landscape architects are busy behind the scenes, making design decisions that enhance sustainability, support our local ecology, and help drive the demand for native plant materials. This session explores sustainable trends in landscape architecture.

FRIDAY EVENING PLENARY SESSION

6:00pm: Chris Cosby – *Nomadic Natives: Plant Distribution from a Deep Time Perspective*

How does time impact the notion of nativity? What if we ask “native to when”, in addition to “native to where”? This session will explore the concepts of “native” and “exotic” from a geologic perspective, drawing on the ever-growing body of paleoecological and paleogeographic data.

SATURDAY MORNING PLENARY SESSIONS

9:00am: INTRODUCTORY SESSION— Luke Hall – *Soils, Weather, Time*

On Saturday Luke continues a short primer of WHY we have the native plants we have. What did those processes leave behind that resulted in our regional flora. Where did the clay come from? What is loess? Why don't we have many rocks? Why is our soil acid? How deep is the top soil? How big is our region? Where do the changes occur? Where are our edges? How much rain do we get a year? Temperatures? He will help us have a better understanding of that basis of plant life.

9:30am: KEYNOTE — Larry Mellichamp — *Why Grow Natives...*

This is a great time to be gardening in the South. There are many new plants becoming available each year, including natural species and especially cultivar selections of our favorite trees, shrubs, wildflowers, ferns, and perennials. There is a trend towards using more natives, not just because they are better adapted to our warm southern climates (especially high summer nighttime temperatures) but also because they are interesting in their own right and support native bees, butterflies and birds. Home owners should be asking for them, and they ought to be known and grown more widely in the landscape.

10:45am: KEYNOTE— Larry Mellichamp — *Great Natives for the MidSouth*

The prolonged higher humidity and nighttime summer temperatures have an effect on what you grow in your garden. If you are tired of your twining *trachelospermum*, weary of your wandering wisteria and fed-up with your failing *Fatsia*, try adaptable Southeastern natives to give your garden a sense of place and keep your birds, bees, and butterflies happy. We will explore several of the many great natives for home landscape situations: shade trees, small flowering trees, flowering shrubs, perennials for shade and sun, and ferns.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS

See Tracks A, B, C and D on page 3 and above.

SATURDAY EVENING PLENARY SESSION

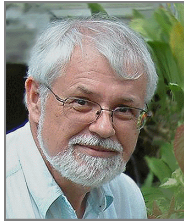
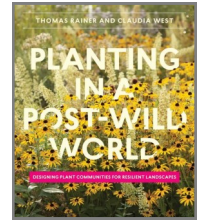
6:00pm: Mike Larrivee – *The New American Wilderness*

With less than 5% of our historic wildlands intact in the lower 48, it's time to take a fresh look at preserving biodiversity in our own backyards. Explore impactful ways to make changes at home and in the community, and consider ecological stewardship as a facet of public and private land management.

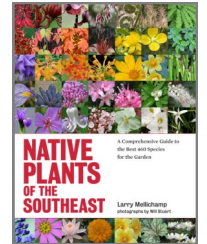
OUR SPEAKERS



Thomas Rainer is a registered landscape architect, teacher, and author living in Arlington, Virginia. Rainer is a leading voice in ecological landscape design and has designed landscapes for the U.S. Capitol grounds, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and The New York Botanical Garden, as well as over 100 gardens from Maine to Florida. He is a celebrated public speaker who has garnered acclaim for his passionate presentations to audiences across the U.S. and in Europe. Thomas serves as a Principal for the landscape architectural and consulting firm Phyto Studio in Washington, D.C., teaches planting design at George Washington University, and was the co-author along with Claudia West of the award-winning book *Planting in a Post-Wild World*.



Dr. Larry Mellichamp is recently retired Professor of Botany and Horticulture at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte where he taught for over 39 years. He was also director of their 10 acre Botanical Gardens which includes many native plants. Larry is an expert on native plants of all kinds, especially ferns and carnivorous plants, and has written many technical and popular articles on plants and gardening. He has received several teaching and botanical awards and written the recent book *Native Plants of the Southeast*. He has observed plants in many foreign countries on his travels in South Africa, Madagascar, Australia, China and Borneo. He is the 2016 recipient of the Tom Dodd Jr. Award of Excellence at the 2016 Cullowhee Native Plant Conference.



Chris Cosby grew up roaming the fields and forests of south Alabama, where his life-long love of plants was born. A passionate observer of wild and not-so-wild spaces, he is always working toward a greater understanding of the complex relationships between plants, people, and landscapes. Chris' academic studies were in the field of anthropology, with a focus on ethnobotany. He worked for twelve years at the Memphis Botanic Garden as a propagator, collection curator, lecturer, designer, and manager of day-to-day horticultural operations. Chris and his wife Stephanie formed PLANTS + PEOPLE, a Memphis-based ecological design, consulting, and education firm in the fall of 2016.



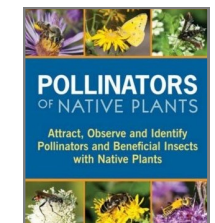
Luke Hall is a licensed professional geologist in Arkansas, Tennessee, and Mississippi. He received his master of science in Geology from the University of Memphis with a research focus on large scale tectonic processes, structural, and sedimentary geology. As an environmental geologist for Tioga Environmental Consultants, he oversees brown-field and industrial remedial sites and performs environmental and risk assessments. He works closely with the City of Memphis and Shelby County Government on environmental projects throughout Shelby County. He has two young children which take the majority of his time. His claim to fame is that he currently holds the state of Tennessee record for most illegally dumped potato chips excavated at 3,800 tons.



Jason Hoeksema is an Associate Professor of Biology at the University of Mississippi (UM). Dr. Hoeksema received his Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of California, Davis in 2002. He held positions as a post-doctoral researcher at the University of California, Santa Cruz from 2002-2006, and as a postdoctoral fellow at the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center at Duke University from 2006-2007, before joining UM in 2007. At UM, he teaches courses in Mycology, Ornithology, Coevolution, and Statistics. Dr. Hoeksema's research focuses on the ecological and evolutionary consequences of interactions among species, especially mutualism, competition, and parasitism among plants and mycorrhizal fungi. His hobbies include collecting wild mushrooms and birding.



Heather Holm is an award-winning author and nationally-sought-after speaker, spending much of her time educating audiences about the fascinating world of native bees and the native plants that support them. Her first book, *Pollinators of Native Plants*, published in 2014, helped establish her as a knowledgeable resource on the subject of the interactions between native bees and native plants. Her latest book, *Bees*, published in 2017, has won five book awards. For the past few years, she has been assisting with native bee research projects. The most recent research project was a two-year study to determine the types of native bees present in cultivated blueberry farms in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The project included developing customized plans to enhance and expand both forage plants and nesting sites for bees within the farms. Heather lives in Minnesota with her husband.



Bart Jones — Growing up in Parsons, TN afforded Bart the luxury to indulge his curiosity of all things science and nature. The forests, streams, and fields surrounding his home became an outdoor laboratory where no wildflower, rock, or insect escaped scrutiny, but it was butterflies that held a special interest for him. That passion for butterflies was rekindled about twelve years ago when Rita Venable invited him to participate in a North American Butterfly Association count. Bart now conducts counts throughout West Tennessee, as well as helping on others. After receiving a degree in Biology from UT-Martin, Bart made his home in Memphis where he is employed at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as an Associate Scientist in the Department of Infectious Diseases. Besides his professional work and butterfly activities, he is a past president of the Tennessee Native Plant Society as well as a member of many other botanical societies and local conservation groups.

OUR SPEAKERS



Cathy Justis has been Director of Education for the Wolf River Conservancy since 2007. She provides a wide range of educational programming for K-12 students and other community members of all ages, including annual frog chorus walks, stream strolls, a summer lecture series, and educator workshops. In addition to classroom programs and field trips, she leads habitat restoration service projects to improve the Wolf River watershed, removing exotic invasive plants and planting native species. She is also involved in developing and managing the Conservancy's website and editing its publications. Cathy has a Master of Science in aquatic ecology from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and over 25 years of experience in biology and environmental education. A Memphis native, she has worked for Lichterman Nature Center, the National Park Service, and Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission, among others, and served as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer.



Mike Larrivee is a Licensed Professional Geologist working in petroleum remediation as an environmental consultant. He received a Master of Science from the University of Memphis Earth Science department, and is a William J Fulbright scholar. He was Director of the Giant Hogweed Project in Eastern Europe, an initiative focused on training citizen scientists how to identify and catalogue invasive species in order to develop control and eradication strategies. He is a technical adviser to the Memphis Tree Board and the chairman of the Cooper-Young Sustainability Committee. He is the co-founder and Executive Director of The Compost Fairy, a non-profit soil building initiative aimed at diverting valuable organic materials from the landfill, returning them to the community as topsoil, and creating long term jobs in the sustainability sector. He is also proud to be an operational lead and urban ecologist for the South Memphis Trees project, which is in the first stages of planting four-million trees on vacant and fallow lands inside Memphis. He is a native plant evangelist, and mad about all things green and good.



David Lincicome is the Natural Heritage Program Manager with the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation, Division of Natural Areas. He has been involved in Natural Areas stewardship and rare plant conservation with the Natural Heritage Program for 20 years. David was a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Champion in 2011. Under David's leadership, Tennessee Natural Heritage and Natural Areas Programs have played key roles in delisting endangered and threatened plants such as the Eggert's sunflower and the Tennessee purple coneflower. Collaborating with academia to research the life-history of 24 federally protected plant species, David has also monitored their populations, brought about the protection of several thousand acres of important plant habitat, and managed that habitat. Currently he also serves as the Chair of the Steering Committee for the Tennessee Plant Conservation Alliance which was organized in 2017.



Isobel Ritch, a landscape architect with Fisher Arnold, Inc., a local multi-disciplinary firm, has more than 35 years of professional experience and holds registration in five states. In addition to being a registered landscape architect, Isobel is a LEED® accredited professional with an emphasis in building design and construction (LEED AP BD+C). She currently is the only Sustainable Sites Initiative accredited professional (SITES AP) in the state of Tennessee, and maintains environmental awareness as her professional focus, through emphasizing the importance of native plant communities and encouraging the use of low-impact development techniques. A few of Ms. Ritch's projects, which exemplify her range of expertise include the Loosahatchie River Greenway Trail Master Plan, which was awarded the Outstanding Planning Award by the Tennessee Chapter of the American Planning Association for a community under 50,000 population (2013); the Desoto County Natural Resources Plan, a master plan for creating interconnections among conservation areas, trail head locations, new neighborhood and regional parks, greenways and blueways; and the Villages at Porter Farms Assisted Living and Memory Care facility in Collierville Tennessee, which incorporates the use of a highly specialized and fragrant native plant palette.



John Rowden joined Audubon in 2009 when he was hired by New York City Audubon to direct citizen science and outreach for the chapter throughout the city. In 2013 he transitioned to the National Audubon Society, first working on the Toyota TogetherGreen program before becoming Audubon's Director of Community Conservation in 2016. His work at Audubon has focused on engaging new audiences in Audubon's conservation efforts, personally and through Audubon's extensive national network. He holds PhD in Zoology from Duke University.



Allan Trently graduated from East Tennessee State University in 1999 with a master's degree in biology, then worked as an ecologist for the Southern Appalachian Highlands Society and as a biology instructor at Northeast State Community College. From 2003 to 2008, Allan worked as a Terrestrial Zoologist for the Tennessee Valley Authority. He has worked for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Natural Areas as the West Tennessee Stewardship Ecologist since March of 2008.

Remember to bring your water bottle!

OPTIONAL PRE & POST CONFERENCE TOURS

BIRDING WITH MARY SCHMIDT AT LICHTERMAN NATURE CENTER (PRE)

Join Mary Schmidt, Wildlife Naturalist, on an early morning birding adventure at Lichterman Nature Center. Urban birds abound on this 65 acre property. Hike the trails and boardwalks surrounding the lakes while spotting and identifying birds in their own unique habitats. Later, visit the Wildlife Center and see the educational facility and Mary's work there. You will leave with an understanding of Lichterman Nature Center's 200-year history and its transition into a special place for animals and people.

Tour leader: Mary Schmidt

Where to meet: Lichterman Nature Center, 5992 Quince Rd., Memphis, TN 38119—Green Room in Visitor Center

Date/Time: Thursday, Oct. 25; 8:30-10:30am

Max Participants: 15

Handouts: Bird lists

Supplies provided: Field guides and some binoculars available

Supplies participants should bring: Own binoculars, bottled water, snacks, hat, camera, rain gear, bird guide

Level of difficulty: Easy walk on trails and boardwalks around lakes

Cost: \$20

Contact person: Mary Schmidt 901-636-2226 or mary.schmidt@memphistn.gov

NATIVE PLANT PROPAGATION AT LICHTERMAN NATURE CENTER (PRE)

Because many of the native plants we love are not available commercially, we should learn propagation of our favorites as pass-along plants and as insurance for the species to continue. Spend the afternoon with propagator, Anne Ballantine, going over the mission of the LNC Plant Propagation Center. Anne and her weekly volunteer group successfully grow native plants for the property and for the LNC spring plant sale. You will see the seed bank, the shrub and small tree nursery, the greenhouse, and the growing-off terraces. You will learn about the year round effort to save seeds, take cuttings, and grow native plants. Anne will walk the group through all the various procedures for propagation. The take-away includes lots of inside information as well as seeds, cuttings, and plants to take home.

Tour leader: Anne Ballantine

Where to meet: Lichterman Nature Center, 5992 Quince Rd., Memphis, TN 38119—Green Room in Visitor Center

Date/Time: Thursday, Oct. 25; 1:00-3:30pm

Max Participants: 15

Handouts: Volunteer produced booklet

Supplies provided: Plants, seeds, cuttings

Supplies participants should bring: Notebook, camera, native plant guide, water

Level of difficulty: Easy, mostly indoors

Cost: \$20

Contact person: Anne Ballantine 901-336-3162 or anne.ballentine@memphis.tn.org

FOUR CENTURIES OF MS LANDSCAPE: TOURING THE GARDENS, CAMPUS, AND RESTORED NATIVE HABITAT OF STRAWBERRY PLAINS AUDUBON CENTER (PRE)

Join us for an historical narrative of the native landscapes of North Mississippi focusing on the people and land use history of SPAC, culminating in the 20th anniversary of the Center and Audubon MS founding in 2018. An indoor presentation will explore the importance of our regional native plants for wildlife and how to incorporate these plants into the home landscape, highlighting SPAC's Native Plant Nursery and the National Audubon Society's Plants for Birds Database and Native Plant Initiative. This presentation is followed by a guided walking tour of the grounds, the antebellum Davis Home and Cotton Office, and wildflower meadow and native plant garden including the restored native warm-season grass habitat. The tour concludes with a covered wagon ride through the 2,600 acre sanctuary as guides discuss native species and habitats, highlighting birds and other wildlife dependent upon them.

Tour leader: Mitch Robinson and Stephanie Green

Where to meet: SPAC Visitor Center 285 Plains Road, Holly Springs, MS 38635

Date/Time: Thursday, Oct. 25; 10:00am–Noon

Max Participants: 25

Handouts: Yes

Supplies provided: Maps, binoculars

Supplies participants should bring: Hiking shoes, sun protection, binoculars

Level of difficulty: Easy, less than 1 mile of leisurely walking

Cost: \$10

Contact person: Mitch Robinson 662-252-1155

OPTIONAL PRE & POST CONFERENCE TOURS

PADDLING THE WOLF RIVER - URBAN SECTION (PRE)

Join Jim Gafford, Director of Outreach for the Wolf River Conservancy and experienced river guide, as you paddle through the Wolf River urban stream which meanders through East and North Memphis. It is a slow easy trip with stops along the way to discuss erosion and altered habitat, plants both native and invasive, and to enjoy the rich bird life. Get a break midway as you stop for your lunch on a sandbar and get a chance to relax and walk around a bit. Truly an educational and fun trip. Each participant must sign a waiver form which will be provided.

Tour leader: Jim Gafford

Where to meet: Red Barn at the Agricenter, 7777 Walnut Grove Rd.

Date/Time: Thursday, Oct. 25; 9:00am-2:00pm

Max Participants: 18 (2 to a canoe)

Handouts: Map

Supplies provided: Arrange rental for canoes, life jackets, portage back and forth

Supplies participants should bring: Sack lunch, water, insect repellent, appropriate clothing, sunscreen, hat, dry bags, plant and bird guides

Level of difficulty: Easy - Will require ability to paddle and balance in canoe.

Cost of participation: \$20

Cost of canoe: \$50 per canoe (2 people per boat is \$25 each). Kayaks for singles are \$45. Costs include portage.

Contact person: Jim Gafford 901-573-2353 and Cathy Justis 901-219-7323

GHOST RIVER WETLAND HIKE (PRE & POST)

The Ghost River section of the Wolf River is renowned for its rich wetlands and this tour will focus on that habitat. We will visit the Mineral Slough boardwalk and surrounding low flat woods where we hope to catch the last of the fall-flowering species, the high-light of which is the state-listed endangered willow leaf aster (*Symphotrichum praealtum*) found in just a handful of sites in Tennessee. There should be several other composites and wildflowers still in bloom in the area. The boardwalk goes through a magnificent Tupelo-bald cypress swamp eventually to an open area of water where we should see spatterdock (*Nuphar luteum*) and other aquatic species. After lunch, we will visit a nearby site where the sands of the Memphis aquifer come to the surface. Even though it is close to the Wolf River, because of the sandy soil, the habitat is rather xeric and hosts a very different suite of plants, somewhat reminiscent of the Sandhills communities of the Gulf Coast. We will see unexpected species such as yucca and prickly-pear cactus as well as a different set of fall wildflowers. We should also find a few sand post oaks (*Quercus margarettiae*), another state listed rare plant. This small scrubby oak was discovered here in the early 2000s and is its only known location in Tennessee.

Tour leader: Bart Jones, Director & Past-President of TN Native Plant Society

Where to meet: LaGrange Post Office, 30 Lagrange Dr. (also called Yager Rd.), LaGrange, TN. LaGrange is approximately 50 miles east of Memphis on TN Hwy 57 and takes about an hour to get there. Please be very observant of posted speed limits.

Date/Time: Thursday, Oct 25, 10:00am-3:00pm AND Sunday, Oct 28, 10:00am-3:00pm

Max Participants: 20 per hike

Supplies provided: Informational handout

Supplies participants should bring: Sack lunch, water, insect repellent, sunscreen, weather appropriate clothing

Level of difficulty: 6 hour hike, easy but may encounter mud

Cost: \$20

Contact person: Bart Jones, (901)485-2745 or bjones7777@hotmail.com

SHELBY FOREST HIKE & TALK—MEDICINAL & HISTORICAL PROPERTIES OF PLANTS (PRE & POST)

Join Samantha Cox, Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park Ranger with 15 years of background in Wildlife Biology and Natural Resources Management as well as Program and Volunteer Coordinator and Wildlife Rehabilitator for the park, will lead a native plant hike.

Various native plant species will be highlighted and will include historical and medicinal background. Trail options include the scenic and hilly Woodland Trail on the upland hardwood forested Chickasaw Bluffs, or the interesting Pioneer Springs Trail, interspersed with numerous natural springs, that hugs the bottom of the bluffs bordering the hardwood bottomlands and the Bald Cypress swamps of the Mississippi River Floodplain. Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency Educator, Gene Smith, may also join the hike. He is an avid program interpreter for TN State Parks and a knowledgeable naturalist of native plants and wildlife.

Tour leader: Samantha Cox, Park Ranger

Where to meet: Visitor Center, 910 Riddick Road, Millington, TN 38053

Date/Time: Thursday, Oct. 25; 9:00am-Noon AND Sunday, Oct. 28; 9:00am-Noon

Max Participants: 20

Supplies participants should bring: Hiking shoes, mosquito spray, water

Level of difficulty: Moderately to mildly difficult

Cost: \$10

Contact person: Samantha Cox, (901)378-4716 or Samantha.Cox@tn.gov

OPTIONAL PRE & POST CONFERENCE TOURS

SHELBY FARMS PARK TOUR & HIKE (PRE & POST)

Shelby Farms Park is one of the largest urban parks in the nation exceeding that of New York's Central Park and San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. At 4,500 acres, the park features more than 40 miles of trails, paved and unpaved, as well as 20 bodies of water. During this outing, you will learn about the park's history and receive a tour of the new Heart of the Park. In addition, participants will enjoy a nature hike along one of the trails while learning about native plants and animals in the Park's ecosystem. After the hike, the group can visit our bison herd to learn about its history and interesting facts about bison.

Tour leaders: *Natalie Wilson, Director of Visitor Experience and Christina Fortenberry, Director of Health + Wellness and an Education Docent of Shelby Farms Park*

Where to meet: *6903 Great View Drive North, Memphis, TN 38134*

Date/Time: *Thursday, Oct. 25; 8:30-11:45am AND Sunday, Oct. 28; 8:30-11:45am. Following tours participants may want to eat at the Kitchenette or Kitchen Bistro that overlooks Hyde Lake at their own expense*

Max Participants: *15 to 20*

Handouts: *Park Map and available handouts about park programs*

Supplies participants should bring: *Water, weather appropriate clothing*

Level of difficulty: *Moderate - hiking and walking most of the morning / trails are moderately challenging*

Cost: *\$10*

Contact person: *Natalie Wilson 901-222-7267 and Christina Fortenberry 901-222-7265*

RARE SHORE BIRDS AND NATIVE PLANTS (POST)

Virginia Reynolds, experienced birder, will lead a tour of enthusiasts to Memphis Waste Treatment Ponds. Surprisingly, it is a top site to view rare shore birds migrating toward the Gulf of Mexico. The Black Bellied Whistling Duck may make an appearance and is described by Audubon as a 'spectacularly marked, sociable, noisy waterfowl'. Although it is unlikely that any eagles are present, you will see the 10 year old nest that is maintained by the same majestic pair each year. Finally, visit the former T.O. Fuller Golf Course, hear it's history, and see its conversion into a wildlife habitat. Optional lunch at long time Memphis favorite, Jim Neely's Interstate Bar-B-Q.

Tour leader: *Virginia Reynolds*

Where to meet: *Carpool from Memphis Botanic Garden*

Date/Time: *Sunday, Oct. 28; 8:30-11:00am*

Max Participants: *12*

Handouts: *List of possible birds*

Supplies participants should bring: *Binoculars, weather appropriate clothing*

Level of difficulty: *Easy*

Cost: *\$10*

Contact person: *Virginia Reynolds 901-767-3547*

BIRDING AND BOTANIZING ON LAKE WAPANOCCA NEAR MARION, AR (POST)

Lake Wapanocca, formerly an oxbow of the Mississippi River, was formed thousands of years ago when the Mississippi changed course. The lake stands as a wildlife oasis in an agricultural desert and offers a sweep of habitats: open shallow lake, mature bottom-land forest, virgin cypress/willow swamps, and slowly reforesting old fields. They are all linked by miles of nature drives, and foot and canoe trails. Take to the water and explore the heart of the refuge's wealth of unique flora and fauna, from majestic 100-year-old Taxodium (Bald Cypress Trees) to rare migrating warblers. Take this tour on the wild side with seasoned birders, Ted and Julie Wilson and horticulturist, Carson Ellis.

Tour leader: *Carson Ellis, Horticulturist*

Where to meet: *Station at Big Creek boat access (directions mailed with your confirmation packet)*

Date/Time: *Sunday, Oct. 28; 7:30-11:30am*

Tour length: *3 hours (plus half hour drive to and from Memphis) 4 hours total*

Max Participants: *16 (eight canoes)*

Handouts: <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/pubs/wapanoccaBirds.pdf>, *map of area*

Supplies provided: *Canoes (costs below), life jackets*

Supplies participants should bring: *Own binoculars, bottled water, snacks, sunscreen, hat, rain gear, warm layers, camera, bird guide*

Level of difficulty: *Moderate - Will require ability to paddle and balance in canoe. Must be prepared for little to no access to land for duration of paddle.*

Cost of participation: *\$20*

Cost of canoe: *\$80 per canoe (2 people per boat is \$40 each) this includes delivery to Wapanocca. Cost is only \$10 for Ghost River Rentals to transport your own canoe.*

Contact person: *Carson Ellis (contact information mailed with your confirmation packet)*

OPTIONAL PRE & POST CONFERENCE TOURS

GOING WILD WITH NATIVES WITHOUT OFFENDING THE NEIGHBORS (POST)

One Memphis gardener's attempt to be the change she wants to see in the world. Share her 40 year transformation from proper Brit to wild Tennessee native. Discover almost 4 acres of what she hopes will be controlled chaos as she 'brings nature home'. Come and discover over 400 plant species including natives, a Level 3 Arboretum (over 100 different tree species), dry stack walls, moon gate and stone sculptures, a moss lawn, rill and insect hotel. And, perhaps leave a convert!

Tour leader: Liz Manugian

Where to meet: 238 West Cherry Circle, Memphis, TN. 38117

Date/Time: Sunday, Oct. 28; 9:00am-Noon

Handouts: Plant list

Level of difficulty: Easy walking. Some uneven terrain. Wear sensible shoes.

Cost: Free

Contact person: Liz Manugian, (901)481-0638 or emanugian@mac.com

HERBARIUM TOUR OF UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS (POST)

Knowing that some of the most important discoveries in the plant world are occurring in herbaria, we will tour the University of Memphis and hear from their director, Dr. Darrell Brandon III. No longer just pretty pressed flowers to go in a frame, herbariums have taken on a very important role in discovery of new species and naming and reordering of others. In Universities, what for a while a collection of dusty old pressed plants to get rid of is now a valued history and source of information and DNA that leads to discovery and truth. Visit the U of M Herbaria and meet the professor who collects, processes, and keeps our native plant collections both current and from past centuries. This is both a science and an art form that is now more important than ever before.

Tour leader: Dr. Darrell Brandon III and Suzy Askew

Where to meet: University of Memphis, Botany Building

Date/Time: Sunday, Oct. 28; 1:00-3:30pm

Max Participants: 10

Handouts: Simple Herbarium Guide

Supplies provided: Papers but not the press (go to Herbariumsupply.com to buy your 12" x 18" press)

Supplies participants should bring: Press if you own one, notebook, snack, bottled water

Level of difficulty: Easy

Cost: \$20

Contact person: Suzy Askew 901-486-1302

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