Gardening on the Rocks

“Creating Beauty in the Ozarks”

June 2-4, 2016 in Eureka Springs

Conference speakers

Great Plants for the South

Dr. Allen Owings is a native of Louisiana and a horticulture professor with the LSU AgCenter. He also serves as research coordinator at the Hammond Research Station, Hammond, LA. Dr. Owings received his B.S. degree in plant science from Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, LA and graduate degrees in horticulture from LSU and Mississippi State University. He is currently coordinator of statewide LSU AgCenter extension efforts in commercial ornamental horticulture and conducts landscape plant evaluations. Projects include Louisiana Super Plants, Plants with Potential, rose research with the American Rose Society, flower and bedding plant trials with national companies and cooperative work with many land grant universities in the southeast on tree and shrub evaluations.

Heirloom Seeds

Jere Gettle is the owner of Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds in Mansfield, Missouri. He planted his first seeds at age 3 and became enchanted with what could happen to them. Over the years of looking at seed catalogs, he soon realized some favorite vegetable varieties were disappearing and it became his mission to save the diversity of seeds. At 17, he printed the first Baker Creek Heirloom Seed catalog in 1998, which evolved into a colorful seed catalog listing for more than 1,800 varieties distributed to 700,000 households. Baker Creek now carries one of the largest selections of seeds from the 19th century, including many Asian, European, and South American varieties.
Growing Perennial Fruits Organically in Arkansas

Guy Ames has operated Ames Orchard & Nursery (amesorchardandnursery.com), producing both fruit and fruit plants adapted to Ozark conditions, for 25 years, but he has more than 40 years of successes and failures trying to grow fruit organically in Arkansas. In addition to the orchard and nursery, Guy is currently a Horticulture Specialist with ATTRA, the national sustainable agriculture information service managed by the National Center for Appropriate Technology. He is the author of a series of publications on organic fruit production published by ATTRA, including Community Orchards, Climate Change and Perennial Fruit and Nuts, Pawpaws: Tropical Fruit for Temperate Zones, Apples: Organic Production, and many more (go to www.ncat.attra.org/horticultural for a full list).

Shade Perennials as Companion Plants for Hostas

Oscar Cross of Hilltop Farm will discuss 30+ perennials all at least zone 5 cold hardy. ne’ll inspire you to try something new to you. We all know that gardening is a competitive sport; he will suggest some new combos to let you show your neighbor who’s really got it together.

Oscar is co-owner, along with his wife, Amy, of Hilltop Farm in Ash Grove, MO. They grow a ridiculous variety of plants there, all sold at retail. Oscar is nuts about gardening, cats, and his one-year-old grandson! A current passion is edible landscapes. “Gardening is a disease and we’re contagious!” he claims.

Incorporating Native Plants into Home Landscapes

Lissa Morrison and her husband, Merle, moved to Arkansas in 1980, where they started a wholesale plant nursery in Madison County. For 27 years they grew ornamental grasses, shrubs, groundcover, and a large variety of perennials. In 2002, Lissa & Merle opened White River Nursery in south Fayetteville. They managed the retail garden center for 8 years until 2010 when they sold it to the present owner. For the past five years Lissa has been on the horticulture staff at the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks where she is the Garden Manager and Designer.
Arkansas Plants, Myths and Mysteries

Our native and introduced plants growing in Arkansas all have stories to tell. Author, photographer, and herbalist, Steven Foster will share some fascinating and surprising stories on familiar and perhaps not so familiar plants. An author, photographer and herbalist, Steven Foster serves on the Board of Trustees of the American Botanical Council (Austin, Texas), and the Honorary Advisory Board of the Lloyd Library and Museum (Cincinnati). Steven is the author or co-author of 18 books, most recently the third edition of the Peterson Field Guide to Medicinal Plants and Herbs: Eastern North America with (with James A. Duke; Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014); also National Geographic’s Complete Guide to Medicinal Herbs (2010, co-author and senior photographer), and A Desk Reference to Nature’s Medicine (2006, with Rebecca Johnson).

Native Plants at Crystal Bridges

Native plants are trending in gardens all across the nation. Join horticulturist Cody George as he discusses what native species are featured in the gardens at Crystal Bridges and how you can use them in your gardens at home. Learn what benefits these native plants have on our local ecosystem and how these plants will help pollination in your home garden. Cody George grew up on 40 acres in Northeast Arkansas, gaining a respect and kinship for nature and plants. Cody worked in the nursery industry for nearly seven years, moving from nurseryman to grower to manager, before his interest in native plants and public gardens led to his becoming head gardener for Compton Gardens, where he served for more than two years before joining the Crystal Bridges Trails and Grounds team as Horticulturist in the winter of 2011.

Preparing and Nourishing Your Soil with a No-Till Garden Method

Patrice Gros is an organic farmer on Foundation Farm, a very productive one acre knoll just outside Eureka Springs. He started there in 1996 but it’s actually his third farm. He sells at the Eureka Springs Farmers’ Market, a handful of restaurants and a large natural food store account.
Gardening in the Springs

Eureka Springs is called the “City of Healing Waters.” There are over sixty springs within the city limits. Eight of the springs will be illustrated with photos throughout the four seasons. The springs and gardens are maintained by the Parks and Recreation Commission. History of the early people and residents of the springs will also be presented.

Mariellen Griffith is a Carroll County Lifetime Master Gardener with 17 years of service. She is a writer, poet, photographer, and acrylic painter. Mariellen lives in Holiday Island, four miles north of Eureka Springs.

Patrick Lujan is a gardener for the Eureka Springs Parks and Recreation. He provides and maintains all the plants for the springs and other gardens within Eureka Springs. He is an artist by making pottery and baking cakes as a side business. Pat lives in Eureka Springs.

Pest Control with Organic Methods and Products

Jon and Kaylynn Toombs own and operate Homestead Farms, a market garden just south of Berryville, Arkansas. They garden using no synthetic chemicals of any sort and no GMO crops are grown in our garden. Both Jon and Kaylynn were raised in the Ozarks, though they spent much of their adult lives in Alaska. They have been back in the Ozarks (and gardening!) for more than 10 years. Homestead Farms is a full time endeavor and has been the couple's sole income for a number of years. Homestead Farms is set up as a “market garden” rather than a full scale crop farm. As such, their methods are similar to the home gardener's, just
scaled up to a larger size. Their products are sold at local farmers markets, by subscription through a CSA program, and a limited amount of wholesale accounts.

The Princess Crapemyrtles and Their Creation

Dow Whiting and his wife Linda own Garden Adventures Nursery and Green Valley Plant Development, both near Nixa, MO. Dow has a degree in Horticulture from Missouri State University and has been involved in the nursery industry for more than 25 years. His first national plant release, Soft Serve Chamaecyparis, was released in 2008 as a Proven Winner. His most recent releases, the Princess Crapemyrtles, are available in the Garden Debut brand, and are named after the Whitings' granddaughters.

Win a night at Big Cedar Resort!

Win a fabulous dining and lodging package at Branson's famous Big Cedar Resort, valued at $450! The package includes a one-night stay in Falls Lodge, plus dinner for two at Devil's Pool Restaurant and breakfast for two at Devil's Pool Restaurant. Tickets will be for sale at the conference for $1 each, six for $5, or 12 for $10. The drawing will be held at the conference.