

Tours, Workshops and Tri-refresher Information

Tours and Workshops are open to all registered convention attendees. Should the buses become filled, priority will be given to Consultants registered for credit, then on a first-come basis.

Current Consultants may refresh by attending a minimum of 8 hours of workshops or tours during this convention. NGC rules state that you may refresh in one area OR if a Master Consultant, you may refresh in all areas where you hold the Master status. As you make your plans for this convention, be sure to plan the appropriate number of hours for credit. Registration for workshops is not required. You must pre-register for tours.

The Tours require additional fees to cover the cost of transportation. All "Additional Fees" are noted on the registration form.

Tuesday, March 11

1:30-4:00 pm	Recreating a Century of Design: The Landscape of Millpond Plantation Tour (2 hours credit)	Additional Fee
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Wednesday, March 12

12:00 pm– 2:00 pm	New Trends in Camellias Camellias , Luncheon Speaker (1 hour credit)	Luncheon Fee*
2:15 – 3:30 pm	Campus Design-The Art of Place-Making The Historic Crescent Tour (1 hour credit)	Additional Fee
2:15 – 3:15 pm	This Blissful Garden- Lost Landscapes Wiregrass and Longleaf Pine Workshop (1 hour credit)	No additional fee
3:30-4:30 pm	Squeezing Olives Olives in the South Workshop (1 hour credit)	No additional fee
7:00-9:30 pm	One Honeybee, Three Wasps, Two Butterflies and More Pollinators, Banquet Speaker (.5 hour credit)	Banquet fee*

Thursday, March 13

10:30 am-11:30 am	Peril of the Swamp Okefenokee Swamp Workshop (1 hour credit)	No additional fee
12:00 – 2:00 pm	Naturally Natives Native Plants, Luncheon Speaker (.5 hour credit)	Luncheon Fee*
2:15-3:30 pm	Silence in the Wild Grand Bay Wetlands Tour (1 hour credit)	Additional Fee
2:15- 3:15 pm	Start Somewhere Community Gardens Workshop (1 hour credit)	No additional Fee
3:30-4:30 pm	A Field of Blue Blueberries Workshop (1 hour credit)	No additional fee

*If paying full-time registration, this fee is included.

Program Features

“Recreating a Century of Design” The Landscape of Millpond Plantation

TOUR

Established in 1905, Millpond is located in Thomasville, Georgia. The Big House is over 38,000 square feet and consists of eleven fully-appointed bedrooms, all of which are accessible via the loggia flanking the center atrium. The atrium is constructed of large retractable glass roof panels that open and close with the season. The grounds were designed by noted landscape architect Warren Manning, who apprenticed under Frederick Law Olmstead, and who also designed the grounds of the Biltmore Estate in North Carolina. The property includes more than 7,000 acres of contiguous land and forest. Our tour hosts, Landscape Architects Dan Nadenicek and Keeli Knight, will introduce visitors to the active historical landscape conservation efforts, focusing on the three major garden areas surrounding the Big House. An in-depth discussion of garden development, existing conditions, and historic remains will **guide** listeners through the process of determining appropriate plans of action for garden rehabilitation.



“New Trends in Camellias”

LUNCHEON SPEAKER

Creator of “The Georgia First Lady Camellia Collection”, Mark Crawford will discuss the latest camellia hybrids. He will share details of his trip to China to see the production of the Four Season Camellias and will talk about the development of the Georgia First Lady Collection. Mark will offer camellia varieties for sale at his booth in the vendor area.



“The Historic Crescent Tour and Campus Design – the Art of Place-Making”

TOUR

A few blocks north of Downtown Valdosta on North Patterson Street at the intersection with Gordon Street, you'll come across a large house under old oak trees that looks like something out of a movie; it's something you'd picture seeing way out in the country, not in the middle of Valdosta: This is the Crescent! Construction started on the Crescent all the way back in 1898, built by United States Congressman William Stanley West. It is a three-story building with a monumental two-story semi-circular portico. There are 13 columns wrapping around the house; each one represents one of the original 13 colonies. The front porch is crescent-shaped and it's big- it has 23 rooms inside! Tour participants will visit the grounds, currently under historic renovation. Georgia garden club member and Landscape Architect Suzanne Finger will be inside presenting a walk-through of the essential elements of Campus Design. She will discuss and share examples of how these principles help create identifiable and memorable places for campuses, large or small.



“This Blissful Garden – Wiregrass, Longleaf Pine, and Lost Landscapes”

WORKSHOP

Dr. Mark Wetherington, historian and author of three books on Georgia history and American Agriculture, presents William Bartram’s travels through the Wiregrass and pine lands, a world of Native Americans and Colonial Americans up to the Revolution, both groups dependent on the natural environment. He will lead us through the pastoral lifestyles of Western European influence on the plains in the 1790s through the 1860s, a world where cattle were more important than crops. Then he will describe the destruction of the Wiregrass and Longleaf landscapes due to rural industrialization, namely lumber and naval stores industries and the consequences.



“Squeezing Olives”

WORKSHOP

Coming to us directly from Georgia Olive Farms, Carol Drew shares the exciting story of how five farmers in Southeast Georgia gathered in 2009 with the dream of resurrecting olive oil production in Georgia and the Southeast US. Three years later, in 2011, Georgia Olive Farms harvested the first commercial crop of olives grown east of the Mississippi from their groves near Lakeland, Georgia—and they haven’t stopped since! Carol will discuss the benefits of using Extra Virgin Olive Oil and share some unique uses with our audience.



“One Honeybee, Three Wasps, Two Butterflies and More”

BANQUET SPEAKER

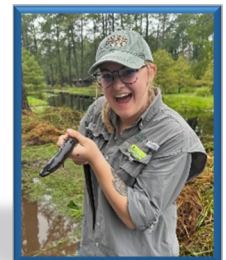
Becky Griffin, creator and Coordinator of the Great Southeast Pollinator Census, enlisted the help of Georgia gardeners and school children just a few years ago to help count bugs. She asked that each monitor one plant for just 15 minutes on either of two hot August days. And the Great Southeast Pollinator Census was born! Since then, the count has expanded to some of the surrounding states. She will entertain us with some of the challenges, successes, and plans for the future along with some behind-the-scenes anecdotes from the initiative.



“Perils of the Swamp”

WORKSHOP

The Okefenokee Swamp is the peat-filled wetland straddling the Georgia-Florida line. The amphibian populations are bio-indicators of global health. It is considered to be one of the Seven Natural Wonders of Georgia and is the largest “blackwater” swamp in North America. Threatened by wildfire, logging, and now proposed mining at its edge, the swamp fights off perils each and every day. Jolie Hoyle, Environmental Education Coordinator for Okefenokee Swamp Park, discusses these perils and the impacts on the habitat for threatened and endangered species, such as the red-cockaded woodpecker, indigo snake, and wood stork, along with a wide variety of other wildlife.



“Naturally Natives”

LUNCHEON SPEAKER

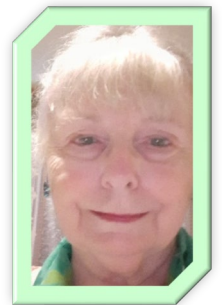
Will we ever learn all there is to know about native plants? As we all learn to appreciate and love our native plants, Heather Brasell, brings to us a large landowner’s perspective on the values and the challenges of native plants. As manager of forested family property, she works with feet on the ground doing prescribed burns, managing invasive plants, and establishing herbaceous groundcover to improve wildlife habitat. This informative talk will leave us with a greater understanding of the appropriate uses of natives and how to best incorporate them into our own landscapes to support wildlife and pollinators.



“Silence in the Wild – Grand Bay Wetlands Tour”

TOUR

Grand Bay Wetlands Wildlife Management Area consists of approximately 3,059 acres of upland pine and hardwood forest and 5,438 acres of cypress/gum wetlands. Local Master Gardener and gardening column writer for over 20 years Susan Grooms will lead participants along the boardwalk through a pitcher plant bog and numerous other habitats. Sandhill cranes may be sighted along with many other bird species as the ecosystem offers insights to a healthy natural environment in a complex ecological relationship between plants and animals.



“Start Somewhere”

WORKSHOP

A gardener’s journey and its unexpected outcomes became the lives of Annie Barbas and Lee Schert. The avid gardeners were given a challenge to renew a garden in a vacant school being rehabbed to house students displaced due to a fire at their school. This community garden effort led to an energy and vitality boost for an entire community in a much-needed sector. Join these ladies as they take us through their delightful journey of restoration and healing.



“A Field of Blue”

WORKSHOP

Brandon Wade, the Operations Manager for Alma Nursery and Berry Farms and the President of the Georgia Blueberry Growers Association, brings the story of his family’s large blueberry operation –and we’re betting you have eaten some of their berries! He will help participants learn the cognitive benefits of the berries, which varieties are best grown in our region and how to achieve a full harvest of berries in your own yard. He will share the story of Billy Blueberry and have copies for sale of *Hi! I’m Billy Blueberry and This Is My Story*, a children’s book outlining the life of a blueberry.



“Georgia on My Mind”

DESIGN BANQUET SPEAKER

NGC Master Flower Show Judge and NGC Design and Flower Show Procedure Instructor Lynn Fronk delights the audience with both Creative and Traditional Designs, bringing to mind the many things Georgia has to offer. She has taught in 42 States, Mexico, Guatemala, Columbia, Ecuador, Uruguay and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. She has judged major flower shows in the United States such as the Philadelphia Flower Show, Newport Flower Show and the Rhode Island State Flower Show. She is the winner of the Mildred-Heter Buckingham Award for outstanding service for the Garden Club of Ohio and has several designs featured in *Designing by Types*. This one-hour presentation will be projected for easy viewing from all attendees. Lynn will also have copies of her booklet, “Merry Christmas From My House to Yours”, advice on how to use natural materials in holiday designs, for sale.

