

Southern GARDEN SYMPOSIUM

*Offering prestigious speakers
amid gracious surroundings.*



Oakley House

**THE 34th ANNUAL
SOUTHERN GARDEN SYMPOSIUM
& WORKSHOPS**

**October 20 & 21, 2023
St. Francisville, Louisiana**

Friday, October 20, 2023

Join other enthusiastic gardeners for a full day of workshops and garden tours. Please register for one of the following offerings in the morning and another session in the afternoon. Everyone will gather at Afton Villa for lunch in Genevieve Munson Trimble's romantic Ruins Garden.

9:00 - 11:30 a.m. | Morning Workshops

9:00 | Check in at your first morning workshop and enjoy light refreshments

9:30 | Workshops begin

- 1. Floral Design: Creating Natural Garden-Style Arrangements for Your Home** – Having designed large scale luxury events for the last decade, Ms. Ludwig will employ her color and design principles to teach participants to apply them at home. She will explore how to use a room and the textiles within it to create floral designs for a cohesive look and feel. Her design is a natural garden style, so she will touch on using materials that are seasonal and locally sourced.

Speaker: Ms. Margaret Ludwig

Location: Afton Villa Gardens, 9047 Highway 61 north of St. Francisville (Limit 125)



- 2. Preserving our Roots: My Journey to Save Seeds and Stories** – For nearly 5 decades Mr. Coykendall has found, preserved, and saved seeds of almost extinct vegetables. He tells of his quest, and his annual visits to Washington Parish to help preserve agricultural traditions. Over 500 varieties of seeds are preserved in freezers where he gardens in Tennessee.

Speaker: Mr. John Coykendall

Location: Rosedown Plantation State Historic Site, 12501 Highway 10 (Limit 50)

- 3. The New Heirloom Garden** – Tasting food pulled from the ground, twisting off a green stem, or picking an apple from a tree is how Ms. Ogden wishes we all ate. This talk is ideal for gardeners seeking to grow the best tasting vegetables, the most fragrant flowers, and add structure to their kitchen garden designs. She will share six steps to successful kitchen design, based on classic European Potagers, and what to grow for old fashioned charm.



Speaker: Ms. Ellen Ecker Ogden

Location: Audubon State Historic Site, 11788 LA Highway 965 (Limit 50)

- 4. Gardening Australis: The Craft, Inspiration, and Wisdom of Growing a Flora with a Southern Flair** – The South is being hailed as a rising cultural epicenter for great crafts, music, and food; and we've also got some great native and adapted plants, y'all. Dr. Barnes shares his memorable excursions looking for natives in situ, some of his favorite southern plants to add to your garden, and his efforts to propagate regional flora at his garden Ephemera Farm.

Speaker: Dr. Jared Barnes

Location: West Feliciana Parish Library, 5114 Burnett Road

11:30 a.m. | Lunch at Afton Villa Gardens

1:15 - 3:15 p.m. | Afternoon Workshops

- 1. The New Heirloom Garden**
(Repeat of Morning Session)
- 2. Early Camellias in Louisiana** - Dr. Stromeyer will share his recent research of the earliest varieties of camellias grown in our state, focusing on the period of 1825-1860. He will provide tips on caring for these treasures.

Speaker: Dr. Wayne Stromeyer

Location: Rosedown Plantation State Historic Site, 12501 Highway 10 (Limit 50)

3. *Designing the Plant-Packed, Seasonal Flower Garden* – Ms. Carey, a passionate, hands-on gardener, will share her process of creating a seasonal flower garden. Learn how a diversity of flower shapes throughout the growing year is key to a vibrant garden.

Speaker: Ms. Jenny Rose Carey

Location: West Feliciana Parish Library
5114 Burnett Road

4. *Gardening Australis: The Craft, Inspiration, and Wisdom of Growing a Flora with a Southern Flair*

(Repeat of Morning Session)

Speaker: Dr. Jared Barnes

Location: West Feliciana Parish Library
5114 Burnett Road

6:30 p.m. | Speakers' Gala

A highlight of the symposium weekend is the cocktail party honoring our speakers. It will be held at Grace Episcopal Church. Experience the serenity of the grounds and cemetery at 11621 Ferdinand Street.



Grace Episcopal Church

**Saturday, October 21,
2023**

Ridgecrest at The Myrtles

9551 Myrtles Lane

8:30 a.m. | Arrive early to enjoy light refreshments and browse the raffle, and book and plant sales

9:15 a.m. | Welcome and Introductions

9:30 a.m. | Adventures in Ecological Horticulture

Who doesn't love butterflies? Our gardens can be stunningly beautiful while also providing habitat for the wildlife that enriches our lives. Ms. McMackin believes cultivating habitat is central to landscape management. Learn how to use ecological insight and experimentation to develop new management strategies, and why careful observation and documentation of wildlife in your gardens is crucial to their success.

Speaker: Ms. Rebecca McMackin

10:30 a.m. | Break

Participate in raffle, and book and plant sales.

11:00 a.m. | Women Garden Writers and the Flowers That They Loved

Learn about flower gardens through the eyes of female garden writers from the early to mid twentieth century. Authors selected are Elizabeth Lawrence, Gertrude Jekyll, Louise Beebe Wilder, Louisa Yeomans King, and Louise Bush-Brown. Using their words, Ms. Carey demonstrates why they loved particular flowers, and why you might, too.

Speaker: Ms. Jenny Rose Carey

12:00 p.m. | Lunch

Book and plant sales, and raffle continue.

12:45 p.m. | Book Signing

1:10 p.m. | Close of Raffle

1:15 p.m. | Beauty and Decay in the Garden

Mr. Smith asks, "Are you turned off by the constant quest for perfection in garden design?" Some of the world's most beautiful gardens include a conscious element of imperfection. Relax, and enjoy a special kind of beauty that celebrates simplicity, imbalance, imperfection, and the inexorable passing of time.

Speaker: Mr. Gary Smith

2:15 p.m. | Adjourn

Symposium volunteers will be available to assist guests with their raffle and plant purchases.

Speakers

Jared Barnes, Ph.D.: An associate professor of horticulture at Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas, Jared Barnes holds a doctorate in horticultural science from

North Carolina State University. His teaching and research interests include crop science, fruit and vegetable production, nursery management, plant breeding, southern perennials, and ecology and cultivation of designed herbaceous plant communities. He has written for various publications and is host of the Plantastic podcast.

Ms. Jenny Rose Carey: A renowned gardener, educator, historian, and author, Ms. Carey formerly served as Senior Director at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Meadowbrook Farm in Jenkintown. She and her gardens have been featured in *The Victory Garden* (PBS), the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Washington Post*, among other publications.

Mr. John Coykendall: An internationally renowned horticulturalist and seed saver, Mr. Coykendall is Master Gardener at Blackberry Farm in Walland, Tennessee. On this extensive property in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, he practices sustainable agriculture, planting and saving heirloom seeds. A classically trained artist, he holds an MFA from Boston's School of the Museum of Fine Arts. In 2016 Louisiana Public Broadcasting made a documentary about him, *Deeply Rooted: John Coykendall's Journey to Save our Seeds and Stories*.

Ms. Margaret Ludwig: With an artistic eye and natural aesthetic, her floral designs have graced some of the most prestigious homes in America. Ms. Ludwig has an extensive background in designing large scale luxury events. Her work has been featured on HGTV and PBS, and in publications such as *House Beautiful*, *Southern Living*, and *Flower Magazine*. She founded Giverny Design in New Orleans and is now based in North Carolina.

Ms. Rebecca McMackin: An ecologically obsessed horticulturist and garden designer, Ms. McMackin served 10 years as Director of Horticulture at Brooklyn Bridge Park, where she oversaw 85 acres of diverse organic landscapes, all managed to support birds, butterflies, and soil microorganisms. She was awarded the Harvard Loeb Fellowship for 2022-2023 to focus on ecological design and science communication.



Ms. Ellen Ecker Ogden: A food and garden writer, Ms. Ogden has written six books. She co-founded The Cooks Garden seed catalog in Vermont, and her articles and garden designs have appeared in national publications including *Garden Design*, *Horticulture*, *Eating Well*, and *Better Homes and Gardens Magazine*.

Mr. Gary Smith: One of North America's leading landscape designers, he specializes in gardens that weave together ecological and cultural themes. His native plant gardens include the Luci and Ian Family Garden at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and Peirce's Woods at Longwood Gardens. Recently Mr. Smith has focused on works of environmental art. He has received many national awards, including the Garden Book Award from the American Horticultural Society.

Wayne Stromeyer, M.D.: A retired medical pathologist, he is a preservationist and gardener in Baton Rouge. He and his wife moved and restored Chene Vert (circa 1825) and developed appropriate gardens representing historic Louisiana patterns and plants. With his friend Trent James, he has recently published a book *Early Camellias in Louisiana*, focusing on varieties from 1825 – 1860.



Venues

Established in 1809, St. Francisville is set in a unique location on a bluff of the Mississippi River. Often described as a town "two miles long and two yards wide," the quaint community offers southern hospitality, charming shopping, and breathtaking scenery. Symposium events are held at various historic and picturesque locations.

Afton Villa Gardens: Although a fire in 1963 destroyed the beautiful antebellum mansion, the gardens at Afton Villa are among the most famous and picturesque in the state. In 1972, Genevieve and Morrell Trimble undertook the task of restoring the grounds. Today the estate contains almost 35 acres of formal gardens and pleasure grounds, including the famous ruins gardens, a formal parterre garden, a daffodil valley, and a historic family cemetery.

Audubon State Historic Site – Oakley Plantation: This three story structure built circa 1806 features West Indian influences. Its interior has been restored to the late Federal

period reflecting its appearance in 1821 when John James Audubon came as tutor to Eliza Pirrie. Enchanted by the house's grounds and woods, he collected specimens and painted a number of his now famous bird studies. The home, numerous outbuildings, and surrounding 100 acres are preserved as a historic site by the Office of State Parks.

Grace Church: Organized March 15, 1827, Grace Church is the second oldest Episcopal church in Louisiana. The present structure, built in 1858-60, is a well-preserved brick building reminiscent of Gothic country churches which dot the English countryside. Its peaceful oak-shaded cemetery is filled with fine statuary and Victorian monuments of marble and stone.

Rosedown Plantation State Historic Site: Built by Daniel and Martha Turnbull in 1834, Rosedown remains one of the most majestic properties in the area. The gardens are as grand as the home and were the province of Martha Turnbull throughout her life. The gardens grew over some years to cover approximately 28 acres. Currently, the planter's home, historic gardens, 13 outbuildings and 371 remaining acres of Rosedown Plantation are preserved as a historic site by the Office of State Parks.



Rosedown Plantation

In 2023 the Symposium Steering Committee has organized the event.

Genevieve Barry
Liz Butler
Lucie Cassity
Dare Didier
Ashley Fox-Smith
Dana Hanchey
Genie McClendon
Mary Cleland Owen
Mary Frances Smart
Beverly Walker
Catherine White
Martha White
Becky Wright
Donna Wright



Afton Villa

PURPOSE

The Southern Garden Symposium seeks to preserve and commemorate gardening in the Deep South through lectures, workshops, and tours of historic Afton Villa gardens and Rosedown gardens.



Registration for Workshops, Symposium and Speakers' Gala

Pre-registration is required. It is anticipated that there will be no registration at the door on Friday or Saturday.

Early Bird Rates for Registration before August 15

All inclusive (Friday, Saturday, Gala)

\$350

Friday and Saturday workshops and symposium

\$250

Gala Only

\$150

Rates for Registration after August 15

All inclusive (Friday, Saturday, Gala)

\$400

Friday and Saturday workshops and symposium

\$300

Friday

- Workshops:** Fee includes both morning and afternoon workshops, lectures and lunch. Registration is limited. Please indicate first and second choices for both morning and afternoon workshops. Confirmation for admission to workshops and other information will be sent to you.

Morning:

- Floral Design: Creating Natural Garden-Style Arrangements for Your Home*
- Preserving our Roots: My Journey to Save Seeds and Stories*
- The New Heirloom Garden*
- Gardening Australis: the Craft, Inspiration, and Wisdom of Growing a Flora With a Southern Flair*

Afternoon:

- The New Heirloom Garden*
- Early Camellias in Louisiana*
- Designing the Plant Packed, Seasonal Flower Garden*
- Gardening Australis: the Craft, Inspiration, and Wisdom of Growing a Flora With a Southern Flair*

- Speakers' Gala:** Friday evening (Limit 150)

Saturday

- Symposium:** Includes refreshments, lectures, and lunch. Registration is limited to 250.

Make checks payable to:

The Southern Garden Symposium
P. O. Box 2075, St. Francisville, LA 70775

For general information please call (225) 937-0051 or visit www.SouthernGardenSymposium.org to register online.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

When registering for more than one person, please include names and addresses for each person on a separate sheet.



Full refund upon written request by October 10, 2023.

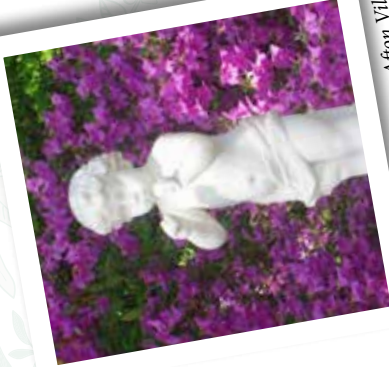
For lodging information in St. Francisville, call toll free (800) 789-4221 or (225) 635-4224 or visit www.stfrancisville.us; in New Roads, call (225) 638-3998 or visit pctourism.org.

Southern
GARDEN SYMPOSIUM

P.O. Box 2075
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775



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