



Steering Committee

Genevieve Barry

Dr. Beverly Buckingham

Lucie Cassity

Dare Didier

Martha Holmgren

Anne Kurz

Genie McClendon

Mary Cleland Owen

Jan Pourciau

Lauren Pourciau

Mary Frances Smart

Catherine White

Martha White

Donna Wright

The 37th Annual Southern Garden Symposium will be held October 23-24, 2026 in St. Francisville, LA. The symposium steering committee looks forward to hosting the event each fall, and its success relies on the support of generous sponsors and donors. Organization and event details are included below and we invite you to please consider being a sponsor of this year's program.

The Southern Garden Symposium has been one of St. Francisville's premier annual events—bringing together exceptional speakers and garden enthusiasts for two days of workshops and lectures, and tours of homes and gardens. The symposium steering committee takes pride in producing an event that offers a diverse program with informative lectures, interactive workshops, and captivating garden tours, while introducing our guests and speakers to the unique history, beauty, and hospitality of West Feliciana Parish.

In a study conducted by the Louisiana Department of Tourism, it was found that the Southern Garden Symposium generates nearly \$50,000 for West Feliciana Parish.

While producing an outstanding symposium is our main goal, over the years we have sought to make this event inviting, while still cost-effective, to encourage as many people as possible to attend and visit our community. In keeping with its mission, the Southern Garden Symposium has been delighted to support many in their pursuits to enhance gardens and educate gardeners by funding numerous education and beautification projects. Of particular note:

- Symposium Park, which is a cornerstone of the historic district of St. Francisville, was purchased by the Symposium Steering Committee and donated to the Town of St. Francisville;
- Support is given to the historic gardens in our community, including those at Rosedown State Historic Site, Audubon State Historic Site, and Afton Villa Gardens;
- University students are assisted through a scholarship at Louisiana State University School of Landscape Architecture, established to honor the memory of Dr. Neil Odenwald, a longtime leader of the Southern Garden Symposium.
- For the first time in 2026 the Steering Committee is partnering with the Institute of Classical Architecture and Art to further cultivate a deeper appreciation of gardens as integral expressions of both culture and architecture.

This year's program is sure to be exceptional. Invited speakers are experts in their fields and will inspire gardeners to create beautiful and resilient spaces in their homes and communities. The program features topics on history, landscape architecture, design, floral arranging, and gardening in a changing climate, presented through workshops and informative talks. On behalf of the Southern Garden Symposium, I hope you will share our excitement and help support this special event by considering a sponsorship which will help underwrite symposium costs. The 2026 Sponsor Program offers a variety of giving levels as described on the attached page.

Sincerely,

Southern Garden Symposium

Post Office Box 2075 • Saint Francisville, Louisiana 70775

2026 Southern Garden Symposium
Sponsorship Levels

Magnolia- Sponsorship of \$2,500

Sponsor receives 4 All-inclusive tickets

Camellia- Sponsorship of \$1,500

Sponsor receives 2 All- inclusive tickets

Gardenia- Sponsorship of \$750

Sponsor receives 1 All Inclusive Ticket
and 1 additional ticket to The Speakers' Gala- Friday night

Rose- Sponsorship of \$500

Sponsor receives 2 tickets to The Speakers' Gala- Friday night

Please mail sponsorships to:
Southern Garden Symposium
P.O. Box 2075
St. Francisville, LA 70775

An All-inclusive ticket includes admittance to Friday workshops, The Speakers' Gala, and Saturday Symposium.