

## SPEAKERS



### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Kent Russell**

**Wed. May 23—Luncheon**

**“Candy in the Garden,”**

Kent Russell, noted celebrity gardener, storyteller and specialist on perennials, will present “Candy in the Garden,” a live plant demonstration.

Known as the “Garden Guru,” and appearing on the show of that name on PBS, Russell entertains and provides education for garden clubs and horticultural organizations across the United States. Combining enthusiasm and humor and utilizing a wide assortment of live plant materials, his program focuses on how to create eye-catching drama in any garden setting. Some of the highly coveted perennials used in his demonstration, as well as other plants, will be available for sale following the program.

Russell began his life in horticulture at Russell Gardens, his family's nursery, in Bucks County, Pa. He designs gardens and container plantings for clients throughout the East Coast. *For more information, visit [www.visithartford.com](http://www.visithartford.com)*



**Kirk Brown**

**Tues. May 22—NGC Life Member Banquet**

**“John Bartram, The King’s Gardener”**

Kirk Brown brings “John Bartram,” early American botanist and explorer to life, as he shares details about the horticultural history of America, from its origins in Philadelphia and Penn’s Woods, to the international world of plant discovery and identification. Dubbed “what Hal Holbrook is to Mark Twain so is Kirk Brown to John Bartram,” on Great Garden Speakers.com, Brown infuses humor and a passion for horticulture into his entertaining performances.

A recipient of myriad garden industry awards, Brown earned the “Green Achiever” award for advancing horticulture in Pennsylvania by the Pennsylvania Nursery and Landscape Association and is a member of the executive committee for GWA: The Association for Garden Communicators. He is a business consultant to the green industry, landscape designer and national lecturer on horticultural topics from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Brown teaches 22 units of study for NGC’s Landscape Design Schools in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland and the District of Columbia, as well as several units for NGC Environmental Schools. He also served as a judge of major exhibits for the Philadelphia Flower Show. *For more information, visit [www.greatgardenspeakers.com](http://www.greatgardenspeakers.com)*



**Jane Godshalk**  
**Thurs. May 24—Design Banquet**  
**“Philadelphia Style—Love It”**

Author of “Flower Arranging Secrets—Natural Designs for Everyday Living,” Jane Godshalk is a designer of innovative floral creations who demystifies the art of floral design and enhances her presentations through her use of music from movies and pop culture.

Godshalk represented the United States at the Chelsea Flower Show in London and was a speaker at the World Flower Show in Boston and Dublin, Ireland. She is a member of the American Institute of Floral Designers and served on the board of the Philadelphia Flower Show. Godshalk is a faculty member of Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania and lectures and provides workshops across the U.S. and in Europe.  
*For more information, visit [www.janegodshalk.com](http://www.janegodshalk.com)*



**Sam Lemheney and Matt Rader**  
**Thurs. May 24—Luncheon**  
**“PHS and the Philadelphia Flower Show: Engaging Gardeners and Transforming Communities.”**

Sam Lemheney and Matt Rader represent the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and share insights into what it takes to produce the PHS Philadelphia Flower Show, the largest indoor flower show in the United States, which attracts more than 250,000 visitors each year. The dynamic duo will explain how to become engaged in and support the work of PHS, which uses horticulture to beautify the city, transform neglected spaces, and create stronger, sustainable communities.

Lemheney began his career as an intern at Walt Disney World Co., and served as area manager of the Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival, as well as coordinated the transformation of the award-winning gardens at Epcot. He directs the planning and creation of major events produced by PHS and is a judge at flower shows in Singapore, Japan and South Korea.

A native of Mercersburg, Pa., Rader is president of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, a non-profit membership organization based in Philadelphia, Pa., that works to connect people to horticulture and apply horticulture to create beautiful, healthy, sustainable communities. *For more information, visit [www.phsonline.org](http://www.phsonline.org)*