



Norman Winter-Horticulturist, Author and Speaker, Hamilton, GA

Norman Winter retired in 2018 as Director of the University of Georgia's Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens in Savannah, GA. He is the author of 4 books, the latest being "Captivating Combinations, Color and Style in the Garden". Currently Norman is a national garden columnist with McClatchy Tribune with articles read coast to coast and frequently in Canada. His articles are seen in each issue of Georgia Gardening, Livelt and North Texas Farm and Ranch magazines. Norman spent almost 15 years as an Extension Horticulture Specialist with Mississippi State University. In 2011, he became Director of the National Butterfly Center in Mission, TX. He is a sought-after garden lecturer speaking at such well known events as the Callaway Gardens Symposia, Southern Garden Symposium, St. Francisville, LA., Georgia Perennial Plant Association, Southern Cultural Heritage Foundation, Little Rock Flower Show, the state Master Gardener Conventions in Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Georgia and South Carolina. He was also a speaker at the 2003 National Garden Club Convention in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Program Description: "Blooms, Birds and Butterflies"

No goal or objective in the garden is as worthy as that of providing for pollinators. Norman will show everyone how to have the ultimate in colorful beauty while at the same time bringing in an abundance of bees, butterflies and hummingbirds using the latest and hottest plants for Beauty and Performance.



Jeanne C. Jones - Professor Emeritus of Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture of Mississippi State University (MSU)

Jeanne holds a Doctorate in Forest Resources from Miss. State University, is a certified Wildlife Biologist and Fellow of the Wildlife Society and is a scientific illustrator and wildlife artist. In retirement, she lives on forest land near Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge in central Mississippi where she manages her land for wildlife and native wildflowers. She continues to promote wildlife habitat conservation, deliver guest lectures to wildlife students, and participate in conservation education of Mississippi's citizens. She also enjoys organic gardening, playing the mandolin and fiddle, traveling to remote wild places, and wildlife art creation. She currently serves on the board of the Mississippi Wildlife Federation and Friends of SDH Noxubee Wildlife Refuge and participates in rescue and adoption of abandoned cats and dogs.

Program Description: "Bats - Biological Insect Control & Much More!"

Learn about bats of Mississippi and beyond; their biology and habitat requirements. This presentation will also feature information on bat ecological benefits, their conservation, and managing bats on your land and around your home.



Carol Reese - Extension Horticulture Specialist at University of Tennessee's West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center

Carol is a nationally-known speaker, blending equal parts gardening, knowledge, homespun wisdom and humor. She is the gardening and nature columnist for the "Jackson Sun", as well as a contributor to the Memphis Commercial Appeal, and to several gardening magazines. She has a B. S. and M. S. in Horticulture from Mississippi State University where she taught Plant Materials and Landscape Design for non-landscape architecture majors. She attributes her love of horticulture to being raised on a farm by generations of plant nuts.

Program Description: "Ordinary Plants with Extraordinary Stories"

You walk past them every day. Mute, these sometimes despised plants cannot tell us of their fascinating and useful qualities. Carol's lively pace and personal anecdotes illustrate their value in pioneer history, their contributions to the native American way of life, or their intriguing roles in wild communities. You can tell their story for them after this fascinating and often funny program.



James DelPrince, PhD - Horticulture Specialist with the Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center, Biloxi, Mississippi

Jim has been with Mississippi State University Extension since 2015, he has written nine Extension publications, two funded grants and developed four programs benefitting flower growers, florists and floral enthusiasts. Professionally, he has worked in academia and industry. Jim is a Laureate Member of the American Institute of Floral Designers and was granted the AIFD Service to the Floral Industry Award in 2016. In tandem with his faculty appointment with Mississippi State University since 1996, he has taught floral design to over 6,000 students, professional florists and floral enthusiasts and served on two industry design teams (Smithers Oasis, FloraCraft). Jim has written numerous publications and is an expert in 19th century floral design, he has presented his work at numerous museums (New Orleans Museum of Art, George Walter Vincent Smith, Springfield Massachusetts) and historic homes.

Program Description: "Birds of a Feather"

Jim will delight attendees with a floral design presentation focusing on birds from across the United States and South America.



Bob Brzuszek-Extension Professor at Mississippi State University in the Department of Landscape Architecture

Bob teaches Design Studios, Planting Design and Landscape Ecology courses. Prior to teaching, he was involved in the early design and management of The Crosby Arboretum in Picayune, Mississippi; an award-winning native plant arboretum. Bob works closely with The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc. and directs the Edward C. Martin, Jr. Landscape Design Symposium, the longest running landscape symposium in the nation. In 2011, Bob was awarded the prestigious Garden Clubs of Mississippi Gold Award. This award is given to an individual, organization or institution other than garden clubs, for some special contribution toward the advancement of the work of garden clubs. And, Bob was awarded an NGC Scholarship during his college years.

Program Description: “Designing with Native Plants: A Celebration of Place”

Native plants are great for pollinators, are uniquely adapted to local soils and climate, and can help to define a landscape’s sense of place. In this presentation, Bob will show how local ecosystems can inspire the design of truly beautiful landscapes that are in harmony with the region. Using examples from the Gulf South and beyond, he will share design secrets with you that evoke a celebration of place.



Margaret Gratz - Author and Illustrator

Margaret writes the “Earth Lady” column for the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal. In her column, she attempts to educate and enlighten her readers about the wonders of the natural world. For a number of years, she also wrote a popular weekly “Wildflower Watch” column that was the inspiration for her book “Wildflower Watch”. She is also the author of “At Home in the Earth Lady’s Garden” and “Charlie on Safari”, both of which she illustrated. Her latest book is “Butterflies At Home in the Earth Lady’s Garden” which she also illustrated. Margaret is a regular feature writer for *Mississippi Gardeners Magazine* and has written for many other publications. She is currently the Garden Editor for *Mississippi Magazine*. She is a Master Gardener and an active member of Tupelo Garden Club. Margaret is an avid birdwatcher, gardener, wildflower enthusiast and painter and is in much demand as a speaker.

Program Description: “Going on a Safari in the Garden”

For over twenty years the writings of Margaret Gratz have distinguished her as “The Earth Lady”. Her four books were inspired by the many creatures that have visited her garden throughout the years. She will share how to attract wildlife in your own garden, from birds to butterflies, and more! Margaret says that the creatures in our gardens add color, movement, and vibrancy. Every garden has the potential to be a veritable wild kingdom and a peaceable kingdom-one that welcomes all creatures great and small.



Cory Gallo - Assistant Professor at Mississippi State University in the Department of Landscape Architecture

A creative problem solver, Cory works to benefit the students at Mississippi State University as well as the local community. Teaching is just one of his passions. Landscape architecture is a challenging field because it requires knowledge in so many subjects. Hydrology, Site Design and Urban Design are just three of Cory's focus areas and his goal is to share that knowledge with students in applicable ways. Cross-campus collaborative efforts mark some of his greatest accomplishments at the university and in the local community. Cory worked closely with MSU architecture professor, Hans Herman, to design and construct the pavilion at Oktibbeha County Heritage Museum, which was recently featured in an exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Design. Students from various academic programs, including landscape architecture, landscape contracting, architecture, building construction and art built the pavilion. Overall, Cory has led student projects that have won three national awards from the American Society of Landscape Architects. All of these have demonstrated the ability of small projects to make the ordinary, extraordinary through thoughtful design.

Program Description: "Growing Community Gardens"

The idea of community gardens has been around for a long time. Like Victory Gardens during WW2, today's gardens are a response to the world around us. In this presentation, Cory will explore trends in community gardens including how they are designed, organized, managed, and funded. He will also share examples of his own work in developing an award winning student community garden on Mississippi State University's campus.