



Brie Arthur

Awards Banquet /Breakout Speaker

Wed April 29 6:30 pm

Food Scape Revolution

Thurs April 30 9:30 am

Marketing for the Future

Brie Arthur grew up in southeastern Michigan and studied Landscape Design and Horticulture at Purdue University. With over twenty years of experience as a grower and propagator, she loves to share her knowledge and passion for gardening with communities around the world. Her book, *The Foodscape Revolution* became a best seller on Amazon and in 2017, she was awarded the first *Emerging Professional* distinction by the American Horticultural Society as well as numerous other awards and recognition. Brie has also traveled the county and has appeared as a correspondent on the PBS television show, *Growing A Greener World*. As Vice President of Horticulture for *Gardenuity*, a direct to consumer on-line gardening company, she has used her plant knowledge and extensive grower network to reach consumers across the country. Gardening in the modern era of technology has never been easier. To learn more about Brie, go to <https://www.briegrows.com> or visit [Gardenuity.com](https://www.gardenuity.com)



Gary Bachman

Wed April 29 10:00am

***Grow Boxes/Professor Marvel's
Miraculous "Miracle Grow" Elixir***

Thurs April 30 9:30 am

Grow Boxes/"Miracle Grow" Elixir

Dr. Gary Bachman is an Extension/Research Professor of Horticulture at MSU Coastal Research and Extension Service in Biloxi. He is best known as the host of the Southern Gardening's television and radio shows, various newspaper, social media and YouTube videos with an audience of over 2 million people since 2010. He is the un-heralded leader of the *Gardening Nation* and a fellow of the American Horticulture Society and the 2019 winner of their prestigious Benjamin Yoe Morrison Communications Award. Dr Bachman has a Bachelor and Master degree from Clemson University and doctorate from Ohio State and was on faculty at Tennessee Technological University and Illinois State University. He lives with his wife Katie in Ocean Springs where they are *urban homesteaders* and operate the Heritage Cottage Urban Nano Farm designed to be a demonstration urban farm to grow and preserve an abundance of locally grown vegetables and produce all year long.



Tammany Baumgartner

Thurs April 30 9:30 pm

Habitat Gardens

Tammany is a Master Gardener with the LSU AgCenter in New Orleans. She is the Owner/Operator of BaumGardens Landscape and Design and an avid proponent of native and wildlife gardening. She is also president of the newly formed Native Plant Initiative of Greater New Orleans. The organization is dedicated to promoting and preserving native plantings in the highly urban settings. Additionally, she spend much time working to improve and preserve the wildlife diversity at her 40 acre property, Beechnut Nature Retreat, in Tylertown, MS where she hosts outdoor classroom events to teach about native flora and fauna. She is a frequent speaker at many gardening events around the state and an avid proponent of weaving native and wildlife gardening into landscape design and public discourse whenever possible.



Donald del Cid

Wed April 29 3:00 pm

Water Conservation

Mr. del Cid has over 40 years experience in architecture and historic preservation. He is internationally recognized in the fields of contemporary and tropical architecture, historic preservation, and environmental concerns. His expertise includes building systems, construction methods, code issues, and construction administration and is known for his work in earthquake mitigation, energy conservation, and traditional construction systems and methods. He is a registered architect in Guatemala and has served as an educator at the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property ICCROM, Rome, Italy - a UNESCO-founded institute. He co-founded the Master in Preservation Studies program at Tulane's School of Architecture (New Orleans). He has also served as adjunct professor at the University of Texas - Arlington School of Architecture, while initiating architectural programs in Historic Preservation and Tropical Architecture. Currently, Donald is working on design proposals and preparation of construction documents for storm water management in cities, regions and areas affected by the ongoing sea level rise and climate change. These mitigation exercises also include adaptation schemes of existing and threatened conditions in the local environment.

Edible Schoolyard New Orleans

Wed April 29 1:30 pm

Making Garden Magic Happen for Children

(Special events, best practices, special opportunities, building internal and external partnerships)



Alisha Johnson Perry

Director of Development
Firstline Schools

Alisha witnessed firsthand the benefits of teaching children true respect for where food comes from and the love and patience needed to grow, cook and share it in healthy ways with their community and family. She is a part of an integral team of fundraising professionals and volunteers who leverage local, regional and national partners and individual contributions to resource strategic school-based initiatives that nurture the whole child in mind, body and spirit. She holds a juris doctorate in Civil Law and a bachelor's degree in Journalism and Spanish but her favorite studies include Scrabble vocabulary lists and children's book writing. ajohnson@firstlineschools.org



Emily Neustrom

Edible Schoolyard New Orleans
Network Garden Mgr

Emily is a Certified Horticulture Therapist with an M.S. in Horticulture from LSU. She has facilitated garden programs with diverse populations in recovery programs, senior facilities, and urban garden settings with youth and so much more. Emily believes the personal connection made between teachers, students and each other are the most powerful outcomes of working together in a peaceful garden space. She currently manages the FirstLine gardens and works with five garden and culinary educator teams to plan the growing schedules and continue to build systems within the schools. Emily is passionate about her work and loves to play music, dance and laugh with her family. <https://www.instagram.com/friedhoney>



Wanda Freeland

Wed April 29 10:00 am
Straw Bale Gardening

Straw Bale gardening is more economical, easier on your back, and is great for people with mobility issues. After over 40 years of gardening in four states, Wanda has experimented with many forms of gardening including Ruth Stout's raised beds, keyhole gardening, and the French Intensive Gardening Method. She has tried many methods to live in harmony with the bugs, the forest critters and Mother Nature but the best experience was using Straw Bale gardening.

As aging takes its toll on our backs, Straw Bale gardening is an effective and fun way to continue gardening even if you are in an apartment, have a small yard, a driveway will do or need to *stand tall* to pick your bounty! Added benefit is at the end of the season, you recycle the straw bale to continue its contribution to enriching the earth. Based on Joel Karsten's book *Straw Bale Gardens Complete* and other sources, learn how to apply his methods to your garden [https://strawbalegardens.com > about-joel](https://strawbalegardens.com/about-joel)



Dr Jeff Harris

Wed April 29 10:00 am
We Need the BEES!

If you want to know more about what is happening to our bee population and how it affects your future, let Dr. Jeff Harris, Associate MSU Extension/Research Professor answer your questions. He holds a master and a doctoral degree from LSU. His 15 yrs as a bee breeder with the USDA, has provided him with much insight and experience in the care of bees. He has been involved in developing lines of honey bees that express right levels of Varroa Sensitive Hygienics. Other publications include Protecting Pollination in Honey Bees in MS and Colony Growth and Seasonal Management of Honey Bees. To contact Dr Jeff, jeff.harris@msstate.edu



Steve Heriger

Wed April 29 10:00 am

Home Hydroponics

Steve Heriger started experimenting with his homemade hydroponic garden while living in Pittsburg, PA. He uses easily obtained rubber maid tubs and inexpensive supplies to create an abundant crop with little fuss, no weeds and when elevated, a way to preserve a gardener's knees and back. He presents best practices and a special inexpensive fertilizer recipe used by marijuana growers. Steve continues to develop new and innovative ways to adapt this growing method to our hot and humid coastal climate. His best advice: Start small and enjoy!



Chester O. Martin

Wed April 29 10:00 am

Bats are GOOD!

Chester O. Martin is a retired Wildlife Biologist and Master Naturalist who specializes in the study of bats. He is founder of the Mississippi Bat Working Group¹ and has authored over 40 research and popular articles on bats. Most of his work has focused on bat conservation and management in the Southeast, especially Mississippi. He recently received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network. Chester is also an accomplished wildlife artist and has illustrated several books and magazine articles on mammals.).¹ Bat conservation needs include diverse forest management, protection of bottomland areas and streamside zones, control of water pollution, and protection of roost sites (especially caves, roost trees, and artificial structures). The Mississippi Bat Working Group is actively dealing with many of these issues. Information on activities of the working group may be found at www.msabats.org.



Dr Mark LaSalle is a naturalist and wetland ecologist, providing expertise on wetlands, water quality and environmental impacts of humans. He has also developed and conducted a number of environmental education programs and workshops for youth, teachers, realtors, and the general public on a variety of subjects including wetlands, natural history, and environmental landscaping. Mark is a graduate of the University of Southwestern Louisiana (B.S. and M.S. degrees) and Mississippi State University (Ph.D.). Mark is the recipient of the Chevron Conservation Award, the Mississippi Wildlife Federation Conservation Educator Award, the Gulf Guardian Award, and the Boy Scouts of America Silver Beaver Award. To contact Mark: mwlasalle@gmail.com

Mark LaSalle

Wed April 29 3:00 pm Edible Forest

Thurs April 30 11:00 am Gen Session



CONFERENCE
SPONSOR

Robert E. "Buddy" Lee is the Director of Plant Innovations at Plant Development Services, Inc. and inventor of the Encore® Azalea, the world's best-selling re-blooming azalea. With 30+ yrs experience in nursery management, breeding, propagation and new plant development, he is one of the most respected plant breeders and horticulturists in North America.

<https://www.encoreazalea.com/gardening/expert-advice/robert-buddy-lee>

Robert "Buddy" Lee

GENERAL SESSION SPEAKER

Wed April 29 8:30 am



Dr. Betty Sue O'Brian

Wed April 29 10:00 am

Stop! Wait! Don't Pull That Weed

Dr. Betty Sue O'Brian is an herbalist and naturopath. She uses safe and natural therapies to help a person bring the body into balance through dietary and lifestyle adjustments that provide good nutrition and proper exercise for the body, mind and spirit. Her impressive credentials can be found on her website

www.bettysueobrian.com or contact her at

Drbetty@southerninstituteofnaturalhealth.com



Dr Christian Stephenson

Wed April 29 10:00 am

Interesting Bugs & Insects

Dr Stephenson is an MSU County Extension Agent in Hancock County. His extensive knowledge of insects and their effect in the home makes him an interesting and informative speaker. His humor and perspective on these household pests offers a fast paced forty five minute presentation. Bring your questions, you may surprised at his answers.

c.stephenson@msstate.edu Bay St Louis



Catherine Strange

*Tues April 28 3:00 pm
Fearless Entertaining at
Hennington House*

Catherine Strange is the coauthor of the 4 Fearless Entertaining books but does not consider herself an expert on anything. Catherine is more comfortable being a Home, Garden & Entertaining enthusiast who loves to encourage others to use what they already have in unusual, unexpected and fun ways.

"Reaching Out by Inviting In" and "Using Whatcha Got in your own Home & Garden" are practices Catherine puts into action often as she shares with us simple Ideas for living large! Catherine and her Husband Randall live in their circa 1905 Henington House & Gardens home located in the Historic Neighborhood of Hattiesburg, Mississippi where she continues to share her message with women across the country through her website and social media titled,

www.heningtonhouse.com