



Native Plant Symposium

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

8:45 am - 3:30 pm

The Garden Club of Georgia Headquarters, Terrace Room

\$65 (lunch included)

Native plants are important for many reasons: they celebrate our region, they are well suited to grow in our area, and they provide food and habitat for an array of native animals including the insects that pollinate our native plants. They are an essential part of the complex, interrelated ecosystem we call home here in Georgia. Native plants can also be tough, beautiful garden plants for your home landscape. Join us for a day-long series of presentations on gardening with native plants and related conservation issues.

Agenda

8:45 Welcome and Announcements

Wilf Nicholls, *Director, State Botanical Garden of Georgia*
Virginia Pennington, *Garden Club of Georgia*

9:00 Atlanta's Original and Old Growth Forest

Kathryn Kolb, *Director, EcoAddendum*

The Atlanta metro area is rare among the world's major cities because it retains pieces of our region's original forest. Kathryn Kolb shows how the accidents of history spared many forested areas and how you can learn to identify these special places in your neighborhood or your own back yard. Kathryn shares interesting historical details and the newest research on trees, and illustrates her presentation with wonderful photographs. She also offers tips on how to restore the native forest in your yard, and provides a book list for further reading.

10:00 Plant Sale Highlights

Heather Alley, *Mimsie Center for Native Plant Studies, SBG*
Joey Allen, *Curator of Shade and Native Garden, SBG*
Cliff Brock, *Curator of Rose Garden and Walkway, SBG*



Photo: Kathryn Kolb

10:30 Break and Plant Sale

11:00 North Georgia's Old Growth Forests

Jess Riddle, *Forest Ecologist, Georgia Forest Watch*

Jess will discuss the last remaining tracts of north Georgia's original forests, what they're like, where they are, and how and why they survived.

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch, including the Certificate in Native Plants Program Graduation, will be held in the Garden's Visitor Center.

1:15 – 2:00 Tree Hike

Tree Identification Hike after lunch—Local botanical experts will guide symposium participants from the Visitor Center back to the Garden Club HQ building, identifying native trees as we go. If weather is inclement, Linda Chafin will present a talk on identifying native trees in winter in the Garden Club HQ.

2:00 Connect to Protect

Lauren Muller, *M.S. Candidate, UGA Horticulture Department*

The importance of including native plants in our landscape is quickly gaining the attention of plant lovers and gardeners alike. Our landscaping and gardening with native plants creates a place of refuge not only for people but for insects and other animals. The associations of plants and insects especially provide an opportunity for the urban naturalist and gardener to learn about ecosystems while contributing to plant conservation.

2:45 Biggie Tasty Trees: Connecting with Champion and Edible Native Trees

Robby Astrove, *Park Ranger, Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve, DeKalb County*
Eli Dickerson, *Ecologist, Fernbank Museum of Natural History, Atlanta*

Get excited about the biggest and tastiest native trees in Georgia with ecologist Eli Dickerson of Fernbank Museum of Natural History and Park Ranger Robby Astrove of Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve. As big tree hunters, foragers, and educators, Eli and Robby will explain how to start a champion tree program, why it's important, and the methods of champion tree measurement. You'll leave knowing how Champion Trees can positively connect citizens to urban forests and protect trees. Hungry for more? Fruit trees and food forests are emerging as powerful community assets in urban forestry and represent the future of agriculture in Atlanta. They will feature Georgia's edible trees that feed, teach, and inspire a better quality of life in the city.

3:30 Adjourn

