

**Deep South Garden Club, Inc. 2023 Convention**  
*The Mindful Gardener, A Journey Through the Senses*  
**CONVENTION SPEAKERS AND WORKSHOPS**

**Dr. F. Todd Lasseigne**

*“Journeying through Horticulture and Plants,  
Travel through Time, Place, and Kindred Souls”*



Dr. Lasseigne serves as Executive Director of Bellingrath Gardens and Home, a position he started in September 2020. He joins a team of board members and professional staff working to bring forward the legacy of Walter and Bessie Bellingrath at their restored estate and gardens located on the Fowl River south of Mobile. Prior to coming to Bellingrath, Todd was President and CEO of Tulsa Botanic Gardens for over nine years, working to build it from the ground up. Dr Lasseigne also served as the founding Executive Director of Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden of North Carolina from 2005 through 2011, and as Assistant Director of the JC Raulston Arboretum for five years. Todd is a highly respected plantsman, horticulturist, and public gardener. He is widely recognized as a leading horticulture expert among nursery professionals and in the public garden world. He has delivered invited lectures across the U.S. and Japan, South Korea, and Mexico. Todd has visited over 450 gardens around the world during his career. He lives with his wife (Heather) and 5 cats in Grand Bay, Alabama.

**Neal Sanders**

*“Gardening is Murder, A Horticultural Lesson  
with a Comedic Twist or Gardening from a Husband’s Point of View”*



After a 35 year ‘corporate career’, Neal Sanders turned his attention to writing fiction and since 2005 has authored 16 mysteries, most which revolve around horticulture or use garden club settings. He writes the popular ‘The Principal Undergardener’ blog, which addresses gardening as a non-gardener who loves gardens. As the spouse of an avid and accomplished gardener with no ‘real’ responsibilities other than dig holes and move rocks, Neal has lots of time to observe gardeners and their foibles. “Gardening is Murder” weaves those observations into an illustrated talk that is humorous, informative, and poignant. We can guarantee it is a horticultural lecture unlike any you have ever heard at any garden club meeting. He is a Florida native with deep roots in Georgia, he now lives outside Boston and speaks across the country. Mr. Sanders will have all his books available for signing. More about Neal can be found in ‘The National Gardener’ on the NGC website.

**Paul Norman, AIFD**

*“Gardens of Your Mind”*



Paul Norman, AIFD, third-generation owner of Thibodeaux’s Floral Studio, draws from his background in architecture, film and theatrical lighting, fashion couture, and floral arrangements for carnival organizations, conventions, corporations, weddings, and Art in Bloom at the New Orleans Museum of Art. Thibodeaux’s Floral Studio is a family-owned business nestled under the oak tree lined street of Carrolton Avenue in New Orleans. Founded by Mildred Thibodeaux the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, Thibodeaux’s Floral Studio uses its generations of experience to create elegant yet design forward florals for any event. Paul has traveled the world as an AIFD member. In 2008, Paul was invited by the Holland Flower Council to attend classes with four Dutch masters, one German master, and one Russian master. He had the opportunity to attend the Floriade Convention, visit the growers form the area, and choose flowers for Sentimental Journey in Almere. Each of his designs is

unique and a one-of-a-kind unforgettable creation. His past and current clients include the NFL Properties, Princess Yasmin, Nicholas Cage, Kevin Costner, John Goodman, Radio Hall of Fame, Joffrey Ballet, and Children's Home and Aid Foundation. He has committed to bring the "wow" factor to our Design Banquet with his design and unique personality. Prepare yourself for "Gardens of Your Mind."

### **Bonnie Satterwaite**

#### ***"Bee an Organic Gardener – Our Next Meal Could Bee Up to You"***



Bonnie is originally from Savannah, Georgia and currently resides in Virginia Beach, VA. She has been involved in the Lawn and Garden industry for over 35 years with a strong emphasis on employee training and consumer seminars. Over the past 16 years she has taught several hundred classes related to the benefits, both plant and human, of organic gardening. She is often a featured speaker at garden clubs, garden center events, and guest commentaries on several radio garden programs. Bonnie is an avid gardener with a special interest in perennials and annual flowers. She maintains an organic cutting garden as well as helping introduce organics to community gardens. She is currently the Southeast Territory Sales Manager for Espoma. She enjoys golf, gardening, and international travel.

### **Peggy Martin**

#### ***"The Story of the Katrina Roses"***



Peggy Martin's home and garden of more than 400 roses were completely decimated by Hurricane Katrina. Her Plaquemines Parish home was under saltwater for 2 weeks – everything died. There was one remarkable rose that somehow survived and thrived, the rose later named the "Katrina Rose". Peggy will discuss her story and the remarkable and tenacious rose itself. Mrs. Martin has been President of the New Orleans Rose Society for the past four years, Vice President of the Heritage Rose Foundation since 2007, Old Garden Rose and Shrub Chairman of the Gulf District, member of the Dallas Area Historical Rose Society, Central Louisiana Rose Society, Texas Rose Rustlers, and the Orlando Florida Rose Society. Mrs. Martin will have her children's book about the Katrina Rose available for signing along with some of her Katrina roses available for purchase.

### **Debi Harrington**

#### ***"Manipulation and Abstraction of Fresh Plant Material"***



Debi Harrington was born in the deep south and raised in a farm and ranch setting. From a young age she had a deep love of horticulture. In 1976 she was transplanted into New Mexico's desert southwest where she quickly realized she was in an entirely different plant world! She joined a local garden club and within a few months was talked into entering an NGC standard flower show and winning a blue ribbon for design! Debi is an NGC Master Judge, a member of OFAD, an NGC Four Star Recipient and American Daylily Society Judge. Debi currently serves as NGC Espoma Grants Chairman, Gardening Committee Chairman, and is a member of the Sponsorship Committee. She has appeared in the Vision of Beauty calendar numerous times and is a frequent speaker for floral design, horticulture, and photography topics. She has a passion for helping others acquire a love of the floral arts. Debi lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico with her husband John. They have two children, seven grandchildren, and a rescue German Shepherd named Abby. In keeping with our convention theme, she will present a floral design program on "Abstraction and Manipulation of Fresh Plant Material". All attendees will have an opportunity to win one of the eight completed designs, including the unique containers.

**Anna Timmerman**  
***“Your Flower Bed, What’s for Dinner”***



Anna Timmerman is an LSU AgCenter Horticulture Agent stationed in Plaquemines and St. Bernard parishes. From 1999-2006 Timmerman focused on growing cut flowers, nursery stock and market vegetables for sale in West Michigan for sales to local chefs and at two farmer’s markets on the fourth-generation family farm. From 2008-2012 she worked in Chicago providing custom vegetables, microgreen, and edible flower production services on urban properties and rooftops owned by several Michelin-ranked chefs. From 2012-2017, Timmerman focused on running a landscaping company in New Orleans, focused on edible gardening, historic garden restoration, urban agriculture, and stormwater mitigation plantings using native species. Timmerman is currently finishing a master’s thesis on containerized citrus at LSU and plans to pursue her PhD in Horticulture while running the new Louisiana Citrus Center of Excellence as a research farm in Violet, Louisiana in partnership with the Meraux Foundation. She lives and gardens in the Upper 9<sup>th</sup> Ward of New Orleans. She will not only share her knowledge of edible flowers but perhaps provide us with some delightful treats!

**Dana Brown**  
***“Creating a Sensory Garden”***



A native of New Orleans, holds a BLA degree from Louisiana State University and MLA degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Design and is a professional landscape architect, licensed in several states. She is a long-time member active member of ASLA and is a Fellow of the Organization. Dana is also a certified planner (AICP), and is a LEED Accredited Professional (LEED AP). Dana has worked tirelessly to address the US EPA and LA Department of Environmental Quality requirements for water quality. She has written and revised chapters of the developmental code for several municipalities and parishes. She authored a manual to guide developers and design professionals in designing and implementing stormwater best management practices and organizes and leads dozens of stormwaters workshops each year. As President of Dana Brown and Associates, she pioneered design of green infrastructure throughout Louisiana. Dana is a licensed trainer for the National Green Infrastructure Certification Program and a founding member of Water Wise Gulf South, which trains and educates residents in implementing green infrastructure in their neighborhoods. As a talented professional landscape architect, Dana will share her thoughts on creating a sensory garden.