

CSNPC

ALL SPEAKER BIOS

Doug Tallamy

From his book, *Bringing Nature Home*:

Douglas W. Tallamy is professor and chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware, where he has published 68 research articles and has taught insect taxonomy, behavioral ecology, and other courses for nearly three decades. Chief among his research goals is to better understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities. The Garden Writers Association of America awarded *Bringing Home Nature* its Silver Medal in 2008.

Henry Hughes

Henry Hughes worked in Alabama for 25 years in forestry and horticultural research, teaching, and consulting before joining Birmingham Botanical Gardens as Director of Education in 2008. Active in many environmental groups, he currently serves as Executive director of Friends of Shades Creek, board president the Alabama Rivers Alliance and board member of Friends of George Ward Park. Henry graduated (in forestry) from the University of the South, Sewanee; and (in horticulture) from the University of Kentucky and Texas A&M University.

Dan Long

Dan Long is the owner of Brushwood Nursery, specializing in vines and climbers. He has been involved in production horticulture for 25 years, working for small and large nurseries in Pennsylvania. Dan is a past instructor at Longwood Gardens and lectures regularly at public gardens and for numerous other groups.

Gil Nelson

Dr. Gil Nelson is an author, field botanist, consultant, and gardener based in northern Florida and southern Georgia. He has written 10 single-author books, mostly focused on plants and gardening, and is co-author of two Audubon guides and the National Wildlife Federation's *Field Guide to Trees of North America*. His recent book, *Best Native Plants for Southern Gardens*, serves as a handbook for selecting and using native plants in southern landscapes. Gil is courtesy professor of botany at Florida State University, where he directed the Deep South Plant Specimen Imaging Project. He holds a Beadel Fellowship in botany at Tall Timbers Research Station and is affiliated with the herbaria at Valdosta State University and the University of Georgia.

Sallie Lee

Sallie Lee graduated with an Associates degree in horticulture from Bessemer State Tech, AL, and a MS in Environmental Management from Samford University. She has worked with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System for 13 years. She specializes in home grounds, environment, and apiculture (study of bees).

Greg Harber

Greg Harber serves as President of the Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Inc., a non-profit dedicated to preserving habitat for migratory birds, and is a past-president of the Birmingham Audubon Society. Audubon Teaches Nature, the Audubon Mountain Workshop, field trip leader and the *Flicker Flashes* newsletter are among his current society activities. He spends his free time watching birds and wandering outdoors, photographing whatever catches his eye. He is employed at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in the Microbiology Department.

Rick Lewandowski

Rick Lewandowski has been the director at Mt. Cuba Center for 12 years and was formerly the director of horticulture at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania for seven years. Rick has published numerous articles about gardening and horticulture and currently is a featured monthly columnist for *The News Journal*, a Delaware newspaper.

Jan Midgley

Jan Midgley is the owner of Wildflower, a nursery selling native herbaceous perennials and ferns. She is the author of *Nursery Sources of Native Plants of the Southeastern United States*, 1993, *Southeastern Wildflowers*, 1999 (currently available in 7 state versions), *Native Plant Propagation*, 2006 and *Native Plant Propagation*, 2nd ed., 2008. She is a Past Director of the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference held in Cullowhee, North Carolina each July. She lectures and writes about the cultivation and propagation of native plants. She holds a BSN from the University of Missouri and a MSN from the University of Michigan.

Sara Bright & Paulette Ogard

Sara Bright (photographer) and Paulette Ogard (writer) are the authors of *Butterflies of Alabama: Glimpses into Their Lives*. The book chronicles the life histories of 84 species of Alabama butterflies and the plants on which they depend. Published by the University of Alabama Press, the volume is the culmination of fourteen years of research that included fieldwork throughout the state and other parts of the Southeast. The two continue to collaborate on butterfly-related projects.

Fred Spicer

Fred Spicer is executive director of Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Alabama's largest living museum. with more than 25 years in practice as a public garden administrator, landscape architect and nurseryman. He is a graduate of the Landscape Architecture program at Rutgers University, where he was an adjunct instructor with its Continuing Professional Education office for more than 15 years. He has written for a number of trade and home-gardening publications, and has appeared on numerous local and cable television programs, including *Martha Stewart Living*.

Tony Glover

Tony Glover holds a BS and MS degree from Auburn University in Horticulture Science. He worked for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) from 1984 -1998 with assignments ranging from commercial to home horticulture. He spent several years managing Master Gardener programs at the local and state levels, and was a self employed garden center owner/operator until 2006, when he returned to ACES as a Regional Extension Horticulturist. Tony currently teaches, trains and manages Master Gardener volunteers to assist with the Horticulture Help Center at Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

Eleanor Craig

Eleanor Craig, also known to many as "The Fern Lady", is owner of Fern Ridge Farms, a small specialty nursery located in Cedar Bluff, Alabama. With over 25 years of experience in the horticultural industry, Eleanor's passion for ferns has been shared by many through her award winning exhibits at the Southeastern Flower Show in Atlanta for the past 8 years. She is presently growing over 60 varieties of perennial garden ferns.

Bob Boyd

Dr. Robert Boyd is a professor in the Biological Sciences Department of Auburn University. One of his interests is in the conservation of native plants. For over 20 years he and his students have studied ecology and management of rare Southeastern plant species. He has served as Coordinator of the Alabama Plant Conservation Alliance since it was founded in 2009.

Dee Smith

Dee Smith is Curator of the Davis Arboretum at Auburn University. Since coming to the Arboretum 4 years ago, her focus has shifted from ornamental design and historic preservation to native plant conservation. The Davis Arboretum has worked closely with the Alabama Plant Conservation Alliance to assist with plant conservation in Alabama.

Patrick Thompson

Patrick Thompson, a graduate of Auburn University's horticulture program has been an Alabama naturalist for more than 25 years. In 2001 he started at Davis Arboretum, working with Alabama's native plants. He has spent the last 10 years helping to develop the arboretum's focus on oaks, azaleas, and the diversity of natural ecotones found in Alabama.

Ken Creel

Ken Creel received BS and MS degrees in Plant and Soil Science from Alabama A&M University. Since 1998, he has been a Regional Extension Agent for Home Grounds, Gardens, and Pest Management for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. He has taught various Master Gardener classes, including Entomology, since 1994. Ken has two weekly radio programs and has written articles for *Alabama Gardener* magazine for four years.

Michelle Reynolds

Michelle Reynolds is a self-taught naturalist and native plant enthusiast and serves as the education committee chair on the board of directors at Ruffner Mountain Nature Center in Birmingham, Alabama. She has spent the last two years spearheading the native plant restoration and rain garden projects at Ruffner's new LEED certified visitor's center. She leads garden programs at the Center, Audubon Mountain Workshop, Birmingham area botanical gardens, and local garden clubs.

Arnie Rutkis

Arnie Rutkis studied at the University of New Orleans for an MFA in sculpture but ended up becoming a landscaper to make ends meet. He currently works on garden projects in and around Birmingham Alabama that he views as sculptural interactions with the land. His most recent projects include what are termed Eco-Scapes that he designs and installs for The Southern Environmental Center in Birmingham. These gardens are experiential educational spaces that teach visitors about smart water use, organic garden methods, edible landscaping and creating habitat for a variety of wildlife.

Paul Davison

Associate Professor of Biology at the University of North Alabama, Paul Davidson is a field botanist who specializes in the study of bryophytes (mosses, liverworts, and hornworts). For many years he has led moss hikes in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and has extensive experience conducting field surveys for bryophytes of conservation concern.

Carl Sloan

Carl Sloan was born in Swindon, England, grew up in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and graduated from Middle Tennessee State University with a BS in Science, and a MS in Biology. He currently

teaches Biology at Jefferson State Community College, works as a naturalist at Ruffner Mountain, and supervises an after school program for Fresh Air Family. His current interests include the study of lichens, bryophytes, and fossils. He is a member of the Sierra Club, Friends of Shades Creek, and the Alabama Paleontological Society, and is an instructor at the annual Audubon Mountain Workshop in Mentone, Alabama.

Mike Hardig

Mike Hardig graduated Humboldt State University with a BS and an MA, and Washington State University with a PhD. His areas of expertise are in conservation biology, plant systematics/taxonomy, evolutionary biology, and genetic manipulation of domesticated species. He is currently a professor at University of Montevallo in the Department of Biology, Chemistry, and Mathematics.

Lea Ann Macknally

Lea Ann Macknally is a licensed Landscape Architect and President of Macknally Land Design. Upon graduating with a BLA from Mississippi State University, Lea Ann put down roots in Birmingham, AL and now has over a decade of professional experience with a strong focus on the design of public spaces and integrated sustainable design. Recent projects of note include Birmingham's new Railroad Park (as the associate landscape architect) the Junior League of Birmingham-Hugh Kaul Children's Zoo, Homewood Central Park, and St. Vincent's 119 Health and Wellness Facility.

Rip Weaver

Rip Weaver, ASLA, is executive director for Aldridge Botanical Gardens in Hoover, AL. He came to Mt. Laurel in the fall of 1998 after opening the Birmingham office for Sherlock, Smith and Adams, Inc. of Montgomery, one of the largest and oldest architecture/ engineering firms in the state. Rip received his Bachelor of Science in Ornamental Horticulture/ Landscape Design from Auburn University, and received his MLA from Louisiana State University.

John T. Manion

John Manion, Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator at Birmingham Botanical Gardens- holds a bachelor's degree in plant science from SUNY Cobleskill and a master's degree in public garden leadership from Cornell University. John has worked at several public gardens both in the US and abroad, most recently for three years as Historic Gardens Curator at Atlanta History Center, where he managed the extensive native plant collection.

Loretta Lynne Weninegar

Loretta is a field botanist, teaches environmental science in Huntsville, AL. and is a frequent hike leader for The Land Trust of North Alabama. She received a BS degree with a double major in biology and secondary education from the University of Mobile (1976), an MSED in secondary education/biology (1993) and a MS in biology (2002) from Jacksonville State University, AL. Her major interests include the flora of freshwater ecosystems, invasive plant management and gardening with native plants. Loretta was recognized as an ambassador for the Year of Outdoor Alabama (2006).