



myriad botanical
GARDENS

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Contact: Leslie A. Spears
(405) 445-7091 direct
(405) 413-0939 mobile
lspears@myriadgardens.org

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Annual Oklahoma Garden School sponsored by Devon Energy is set for Saturday, March 11 in Downtown Oklahoma City

Theme announced: “The Layered Garden for Year-Round Beauty and Sustainability”

Oklahoma City, OK -- Myriad Botanical Gardens’ annual Oklahoma Gardening School is set for Saturday, March 11, 8:30am-4pm at the Devon Energy Auditorium in downtown Oklahoma City. It is the state’s premier annual horticultural symposium designed for home gardeners and professional horticulturists, garden designers and landscape architects. The 2017 theme is “The Layered Garden for Year-Round Beauty and Sustainability.” Speakers will discuss how to select and attractively layer heights, shapes, colors, textures and bloom times of ground covers, perennials, shrubs and trees and grow them sustainably to save water and be environmentally-friendly to soil life, pollinators and other wildlife.

Oklahoma Gardening School showcases local and national experts in gardening, plant selection and garden design. Their illustrated talks and Q&A discussions help participants learn how to create and maintain more beautiful, sustainable and successful gardens in Oklahoma.

Cost \$35 Gardens’ members; \$60 nonmembers; \$20 students with ID; optional box lunch catered by Kamp’s 1910 Cafe for \$14. Register by Tuesday, March 7. Registration is online at myriadgardens.org, by phone (405) 445-7080 or in person at the Crystal Bridge, 301 West Reno.

Additional sponsors include Meinders Foundation, Calvert’s Plant Interiors, Richard and Kitty Champlin, High Caliper Growing, K&K Nursery and Landscape, Minick Materials, Plant Wisdom, The Painted Door and Precure Nursery & Garden Center

About the speakers:

Kelly D. Norris is an award-winning author and plantsman from Iowa and the first director of horticulture at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. Throughout his career, his work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Organic Gardening*, *Martha Stewart Living*, *Country Gardens*, *Garden Design* and in numerous local and regional media appearances. At the Botanical Garden, Kelly directs and manages a team of horticultural professionals in all aspects of design, curation, programming, and garden management, after serving as the principal horticulture consultant to the \$18 million renovation project completed in 2014. He's popularly known for his book *A Guide to Bearded Irises: Cultivating the Rainbow for Beginners and Enthusiasts* from Timber Press, which won the 2013 American Horticultural Society Book Award. His most recent book—*Plants with Style*—debuted in December 2015.

Linda Horn is currently the Marketing and Community Relations Director for Total Environment, Inc., an Oklahoma City based Design – Build – Maintain firm. She is responsible for community relations and design work with clients. Linda holds a Bachelor's degree from Oklahoma City University in Business and an Ornamental Horticulture degree from S.U.N.Y. at Delhi with a certificate in Horticulture Therapy. In the early 80's Linda worked at TLC Garden Center, starting the first Nursery and Landscape Department. She later left to go work for OSU-OKC, then returned as TLC's chief horticulturist and director of marketing until beginning her position with Total Environment, Inc.

Andrea DeLong-Amaya manages the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's horticulture programs and is passionate about sharing the value of native plants in planned landscapes. A staff member since 1998, with nearly 30 years of experience in horticulture, she guides 15 staff in the design and management of nine acres of native gardens, 279 acres of natural areas and a native plant nursery. She teaches classes in native plant horticulture and has contributed articles on gardening to prestigious publications such as Taunton's *Fine Gardening*, Rodale's *Organic Gardening*, Neil Sperry's *Gardens* magazine. She was a member of the design and construction team that recently opened the new 4.5 acre Luci and Ian Family Garden at the Wildflower Center that provides a fun, interactive, and safe garden experience for families and incorporates environmentally sustainable landscaping approaches.

Early in **Mark Bays'** life while camping and fishing with his family and as a Boy Scout he developed a great affection for nature and since 9th grade has known he would be working with trees. Mark has a degree in Forest Management from Oklahoma State University. Following graduation, he worked for several years in traditional forestry, then was self-employed in the private sector as a consultant in urban forestry, arboriculture and tree care. He has been with Oklahoma Forestry Services for the past 25 years where he has been helping communities and individuals across the state appreciate the value, benefits and services trees provide. Since 1996, he and many others have helped with the rescue and recovery of the "Survivor Tree" at the Oklahoma City National Memorial.

The Schedule

8:30 - 9am – Breakfast and Registration

9 - 9:10am – Welcome

Make your way into the beautiful Devon Auditorium and enjoy a welcome from Executive Director Maureen Heffernan and a brief overview of the day from Director of Education Dr. Ann Fleener.

9:10 - 10:10am – Beautifully Layered Oklahoma Gardens

Linda Horn, Director of Marketing and Community Relations, Total Environment, Inc., Nature lover with a passion for anything on four legs needing help!

Learn the art of layering as Linda shares examples of beautiful Oklahoma gardens that have successfully incorporated this dynamic technique. She will discuss examples of how each layer, from groundcovers to trees, have been uniquely applied. Linda will also point out how design elements such as color, texture, size, shape and bloom time have been considered with each space. Oklahoma's climate offers a great opportunity for spending time outdoors throughout the year and Linda will discuss design ideas for year-round enjoyment.

10:10 - 10:30am – Break

10:30 - 11:30am – Stylish Planting for the Layered Garden

Kelly D. Norris, Author and Director of Horticulture, Des Moines Botanical Garden, Professional plant geek. Writer. Lecturer. Drunk at the punch bowl of life

Kelly will inspire us with a myriad of choices for gorgeous plants available for a layered garden. He'll discuss the best groundcovers, annuals, perennials, and shrubs for a sustainable and striking garden. Beautiful plant combinations will also be shared.

11:30am - 1pm – Box Lunch at Myriad Botanical Gardens Park House Event Center or on your own

1 - 2pm – Layering in Green Practices on the Plains

Andrea DeLong-Amaya, Director of Horticulture, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Knows life is better outside

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Texas at Austin is one of the most sustainable gardens in the country and Andrea has been instrumental in making that happen. Andrea will share the many green practices they've incorporated into the gardens, both big and small, over the years and will give us tips on how to add them to our home gardens. She'll discuss how to layer in some of the practices over time so that it's an easy and affordable transition.

2 - 2:15pm – Break

2:15 - 3:15pm – Trees: the Final Layer

Mark Bays, Urban Forestry Coordinator, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, Tree lover, planter and hugger; he's tight with the Lorax

Trees are the largest element in any garden and can have the biggest impact on creating a beautifully unified garden. Mark will discuss the many tree options best suited for Oklahoma's climate and

sustainable landscapes. He'll discuss: trees that range from 12' – 120'; trees for sun and shade; and trees that can add interest and beautiful layers to your garden year-round.

3:15 - 3:45pm – Q&A, Wrap Up and Book Signings

The Myriad Botanical Gardens is one of Oklahoma City's most beloved public spaces, offering its visitors a 15-acre natural escape in the very heart of downtown. A half-acre children's garden, an off-leash dog park, restaurant space, splash fountains, and paths for walking and jogging provide guests young and old with a place to seek solitude with nature, or seek community and the company of others. Additionally, the Myriad Gardens offers a variety of horticultural education programs for adults and children.

The Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory's unique design has earned attention and praise in the architectural community. It is 224 feet long, 70 feet in diameter, and is covered by 3,028 sections of translucent, double-layered acrylic panels. The Conservatory includes 13,000 square feet of plant display area in two distinct climates: the Tropical Wet Zone, which is at the south end and is watered daily; and the Tropical Dry Zone at the north end which receives water from April through September, followed by drought from November through March. Some 2,000 varieties of plants and a 35-foot waterfall round out the spectacular features of the Conservatory.

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