

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

2nd Annual Gardening Symposium

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

8:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

OLLI at UTMB, 1200 Market Street, Galveston, Texas 77555-0972

For more information visit: www.utmb.edu/olli

Welcome to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. This year's program will provide information on a variety of topics, presented by some of the area's most knowledgeable gardening authorities. The symposium brings together amateur backyard gardeners and gardening professionals for a day of insightful presentations and networking. Topics will focus on eco-friendly landscape gardening with special emphasis on the unique cultural requirements of our coastal environment.

Agenda of Events:

8:00 a.m. Registration and networking, light breakfast provided

9:00 a.m. Welcome and introductions

Session 1: Coastal Landscape Gardening

Gardening in Galveston provides numerous opportunities for colorful landscapes and bountiful fruit and vegetable production. This 3-part series of presentations will highlight information on well-adapted plants for our area, as well as gardening techniques and practices that are specific to the Upper Texas Gulf Coast.

9:15 a.m. Gardening Naturally with Native Plants: Greg Grant

10:15 a.m. Vegetable Gardening Galveston Style: Seeding Galveston

11:15 a.m. Coastal Heirloom Gardening: Greg Grant

12:00 p.m. Lunch and open exhibition area

Session 2: Butterflies, Bees & Birds in the Garden

Pollinators play a vital role in maintaining our coastal ecosystems. Considering that pollinators are essential to the reproduction of more than 80% of all flowering plant it's easy to see why pollinator conservation efforts are so important. Learn more about how you can support this important process by planting for pollinators, creating habitat and sources of food to maintain biodiversity in our coastal landscapes and gardens.

1:00 p.m. Monarchs and Migration for the Gulf Coast: Christine Anastas

2:00 p.m. Planting for Pollinators: Stephen Brueggerhoff

3:00 p.m. Selected Bird-Attracting Landscape Plants: Don Wilkerson

3:45 p.m. Closing remarks

Presenters:

Christine Anastas – Certified Master Gardener, Texas AgriLife Extension, Galveston County, Texas

Christine captivated last year's Symposium audience with an in-depth look at monarch butterflies and their incredible journey across North America to overwintering sites in Mexico. This year she will present an update on the state of monarchs and discuss her most recent interest in moths and their role in the environment.

Stephen Brueggerhoff – Brazos County Extension Horticulturist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Stephen is Brazos County's leading authority on a wide range of horticultural topics. Among his many responsibilities, he conducts numerous public educational programs, manages outreach activities and oversees the Brazos County Master Gardener Program. Stephen has both bachelor's and master's degrees in horticulture, has worked for more than seven years, serving Brazoria and Galveston County, as well as years of practical experience working with plants in coastal environments.

Debbie Berger and John Sessions, – Co-Founders, Seeding Galveston

Seeding Galveston is an agricultural nonprofit with a 1-acre working farm in the heart of mid-town Galveston. Their mission is to make fresh grown produce available to anyone on the island. An outgrowth of the urban farming movement, Debbie and John have been planting, harvesting, distributing, and managing community gardens for several years.

Greg Grant - Smith County Extension Horticulturist, Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Greg Grant is an award-winning horticulturist, writer, conservationist, and seventh-generation Texan from Arcadia, Texas. Greg has degrees in floriculture and horticulture, both from Texas A&M University and has attended post graduate classes at Louisiana State University, North Carolina State University, and Stephen F. Austin State University. He has previous experience as a horticulturist with SFA Gardens, Mercer Arboretum, and San Antonio Botanical Gardens and instructor at Stephen F. Austin and Louisiana State Universities

Stephen Don C. Wilkerson – Professor Emeritus, Texas A&M University, College Station

Don is a retired horticulturist from TAMU-CS. He has lived on the Island since 2008 and his efforts to assist with Hurricane Ike recovery led to the creation of the Galveston Gardening website, as well as other informational resources. Don works with OLLI to help coordinate educational programs focused on landscape gardening.

Participating Organizations:

American Bird Conservancy

OLLI at UTMB Gardening Group

Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council

Seeding Galveston

Galveston Island Tree Conservancy

Texas AgriLife Extension

Galveston's Own Farmers Market

Texas Native Plant Society

International Oleander Society

