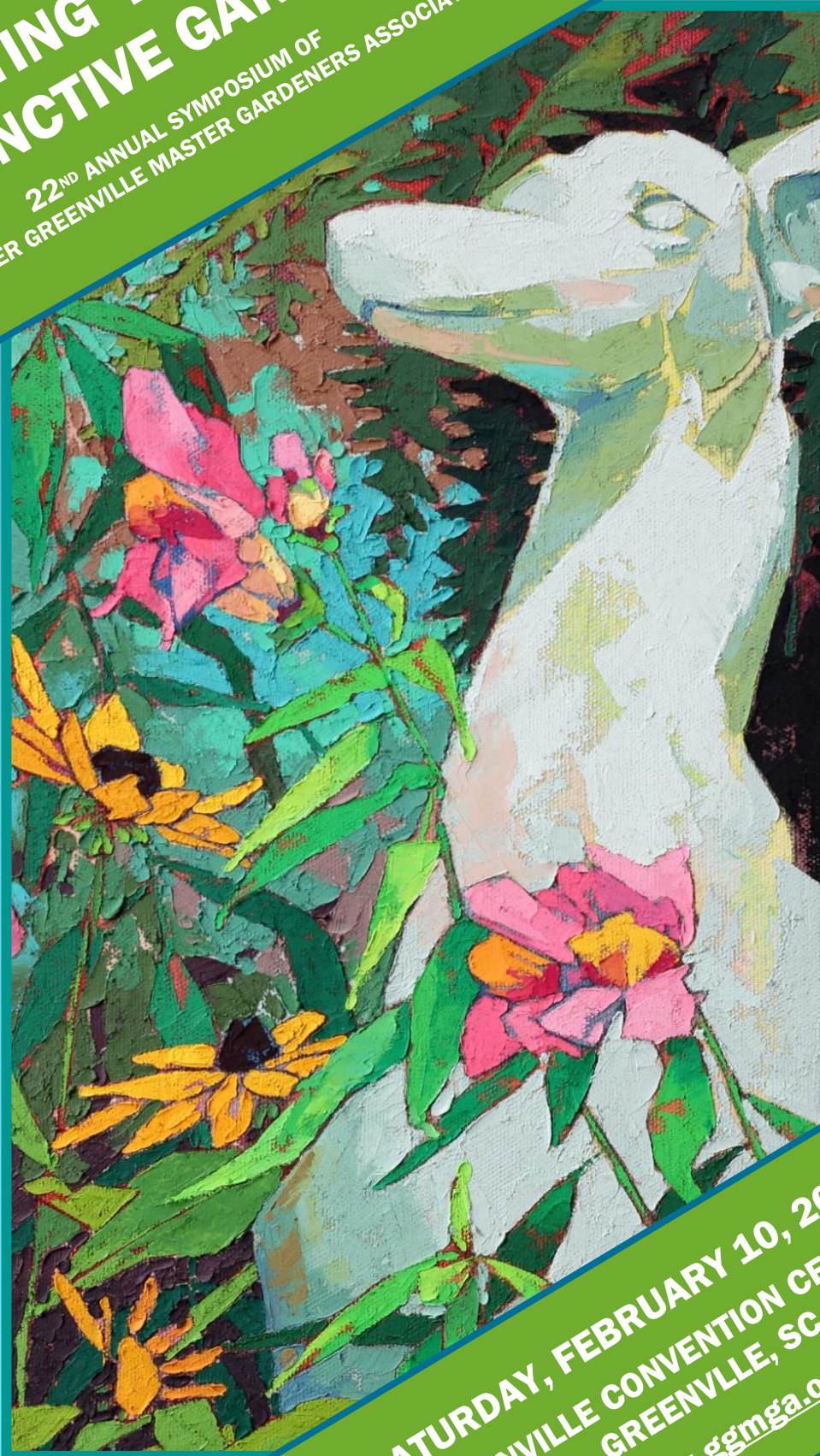


# CREATING DARING & DISTINCTIVE GARDENS

22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM OF  
THE GREATER GREENVILLE MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024  
GREENVILLE CONVENTION CENTER  
GREENVILLE, SC  
[www.ggmga.org](http://www.ggmga.org)



# Creating Daring & Distinctive Gardens

Experts say gardening began 23,000 years ago when the first seed was deliberately planted, while those grown for aesthetics took root about 2000 BC. Ornamental gardening surged under the Romans and flourished in the Renaissance, but within a few hundred years formality was abandoned for a new naturalism. In the past century, picturesque gardens harked back to simpler times while modernist spaces blended indoors with out. Today, gardening is prized for wellness as much as for beauty, functionality, and productivity, and climate concerns beg the question, “What can we do for the garden?” In the history of horticulture—for the plants and creatures among us, the world that sustains us, and the serenity, connection, and comfort we crave—there has never been a better time for *Creating Daring & Distinctive Gardens*.

**7:30–8:45**      **Registration, Continental Breakfast, Vendor Sales**

**8:45–9:00**      **Welcome, Introductions, and General Information**

**9:00–10:00**      **Featured Speaker: Jay Sifford**

## *My Greatest Design Lessons*

Jay Sifford (<https://siffordgardendesign.com>) is a garden designer, writer, speaker, and frequent podcast guest, who believes great gardens are built on four cornerstones: art, magic, story, and horticulture. Named “North Carolina’s Most Outstanding Landscape Designer 2021,” by *LUXlife* magazine, he has been featured in *Fine Gardening*, *Southern Living*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, and *Country Gardens*. Jay cultivates a 300-square-foot courtyard garden in Davidson, NC, and a mountain escape in the western part of the state where he nurtures a sunny, stylized meadow and a shady space under a canopy of mature rhododendrons. His program, condensed from twenty years of design experience, places a strong emphasis on creating magical, immersive, and powerful gardens using line, shape, rhythm, illusion, light, and other methods.

**10:00–10:30**      **Break and Vendor Sales**



### **Book Signings**

**Books by Kim Eierman and Dan Hinkley** will be offered for purchase at the Fiction Addiction booth in the Vendor Hall. Craig LeHoullier will sell his own books. All authors will be available to sign their books.

#### **10:30–11:30 Featured Speaker: Kim Eierman**

##### ***Beyond Sustainability: Using Our Landscapes as a Source of Environmental Change***

Kim Eierman (<https://www.ecobeneficial.com>) is an ecological landscape designer, an environmental horticulturist who specializes in native plants, and the Founder of EcoBeneficial, LLC, a horticulture communications and consultant company that facilitates change in the way we think about and manage landscapes. A teacher at the New York Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and other educational institutions, Kim is also a frequent speaker at industry conferences and various public events, and author of *The Pollinator Victory Garden: Win the War on Pollinator Decline with Ecological Gardening*. *Kim's program explains how to transition from a traditional landscape to a healthy ecosystem that promotes environmental change by attracting and nurturing imperiled birds, butterflies, pollinators, and beneficial insects.*

#### **11:30–11:45 Break and Vendor Sales**

#### **11:45–12:30 Concurrent Session 1 (choose one program)**

##### **Concurrent Speaker: Craig LeHoullier**

##### ***Epic Tomatoes from YOUR Garden***

Craig LeHoullier (<https://www.craiglehoullier.com>), an obsessive gardener and retired pharmaceutical expert with a PhD in chemistry, is best known as “Mr. Tomato” for naming and popularizing many well-known varieties such as Cherokee Purple, Lillian’s Yellow Heirloom, and Lucky Cross. Over the years, he added tomato breeding to his list of accomplishments and has created more than 150 new compact varieties for space-challenged gardeners. Craig is teacher of an online tomato class with Joe Lamp’l, *Growing Epic Tomatoes*, as well as the author of two books, *Epic Tomatoes* and *Growing Vegetables in Straw Bales*. His program will provide tips and tricks for success, from seed saving to conquering cultivation and environmental challenges, and offer a bit of history, plus a fascinating story or two along the way.



**Concurrent Speaker: Kay Campbell and Brenda Rosbrook “The Shady Ladies”**

***Not Your Momma’s Shade Garden***

Kay Campbell and Brenda Rosbrook, the Shady Ladies of Raymond’s Garden Center, have a combined gardening experience of over 60 years. Kay earned a B.S. in Ornamental Horticulture from Clemson University and has worked in various positions within the industry, from design to outdoor education and even horticultural therapy. Brenda left work as a golfing professional to explore gardening and landscape design. Like Kay, gardening led her in many directions before she joined Raymond’s, where she now works as the Garden Center Manager & Grower. Kay and Brenda’s program will encourage you to forget azaleas and hostas, as they guide you through an exciting world of shade gardening, highlighting unusual varieties, colorful combos, and deer-resistant plants that will make your shade garden shine.

**Concurrent Speaker: Bridget Uzar**

***Orchids and Their Companion Plants***

Bridget Uzar is the head grower and hybridizer for Carter and Holmes Orchids with over twenty years of experience cultivating orchids and tropical houseplants. She is a fourth-generation green thumb and a second-generation orchid grower. Bridget’s program will help you match suitable tropical orchids and houseplants with your home growing conditions and provide the vital information about their care to help them thrive.

**12:30–1:45**

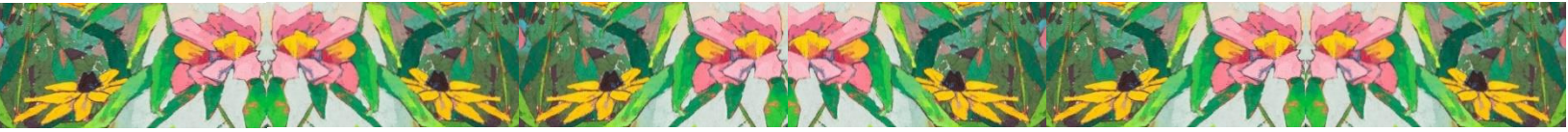
**Lunch and Vendor Sales**

**1:45–2:45**

**Featured Speaker: Daniel J. Hinkley**

***Windcliff: Plants, People, and Places***

Dan Hinkley (<https://danieljhinkley.com>) is a plantsman, author, lecturer, nurseryman, horticultural consultant, and the creator of two celebrated gardens near Kingston, Washington: Heronswood, now owned by the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, and Windcliff, which sits on a high bluff overlooking the Salish Sea. For forty years, he has traveled to similar climates around the world in search of distinctive plants that merit recognition and wider cultivation. Author of four books and honored by his peers for his work and achievements, Dan has been honored with the Liberty Hyde Bailey award from the American Horticulture Society, the Scott Gold Medal from the Scott Arboretum, and the Veitch Memorial Medal from the Royal Horticultural Society. His presentation will examine the twenty-year development of Windcliff by highlighting the many challenges, failures, and successes in the creation of a garden that spans the seasons.



- 2:45-3:00**      **Concluding Remarks and Raffle Drawings**
- 3:00-3:15**      **Break, Book Signing, and Vendor Sales**
- 3:15-4:00**      **Concurrent Session 2 (choose one program)**

**Concurrent Speaker: Jay Sifford**  
***Garden Sculpture Do's and Don'ts***

Welcome Jay Sifford again as he shares his secrets on selecting and positioning sculpture in the garden, ensuring these creative pieces complement and enhance the garden's mood and impact, and elevate it to the next level.

**Concurrent Speaker: Kim Eierman**

***The Pollinator Victory Garden: Winning the War on Pollinator Decline***

Welcome Kim Eierman again as she focuses her attention on pollinators, which cross-fertilize 80% of all flowering plants and at least 30% of the foods we eat. Learn best practices and simple strategies for supporting an array of pollinators that have differing requirements.

**Concurrent Speaker: Craig LeHoullier**

***Move Your Gardens to the Sun: Success with Containers and Straw Bales***

Welcome Craig LeHoullier again to see how it's possible to grow essentially anything by adding containers and straw bales to your gardening tool belt, especially if you have poor soil, too much shade, or other adverse conditions.



**Symposium Painting,  
*Dragons & Hounds,*  
 by Greenville Artist,  
 Jessica Fields**

This oil with cold wax painting by Greenville artist Jessica Leitko Fields was selected from over 70 entries to represent this year's theme. Jessica studied at the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design where she learned to love paint and color and texture. She is a teacher with a special fondness for art history and history in general. Art is her happy place.



**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION ENDS 12/31/2023**  
**LATE REGISTRATION ENDS 1/17/2024**  
**TWO WAYS TO REGISTER!**

**All seats have now been sold, and  
registration is now closed for the  
GGMGA 2024 Symposium:**

***Creating Daring &  
Distinctive Gardens***