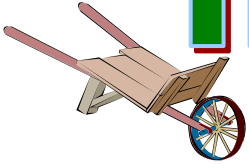


The Wheelbarrow



www.saps.us

Southern Appalachian Plant Society

May 2025

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If Some is Good, More is Better Plant Diversity Forever!

Scott Beuerlein

Horticulturist and Manager of Botanical Garden Outreach
Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

Thursday, May 15, at 7 p.m.

BrightRidge Auditorium

2600 Boones Creek Rd (Hwy 354), Johnson City

Presentation will not be recorded

A diversity of plants strengthens and enriches our gardens providing us an insurance policy against all the variables that nature can throw at us now and into the future. In addition, learning a broader palette of plants gives us more tools for planting difficult and/or niche sites. Diverse landscapes are balanced ecosystems that create more and better habitat for wildlife, even in urban situations. This talk will present a wide range of plant ideas and provide many suggestions on how to add more diversity, and therefore more beauty and balance, to your landscape.

Scott Beuerlein is the Manager of Botanical Garden Outreach at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden where he runs the plant trials and educational programs, including the CZBG's popular Excellence in Horticulture Symposium Series. This series offers three yearly programs which are among the nation's preeminent single day symposiums, featuring a veritable who's who of top world horticultural speakers.

Scott is also an award-winning garden writer and horticultural speaker. He has published hundreds of articles and columns in gardening and green industry publications. He currently pens two columns in each issue of Horticulture Magazine and is a partner in the long running and highly respected Garden Rant blogsite. As a sought-after national speaker with a reputation for being as entertaining as he is informative talking before groups of 12 to 1,200, Scott's audiences have described him as "highly knowledgeable, profound, wacky, irreverent, thought-provoking, a great storyteller, funny, and totally honest."

Scott earned a B.A. in Communication Arts from Xavier University. He is an ONLA Certified Landscape Technician and an ISA Certified Arborist. Learn more at www.scottbeuerlein.com.



Upcoming Events

May 1

Herb Saplings meeting. 7 pm. Exchange Place. Herbal First Aid with Olivia Reed, graduate of the Herbalachia Herbalist Lifestyle Program and Medical Herbalism Program. Bring an herb snack to share if you have time.

May 1

Mysterious Mosses Talk. 6 pm. Knoxville Botanical Garden. Dr. Jessica Budke, UTK Herbarium, will explore the diversity of mosses that live in our lawns, between the sidewalk cracks, and in local forests. Learn identification skills and how these tiny plants are important players in our native ecosystems, and enjoy a photographic adventure of mosses from around the world. <https://www.knoxgarden.org/events/mosses>

May 2-3

Spring Native Plant Sale. Botanical Gardens at Asheville, 151 W.T. Weaver Blvd., Asheville, NC 28804. Friday, noon to 6 pm, Saturday, 9 am to 3 pm. Free. <https://ashevillebotanicalgarden.org/plant-sales/>

May 3

Very Basic Tree ID. 10 am - 11:30 pm. Jacob's Nature Park, 1919 Ocala St., Johnson City, outdoor classroom. Consider parking at 1220 King Springs park entrance or local church & walking in. (Remember, no middle bridge crossing any longer.) Free. All ages. Instructor: Connie Deegan, Park Naturalist. Meet some huge specimen trees in this gorgeous park and learn unusual facts about them. Very short, steep uphill on the front end of this hike. Each group receives the booklet, 'Common Upland Hardwoods of TN'. 423-283-5821

May 3

Household Hazardous Waste Collection. Unicoi County. 5/3/2025 8:00 -12:00 Unicoi County Highway Garage, 125 N. Industrial Drive (423) 743-9391 <https://www.tn.gov/environment/sw-mm-household-hazardous-waste-program/sw-mm-household-hazardous-waste-collection-event-schedule.html>

May 4

East Tennessee Hosta Society Annual Plant Sale, 12 - 4 pm. UT Gardens parking lot, 2518 Jacob Dr., Knoxville 37966. (678) 662-4383. pbstory@pbstory.com.

May 10

Shady Oaks Garden Club Annual Plant Sale. 9 am – 1 pm. Fischman Gallery, 133 N Commerce St., JC. <https://www.shadyoaksgardenclub.org/>

May 15

SAPS Meeting. 7 pm. Scott Beuerlein, "If Some is Good, More is Better, Plant Diversity Forever!" Bightridge Auditorium.

May 17

Beginning Bonsai Workshop. 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. NC Arboretum, Asheville. <https://www.ncarboretum.org/event/beginning-bonsai-may/>

May 10

Woolly Days and Colonial Gardens Festival. Rocky Mount State Historic Site. 10 am – 5 pm. Colonial garden tours, historical reenactments, workshops, music, food. <https://www.rockymountmuseum.com/events/woolly-days-spring-heritage-celebration>

May 17

Habitatscaping: Supporting Nature with Native Plants. 9 am – 3 pm. A-B Tech Conference Center, 16 Fernhurst Dr, Asheville, NC, 28801. Keynote speaker Dr. Douglas Tallamy. Addi-

tional presentations, local native plant vendors, and local environmental nonprofits will exhibit. \$25. <https://beecityasheville.org/events/doug-tallamy-may-2025>

May 20

Collecting and Saving Seeds from Native Plants with Rosanna Ohlsson. 7:30 pm. Free Webinar— TN Native Plant Society. <https://tnps.org/event/seminar-rosanna-ohlsson-on-collecting-and-saving-seeds-from-native-plants/>

May 22

Hybrid Lunchbox Talk: Carolina Ghosts, Synchronous Shows and Foxfire Lights: The Bioluminescent Insects of North Carolina with entomologist Dr. Clyde Sorenson, NC State University. 12 – 1 pm. Learn about the substantial diversity of fireflies and other glowing insects, their ecology, and their conservation. Virtual and in-person. Free. Preregistration required. NC Botanical Garden Chapel Hill, NC. https://reg.learningstream.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0005-0014-374af03c25444afc89892f27701d66ac.

May 24-25

Asheville Blue Ridge Rose Society Rose Exhibit. 9 am – 5 pm. NC Arboretum, Asheville. Most spectacular exhibition of roses in Western North Carolina! Many varieties of fragrant, WNC-grown roses on display, including rare and beautiful blooms from some of the region's most admired gardens, along with lovely easy-care roses. Rose experts on hand to answer questions. Admission to Rose Exhibition is included with the regular Arboretum parking fee. <https://www.ncarboretum.org/event/asheville-blue-ridge-rose-society-rose-exhibit-3/all/>

May 28

Landscaping for Resilient Forests: Native Plants & Wildfire Preparedness. 6:30 - 7:30 pm. The Carriage House at Knoxville Botanical Gardens, 2649 Boyds Bridge Pike, Knoxville, TN, 37914. Free. Zoom. Join Allana Funderburk, Forest Action Plan Coordinator with The Nature Conservancy, working in collaboration with the Tennessee Division of Forestry, as she details the steps we can all take toward a fire-wise landscape that also supports our wildlife. Register: <https://smokymountains.wildones.org/may-registration/>

May 29

Improving Garden Soils. 6 pm. Join UT Extension Washington County Agriculture Agent Adam Watson to learn about one of the most important parts of your garden: its soil. We'll discuss fertilizers, amendments, and why clay soils aren't as bad as some people think. Free. In-person Location: Jonesborough Farm Bureau Basement Meeting room 1103 Boones Creek Rd, Jonesborough. In-person Registration: <https://tiny.utk.edu/inpersongardensoil> Zoom registration: <https://tiny.utk.edu/gardensoil>

May 30-31

Spring Plant Sale and Market. 10 am – 3 pm. NC Arboretum Asheville, NC. Unique plants grown in The North Carolina Arboretum's Production Greenhouse and includes over 30 local growers and businesses. <https://www.ncarboretum.org/event/spring-plant-sale-4/all/>

June 5

Herb Saplings meeting. 6 pm at Exchange Place. Marty Silver, Park Ranger at Warriors' Path State Park, will lead us on a Tree Walk at the living history farm, sharing ID tips, natural history and uses of our native trees. Bring your tree questions and an herb snack to share if you have time.

Gauras for Summer Flower Power

Contributed by Hugh Conlon

Lots of east Tennessee gardeners don't know gauras, a tough beautiful Texas native perennial that performs equally well in our area. After countless trips to Biltmore Estates and the NC Arboretum in Asheville, I have gained an appreciation for its long summer blooming habit.

Gaura (*Oenothera lindheimeri*) is a low-maintenance perennial native to the southern U.S. (Zones 5-9). Gaura is often called "whirling butterflies", "wandflower", and "beeblossom" because the flowers appear to dance in the breeze. Gaura blooms all summer long producing graceful wands of nectar-rich white, pink, or bi-colored flowers that butterflies love.

Gaura has recently been moved into the genus *Oenothera*, which also includes evening primrose (*Oenothera biennis*). Its official botanical name is now *Oenothera lindheimeri*.

The rabbit/deer resistant plants grow 2-3 feet tall. White flowering varieties have small, mostly non-distinctive green leaves. Modern dark pink flowering varieties flaunt foliage with deep reddish tones.

Site selection and ground prep are highly important when growing gauras. Otherwise, they are generally not long-lived perennials. Grow in full sunlight in the Tri-Cities region of TN and VA.

Soil drainage is key. Wet, soggy winter soil will limit longevity. Amend the soil deeply with a mix of compost and gritty sand (not beach sand) or in raised beds. Plants have a long deep taproot and are nearly impossible to transplant.

For the best visual impact plant 3-5 gaura plants spacing them at least 12-15 inches apart. Irrigate sparingly to encourage the taproot to dig deep. Generally, gaura thrives in poor lean soil and does not require fertilizing. Too much fertilizer can make plants floppy

Five beautiful Gaura (Wandflower) Varieties:

- **'Corrie's Gold'**: Flowers are white tinged with pink and gold variegated foliage.
- **'Passionate Rainbow'**: pink flower wands and pink-edged foliage.
- **'Siskiyou Pink'**: showy rose-pink flowers on its notably wispy stems.
- **'Sparkle White'**: dainty white flowers are tinged with pink.
- **'Rosy Jane'**: compact, 18-24 inches high and wide, eye-catching performer that produces masses of white flowers with a pink picotee edge.

Overall, gauras may be affected by certain pests like aphids, whitefly and flea beetles. Root rot may occur in heavy and/or poorly drained soils. Rust and powdery mildew may pop up in wet summers. To promote compact growth with abundant flowers fertilize sparingly. Applications of insecticidal soap should resolve most pest issues.

Gaura plants tend to flop over in a shady garden making it necessary to stake them. Flowers invite pollinators by the score. Shop for dwarf varieties for excellent container plants.



Across the President's Desk

By Earl Hockin

A variety of conditions contribute to the continuing decline in the populations of wild birds and insect pollinators. In the last fifty years more than 3 billion adult native wild birds - about 30% of the total bird population - has been lost in North America. Because about 90% of a bird's diet consists of insects, a decrease in the number of birds means there is less natural control of insects. Birds are also essential for seed dispersal of some plants and some even help with pollination. By growing native plants in your yard, you can provide essential food and shelter for several species. Birds do not typically eat the plants themselves but they rely on the insects that are attracted to the plants. Insects provide a protein-rich diet for breeding and raising young. As a bonus native plants require less maintenance and resources like water which makes your garden easier to maintain. The greater the diversity of plants in your yard, the better the habitats available for the birds. If possible include some berry producing plants like American beautyberry and serviceberry.

Bee balm, a sun loving plant with a long bloom time, attracts hummingbirds plus butterflies, bees and other pollinators. Black eyed Susan attracts pollinating insects during summer and seed eating birds in autumn. Butterfly milkweed is a valuable addition that is the host plant for monarch butterfly caterpillars and also attracts other pollinating butterflies. Prairie aster, a perennial, is one of many different native asters all of which are low maintenance wildflowers. Some grow in full sun or partial shade with rich well drained soil

producing many flowers in late summer to mid-fall and attracting many pollinators including bees and various butterflies, including monarch butterflies. In our own garden we have a New England aster which is a favorite of various pollinators.

Another amazing native flower in our garden is narrow leaf mountain mint. There are several varieties of mountain mint in east Tennessee which all attract an amazing number of pollinators including numerous different butterflies, bumblebees, honey bees, and native bees. They spread fairly aggressively so plant them in a location where you are willing to let them spread.

Shaded areas in your yard are great spots to grow native Christmas ferns which like rich well drained soil. The native columbine, which flowers in late spring, also thrives in shaded areas. The native variety with red and yellow flowers attracts hummingbirds.

A wooden fence or trellis is a good place for a Dutchman's pipevine which grows in rich moist soil with full sun or partial shade. It is a long climbing vine which will spread by underground runners. It is the host plant for the pipevine swallowtail butterfly. They lay their eggs on the leaves and in the spring, you will see their large black caterpillars enjoying the leaves. The vine has plenty of leaves and will survive to host more caterpillars next year.

You may want to check out some research such as <https://utia.tennessee.edu/publications/wp-content/uploads/sites/269/2023/10/W1095.pdf>

May Small Space Home Food Series

UT's Hort Team is presenting a series of free zoom Lunch and Learn talks on Tuesdays in May from 12:30-1:30 pm eastern. This fun series will provide all you need to know about selecting and managing fruit and vegetable crops for all types of small-space gardening in Tennessee. From raised beds to containers, horticulture Extension team members from around the state will teach on-site, media, containers, and the best veggies, fruits, and herbs to grow in these small spaces. This series is a great place to begin or to learn about the newest trials and updates for vegetables and small fruits. It is free of charge and open to any and all current and potential gardeners and plant people across Tennessee!

May 6th- Site and Light for outdoor and indoor locations with vegetable crop favorites

May 13th- Media and materials for small space production with herb suggestions

May 20th- Water and fertilization information with fruit favorites for small spaces

May 27th- Avoiding the pitfalls in small spaces- preventing and addressing pest and disease issues

Sign up for the free webinar series using this link - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdi2ZBUWY-y0xgfQrDxL0I1Hw0K_KXyhW8nc1CC0H5XJPycsg/viewform