

# Plant Trials Day Symposium

## Talk Descriptions and Speaker Bios

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden; August 31, 2017, 8:50AM-5:00PM

### **Crazy Plants for Crazy Gardeners, Allan Armitage**

Allan will talk about *“Crazy Plants for Crazy Gardeners”*. Expect a little bit of everything—plants, a few stories, fun, inspiration, and a few chuckles as well. He’ll also spend a few minutes to demonstrate his App, which will provide a roadmap on how the audience can keep all this info fresh and convenient—in their pocket.

*Dr. Allan Armitage is a world-renowned writer, speaker and researcher. Born and raised in Canada, he lived in Quebec and Ontario, then in East Lansing, Michigan and Athens, Georgia. He has worked with landscape plants and greenhouse crops in the North and South, and travels from coast to coast and all parts in between sharing his passion for plants. He holds his B.S. from McGill University in Montreal, otherwise known as The Harvard of the North, his M.S. from University of Guelph and his Ph.D. from Michigan State University.*

*His career has taken him all over the world, lecturing throughout United States and Canada, as well as many countries in Europe, South America, New Zealand and Australia. His knowledge has allowed him to write 16 books, countless academic papers and hundreds of articles for professionals and lay people alike. He has been honored for his achievements throughout the country - the respect from his colleagues is most impressive. He has written a monthly column for the national greenhouse publication, “Greenhouse Grower”, for over 30 years and has not repeated one yet. To view always entertaining, informative, and sometimes instructional short videos, visit his YouTube channel.*

### **Museum Quality Plants, Irvin Etienne**

People are always shocked that there is a Horticulture component to a museum. Then they discover the Indianapolis Museum of Art has a 152 acre campus consisting of a 26 acre historic estate, 26 acres of contemporary landscapes, and a 100 acre art and nature park. The Horticulturists at the IMA must know, design, and maintain all types of plants from tropicals to tulips to trees and everything in between. This presentation will cover some favorites selected from all types of plants. Fasten your seatbelts, it’s gonna be a high speed trip down a curvy road without guardrails.

*Irvin Etienne is the Horticultural Display Coordinator at the Indianapolis Museum of Art where he has worked over 25 years. In that position he helps the Horticulturists with their plant selection and garden design as well as designing and maintaining his own areas. While working in the 152 acres of the IMA gardens and grounds requires knowledge and skill with all manner of woody and herbaceous plants, Irvin lusts for and loves the tropical species most of all. He is the recipient of Gold and Silver awards in Electronic Media Writing from the Garden Writers Association for his blogging at the IMA. In his own garden everything from cannas to eggplants to Magnolias coexist in a lush jungle fed by manure from his own rabbits and chickens. Obviously a product of the midwest, Irvin could be considered, well, a simple farm boy that likes shiny sparkly things. And is easily distracted.*

### **The Hunt for New and Better Flowering Shrubs, Tim Wood**

Every new plant has its own unique story. Join Tim Wood, plant hunter, shrub breeder and plantsman as he takes you on a plant hunting journey in search of new and better flowering shrubs. Get to know some great new plants, the interesting people who developed them, and what makes them better for growers, garden centers and gardeners.

*As the Product Development Manager for Spring Meadow Nursery, Tim Wood travels the world searching out and new and promising shrubs for the Proven Winners plant brand.*

*Tim has a B.S. and M.S. in horticulture at Michigan State University. He spent 10 years in public horticulture with stints at Longwood Gardens, the Arnold Arboretum, the Chicago Botanic Garden, Kingwood Center, and Mill Creek Park.*

*Tim is an avid lecturer, photographer, and writer. He’s the coauthor of three books gardening books including “Tree and Shrub Gardening for Michigan” He has published articles and photographs in most major nursery and gardening magazines. He has taught plant materials for Michigan State University. Tim is an active plant breeder with 45 plant patents to his name including Little Lime™ Hydrangea, Incrediball® Hydrangea, Bloomerang Lilacs, and Summer Wine® Physocarpus.*

### **Bringing Plants to Market, Mark Wessel**

Gardens Alive, based in Tip City, has been reviving a number of legacy mail-order nurseries, and in the process has aggressively sought out new and better ornamental and food-producing plants. Mark Wessel has traveled the world in this pursuit, and will excite us with tales of the places, people, and plants he has seen along the way.

*Mark Wessel is Director of Horticultural Research for the Gardens Alive Company. Growing up in SW Ohio, he has a long and varied career in Horticulture, including estate gardening, and horticultural consulting. A graduate of Hocking College, Mark has combined his three passions of nature, horticulture, and small scale food production into a unique and highly respected position in all three communities.*

### **Best Plants Blitz!!! All Speakers!**

The speakers and maybe a surprise guest or two each will argue the merits of 4 relatively unknown plants to a panel made up of the other speakers. In addition, they will include a secret “bad” plant, the case for which they’ll argue as if it too is wonderful. The panel will then score the speaker for his or her choices, and will hopefully identify the “dog” plant.

Each speaker must also confess their love for a “guilty pleasure” plant, and will hopefully win over the other speakers and the audience and receive tremendous applause. Always fun. This is a great after-lunch way to learn some new plants and to better get to know our speakers.

### **The Best Annuals to Punch Up Gardens!, Jim Nau**

Using his extensive experience and knowledge from years of creating the mixed borders at Ball Flora’s trial and display gardens, Jim will guide us to the many ways annuals can be used to bring color, texture, and excitement to gardens. Will include numerous excellent plants to include.

*Jim Nau was the head of the Gardens at Ball for 34 years and is now using the information collected to populate the photo files and cultural information for the Ball customers. Jim edited / wrote the Ball Red Book 18th edition, the Ball Perennial Manual and the Ball Culture Guide.*

### **Who Put Those Naked Ladies in My Garden? – tales your mother never told you, Allan Armitage**

In this talk, Allan will share the stories and the people behind the plants. Why is a dogwood called a dogwood? They have nothing to do with dogs. Is there really a Wandering Jew out there, and who was Joe Pye? After hearing Dr Armitage’s stories, you will go out the door muttering to yourselves.

### **The Best Clematis for Gardens, Deborah Hardwick**

In this informative presentation as we take a look at the diversity within the genus Clematis, which includes over 350 recognized species and thousands of cultivars. This entire genus encompasses only 10 different flower forms, which are presented with lots of photography as well as “the bottom line” of the best choices for gardens from each of the 10 forms based on Deborah’s own Clematis rating system.

*Deborah Hardwick is an avid ‘clematarian’ who has spent almost 20 years studying, collecting, growing, and now hybridizing, Clematis. Her garden in central Ohio contains a collection of over 1300 registered and species Clematis taxon in addition to her nursery area with hundreds of proprietary hybrids. In addition to lecturing internationally, she is a frequent contributor to the journals of both the British Clematis Society and the International Clematis Society. Deborah is also one of the authors of the Clematis of the Month series for the ICLS and a member of the Garden Writers of America. A professional consultant in the beauty business by vocation, Deborah describes her avocation as "a single genus focus and relentless obsession to learn, network, collect and share knowledge about Clematis."*

### **What’s New at the Zoo? Steve Foltz**

Each year hundreds of new trees, shrubs, perennials, grasses, vines and annuals are planted throughout the Zoo. Learn the latest and greatest plant prospects at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden! There are some good ones!

*Steve Foltz, Director of Horticulture at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. Steve is responsible for one of the area's largest plant collections that include 3,000 varieties of trees, shrubs, tropical plants, grasses, bulbs, perennials and annuals. His expertise is widely-known in the industry and he is frequently asked to speak to horticulture groups.*

*A graduate of the University of Kentucky with a B.S. in Ornamental Horticulture, he is currently teaching Horticulture at both Cincinnati State Technical and Community College and at the University of Cincinnati. In addition, each year he teaches a series of classes on "Landscaping Your Home." Steve has been a member of the Ohio Plant Selection Committee, serving as Chair of the committee for two years. He is also a member of the Kentucky Plant Selection Committee for the Theodore Klein Award and a member of the International Plant Propagators Society, Eastern Region. Steve was the 2015 recipient of the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association’s highest award, the Distinguished Contributor Award.*