



MEDIA RELEASE

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Spend a day with perennial plants

The Perennial Plant Symposium offers an opportunity to hear from renowned experts.

Raleigh, NC - Immerse yourself in the world of perennial plants by spending a day with experts. The Perennial Plant Association is holding its 36th Annual Perennial Plant Symposium in the Raleigh-Durham area this summer. While most of it is geared toward industry professionals, the symposium kicks off with a full day of plant talks that are open to the public.

Perennial enthusiasts of all experience levels are invited to attend the talks on Monday, July 30. They'll be joined by industry insiders who also relish the depth this day provides. It's a chance to hear from the best in the field on a range of topics. Highlights include:

- Patrick McMillan is an Emmy Award-winning host, co-creator, and writer of the popular nature program, *Expeditions with Patrick McMillan* kicks off the event. He'll highlight Carolina native perennials for the garden in a morning talk. Later that afternoon, he'll cover Southwestern plants we can use in the Southeast to cope with drought.
- George Coombs manages the horticultural research program at the Mt. Cuba Center in Hockessin, Delaware. This renowned botanical garden focuses on native plants, and their plant evaluations are making a big splash in the industry. Get a peek at the top-performing selections and find out what it takes to stand out in their trials.
- Christian Kress owns a specialty nursery in Austria that focuses on rare perennials from around the world. He's traveled extensively, authored books, and introduced several beloved perennials to the market. He'll share his love of *Phlox* and introduce us to the amazing selections coming out of Russia.
- Judith Jones owns Fancy Frond Nursery in Gold Bar, Washington. She'll open the world of ferns and inspire a new appreciation for their role in the landscape.
- Other presentations include iris breeder Kevin Vaughn; John Kartesz on native plant inventory software that generates customizable maps and databases; Larry Mellichamp on the world of unusual, surprising and bizarre plants; and Lauri Lawson on medicinal plants.

The talks will take place at the Hilton North Raleigh/Midtown in Raleigh on Monday, July 30.

Advanced registration is required and early bird pricing ends June 15. See the program description and get registration information on [our website](#). To spread the word via social media, use the event hashtags:

#PPARaleigh, #PPAPlantTalks and #PPABizTalks.

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About the Perennial Plant Symposium: The Perennial Plant Symposium is the only yearly symposium devoted entirely to perennials. Hosted by the Perennial Plant Association, this industry-focused conference brings together more than 500 professionals for networking, learning, and special events. The symposium moves to a different region each year, giving participants a unique experience and insight into the region's perennial scene.

Incorporated in 1984, the [Perennial Plant Association](#) is a trade association composed of growers, retailers, landscape designers and contractors, educators, and others who are professionally involved in the herbaceous perennial industry. Their mission is to connect professionals, provide education, and promote perennial plants.