



The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc.

Fall 2026 Seminar – “Go Native”

Speaker Information

Victor Shelton: “Using Native Plants in Southern Indiana Landscapes”

Mr. Shelton was raised on a family farm in southern Indiana and is a retired agronomist and grazing specialist with nearly 40 years of experience in conservation and agriculture. His interests include ecology, wildlife, soils, gardening, sound land management, regenerative agriculture, and rural life.

Over the years, Victor has published materials in over 50 publications and has spoken at numerous state and national conferences and educational events. His work has taken him to Central America, New Zealand and Australia. The author of *Rural Notions*, Victor writes for several publications from his home in SW Indiana and is working on a book focused on soils, grazing, ecology, and resilient landscapes.

Will Drews: Nursery Inspector and Compliance Office, IN DNR: “Native Grasses and Sedges”

Mr. Drews is passionate about environmental issues. He worked on environmental research regarding climate change with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center and applied natural area restoration practices with NICHES Land Trust. He has a master’s degree in environmental science from IU’s School of Public and Environmental Affairs and is working with the Knox County SWCD primarily focused on invasive species management.

Thomas Guggenheim, PhD, ISA Certified Arborist, Burr Oak Tree Services, LLC: “Native Trees and Bushes of Southern Indiana”

Mr. Guggenheim holds a BA in Chemistry from St. Olaf College and a PhD in Physical Organic Chemistry from the University of Minnesota. An Experienced PhD Chemist with 70 issued patents and 13 publications in scientific literature, he is an award-winning Certified Arborist who has grown trees in containers since 2007 for distribution in Posey County Indiana with proceeds donated to local charities and facilitated the installation of more than 5000 native trees in southern Indiana. The owner of New Harmony Native Trees and Shrubs Nursery, Tom developed a patented method to grow trees with a well-developed root system and currently grows and markets 30,000 trees and shrubs (Buroak.net). Tom is

the current president of the Posey County Invasives Partnership, 2024 and has been retained by the Town of New Harmony as Consulting Arborist.

Donnarae Woolston-Owner Ancient Roots Nursery and certified Arborist: “Creating Beautiful, Natural, Ecological Landscapes”

Ancient Roots began with the desire to restore personal property back to nature by using native plants that evolved with wildlife. From studying how devastating invasive species and deforestation is to our planet, Donnarae’s knowledge and education became a passion for creating beautiful, natural, ecological landscapes and habitats. In addition to being a certified Arborist, she is an Urban Forester, Indiana Naturalist and Master Gardener. A frequent and popular speaker, an advocate for true natives and wildlife, Donnarae works with groups of all ages to educate, inform and promote the importance of native plants.