

News Article
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By the end of summer you may be wondering if having a nice landscape is even possible. Between the pests, the wildlife, the heat and the drought, it sometimes seems impossible to maintain healthy plants. Everyone wants to be sensitive to the environment and not overuse fertilizers and chemicals. But how can we keep plants healthy without them?

Join other gardeners and landscapers at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens on September 25 (from 9:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.) to explore topics relating to maintaining a sustainable landscape. The conference, Sustainable Landscaping – Southern Style, will feature several presenters who can address these issues from a uniquely Southern perspective.

The keynote speakers are Bill Finch and Fred Spicer. Bill Finch is the environmental editor with the Mobile Press Register. Bill is a knowledgeable horticulturalist with a uniquely Southern practicality to his writing and speaking on various environmental topics. He writes a weekly news column that has been given the National Headliners Award. He has won numerous awards on a wide range of environmental subjects.

Fred Spicer is the executive director of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Fred is a polished, energetic and humorous speaker with more than 25 years in practice as public garden administrator, landscape architect and nurseryman. He has appeared on Martha Stewart Living and many local TV programs. He will discuss several sustainable landscape initiatives the Birmingham Botanical Gardens has already implemented and those they have planned for the future. In addition to giving a keynote address, Fred has agreed to guide an early morning pre-conference garden stroll. The stroll will start at 7:30 a.m. on the main concourse at the garden gate entrance and will last about one hour.

In addition to the keynote speakers, there will be four break out sessions with many topics for you to choose from. You can see the entire program and get a registration form at this web address: <http://www.aces.edu/~gloveta/upcomingmeetings.php>