The State Botanical Garden of Georgia at The University of Georgia
Plants & Pollinators Specialization (PPS) Program -- 2024 Schedule

Connect to Protect Leadership Workshop
Friday, Feb. 9
1 – 5 p.m.
Heather Alley, conservation horticulturist, State Botanical Garden of Georgia
State Botanical Garden Visitor Center, classroom 2
https://t.uga.edu/6wj

Join our conservation horticulturist, Heather Alley, for a training workshop on the specialized native plant garden program known as Connect to Protect (CtoP). In this class, you will learn the Connect to Protect philosophy and master both the educational goals and the gardening for biodiversity methods of this program. Educational outcomes of this course will include choosing appropriate native plant species, essential maintenance and dynamic curricula to create gorgeous, biodiversity-supporting gardens. Learn the steps it takes to become a CtoP leader and an ambassador of gardening for wildlife! Class time will be spent both indoors and outside hiking in the garden. Dress for outdoor conditions and a walk around the garden.

Planning for Pollinators: Their Biology and Habitat Requirements
Friday, Mar. 22
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Rachel Hughes, lecturer, Biology, University of North Georgia
Kevin Tarner, professional horticulturalist
Virtual program, see our website for more information
https://t.uga.edu/6wi

Have you heard the buzz? Pollinators are in decline and need our help. One way to support local pollinators is to incorporate native plants into your garden. In this class, you will learn about the importance of pollinators in our environment, their interaction with native plants and how to provide space for these important creatures through garden landscaping. This course will provide an overview of some basic insect biology and explain the ecology of why insects are critical to the environment and society. You will also learn about the native plants that you can plant to attract your local pollinators and how you can keep those plants healthy and arrange them beautifully in your garden design. Come learn about these cool bugs and see what you can do to transform your garden into a native pollinator habitat. This class consists of two elements: a pre-recorded, asynchronous video and a three-hour zoom session.

Entomology for Gardeners: Identifying & Understanding Common Backyard Arthropods
Saturday, Apr. 20
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Scott Clem, PhD, postdoctoral fellow, UGA department of Entomology
State Botanical Garden Visitor Center, classroom 2
https://t.uga.edu/9ze

In this course, you will learn how to identify common arthropods (i.e. insects and arachnids) that are commonly encountered in Georgia gardens. This class will equip you with the necessary knowledge and tools for distinguishing beneficial insects from those which are potentially harmful to the local ecosystem. As a participant in this course, you will also learn about common invasive and introduced arthropods as well as simple methods for improving arthropod biodiversity. Class time will be spent both indoors and outside hiking in the garden.
Insect Pollinators in Our Gardens
Tuesday, June 4
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Paola Barriga, Faculty, academic professional, UGA Department of Plant Biology
Virtual program, see our website for more information
https://t.uga.edu/6Pd

This course is designed to allow participants to evaluate plant-insect interactions in gardens from an ecological perspective. For instance, we will be focusing on the importance of maintaining plant and insect pollinator diversity and on the ecological factors that may influence this outcome. Among the factors that will be discussed in this course are the role of disease and pesticides on pollinator’s survival and how these factors could interact with plant species and produce certain outcomes.

Monarchs & Beyond: Pollinator Stewardship
Saturday, Sept. 2
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Susan Meyers, monarch watch conservation specialist, Monarchs Across Georgia
State Botanical Garden Visitor Center, classroom 2
https://t.uga.edu/6g4

This class will take an in-depth look at the biology and ecology of the monarch butterfly in North America, its migration, species status assessment, and conservation efforts. With an overall 90 percent population decline in the past 20 years, the monarch has become the poster child for pollinators and the subject of much research, monitoring and educational endeavors. Participants will utilize habitat assessment tools, practice a variety of community science projects, and plan their own pollinator enhancement activities to become pollinator stewards. Class time will be spent both indoors and outside hiking in the garden.

Grow Your Own Prairie in North Georgia
Saturday, Oct. 12
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Karin Hicks, Georgia master gardener and master naturalist
State Botanical Garden Visitor Center, classroom 2
https://t.uga.edu/6gf

Prairies, meadows, savannas and woodlands were once an integral part of Georgia’s piedmont and mountain ecoregions. These habitats have nearly disappeared, but are now being restored and re-created by gardeners, ecologists and landscapers. This class will teach you the basics of creating a prairie on your property, including site analysis, species selection and habitat management. Class time will be divided between classroom lecture and a field trip to the prairie at the State Botanical Garden. Karin will share her experience cultivating and managing 10 acres of meadow, forest and natural garden in North Georgia, where she encourages wildlife to come and live.

For more information, email: sbgeduc@uga.edu
To register online, visit www.botgarden.uga.edu/events