



2025

INTERNATIONAL  
MASTER GARDENER  
CONFERENCE

There is  
no  
Planet B

CONFERENCE  
PLANNER

## MONDAY, AUGUST 25

10:00am - 10:30am	<p><b>Live Zoom Events Training</b></p> <p>This session is a last-minute walkthrough of the Zoom Events Platform. Please attend the pre-conference training if you would like to familiarize yourself with navigating the conference. Access issues will not be addressed in this session; please do so at least two days prior to the event.</p> <p>Nicky Maddams, State Program Manager Ally Wittig, Program Coordinator</p>
10:30am - 11:00am	BREAK
11:00am - 11:30am	<p><b>Welcome and Opening Address</b></p> <p>Dr. Jayla Fry, State Program Coordinator Nicky Maddams, State Program Manager and Conference Director Administrator, Texas A&amp;M AgriLife Extension Service</p>
11:30am - 12:45pm	<p><b>Keynote 1: Anna Ball</b></p> <p>Trends in Horticulture: Shaping the Future of Plants and People</p>
12:45pm - 1:30pm	<p><b>Lunch Break and Virtual Tour 1: Linda Larson</b></p> <p>Remarkable Trees: A Global Journey *this tour will not be recorded</p>
1:30pm - 2:30pm	<p><b>Breakout Sessions 1</b> (select one)</p> <p><u>Medicine in Your Garden: How to Safely Utilize Medicinal Plants</u> - Dr. Andrew King <u>Wildfire Preparedness: Actionable Steps for Risk Reduction</u> - Kari Hines <u>Volunteer Impact: Finding the Whole Among the Pieces</u> - Sue Kahl Earth-Kind® Sustainable Landscaping - Brad Voss <u>Embracing the Spirit of the Night: Designing Vespertine Gardens</u> - Christopher Sheridan <u>Strategies for Dealing with Deer</u> - Kathie Clements</p>
2:30pm - 2:45pm	BREAK
2:45pm - 3:45pm	<p><b>Breakout Sessions 2</b> (select one)</p> <p><u>Master Gardeners: Cultivating Food Justice in the City</u> - Coy Poiter (30 mins) <u>It is Not Thinking Outside the Box—It isn't Our Box to Start With: Serving the Under-served Audience</u> - Nancy Kuhajda (30 mins) <u>Thanks for the Memories</u> - Andrew Crocker <u>Volunteer Appreciation: Cultivating a Culture of Gratitude</u> - Sue Kahl <u>The Farmer's Renaissance: How Modern Agriculture is Cultivating Mental Health and Community Connection</u> - Brett Chisolm <u>Getting to Know Gen Z Volunteers: Strategies for Recruitment, Communication and Recognition</u> - Dr. Esther McGinnis, Emily How and Rachelle Vetter <u>Plants, Nature, and Health</u> - Dr. Charlie Hall</p>
3:45pm - 4:00pm	BREAK
4:00pm - 5:15pm	<p><b>Keynote 2: Dr. Cary Fowler</b></p> <p>Seeds of Peace and Security</p>
5:15pm - 6:00pm	BREAK
6:00pm - 7:30pm	<b>Movie Night 1</b>



TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

8:00am - 8:15am	<b>Welcome and Announcements</b>
8:15am - 9:00am	<b>Search For Excellence Awards 1</b> Kansas State, hosts of IMGCC 2023
9:00am - 10:15am	<b>Keynote 3: Noel Kingsbury</b> Contemporary Garden Design
10:15am - 10:30am	BREAK
10:30am - 11:30am	<b>Breakout Sessions 3</b> (select one) <u>Pecans: How to Grow and Why to Eat Them</u> - Dr. Larry Stein (30 mins) <u>Freaky Fruit Fusion: Inter-specific Stone Fruit Hybrids!</u> - Dr. Tim Hartmann (30 mins) <u>Meetings with Remarkable Seeds and the Amazing People Who Nurture Them</u> - Adam Alexander <u>Beyond Parsley, Sage, Rosemary, and Thyme: Learn to Grow and Use Unusual Culinary Herbs</u> - Peggy Riccio <u>Coping with Climate Change in Plant Specifications for Built Environments</u> - Dr. Mike Arnold <u>Foodscape Fusion: Pioneering a New Garden Era</u> - Brie Arthur <u>An Engineer's Approach to Houseplant Care</u> - Darryl Cheng
11:30am - 12:30pm	<b>Lunch Break and Virtual Tour 2: Brie Arthur</b> Wanderlust Chronicles: Exploring America's Gardens
12:30pm - 1:00pm	BREAK
1:00pm - 2:00pm	<b>Breakout Sessions 4</b> (select one) <u>Innovations in Pollinator Protection: A Path Forward</u> - Dr. Garrett Slater (30 mins) <u>Bee on It! How Pollinator Pathways are Connecting Landscapes and People</u> - Louise Washer (30 mins) <u>Entropy in Landscape Design: A Brief Analysis of Landscape Projects Using Randomness &amp; Disorder</u> - John Harper <u>Starting with a Seed</u> - Corbin Scholz <u>Connected: Synergistic Designs</u> - William McKinley <u>The Chinese (Plants) are Everywhere! And There are More!</u> - Dr. Mengmeng Gu <u>Proper Planting of Trees for Longevity</u> - Pam Bennett
2:00pm - 2:15pm	BREAK
2:15pm - 3:30pm	<b>Keynote 3: Gary Oppenheimer</b> America's Food Safety Net – How We Fight Hunger with One Hand Tied Behind Our Back
3:30pm - 3:45pm	BREAK
3:45pm - 4:45pm	<b>Breakout Sessions 5</b> (select one) <u>Safety First: Outreach Event Planning and Emergency Management</u> - Stephen Brueggerhoff (30 mins) <u>How to Expand Your Reach with a Podcast; Learn from the Makers of Nature Calls: Conversations from the Hudson Valley</u> - Xandra Powers and the Podcast Team (30 mins) <u>The Colorful History of America's Plant Hardiness Zones and What They Really Mean for Gardeners</u> - Tom Packer <u>Using Our Space Wisely: Designing Multi-Purpose Urban Landscapes</u> - Dr. Vikram Baliga <u>Adaptive Gardening for Seniors</u> - Duane Pancoast <u>How Spending Time in Nature Improves our Health</u> - Dr. Jay Maddock <u>Native Plant Society of Texas</u> - Laura Leggett
4:45pm - 6:00pm	BREAK
6:00pm - 7:30pm	<b>Movie Night 2</b>

# WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

8:15am - 8:30am	<b>Welcome and Announcements</b>
8:30am - 9:30am	<b>Search For Excellence Awards 2</b> Kansas State, hosts of IMGC 2023
9:30am - 9:45am	<b>BREAK</b>
9:45am - 11:00am	<b>Keynote 5: Doug Tallamy</b> Next Steps for Nature: 500 Questions (and Answers) for How to Save Nature in Our Yards
11:00am - 11:15am	<b>BREAK</b>
10:30am - 11:30am	<b>Breakout Sessions 6</b> (select one) <u>Texas Master Naturalists - Learn Here, Give Here</u> - Mary Pearl Meuth and Hannah Ferguson (15 mins) <u>Learn About Volunteer Management and Earn a Micro-Credential</u> - Jen Loble, Laura Wilson, Mari Glatter, and Sarah Harris (15 mins) <u>How to Start New Programs in South Korea</u> - Eun Sook Noh (15 mins) <u>Pine, Pawpaws, and Pocket Prairies</u> - Dr. Greg Grant <u>Videos are for Reels</u> - John Chivvis <u>From Print to Multi-Media: Transforming Texas Gardener Magazine</u> - Jay White <u>Navigating the Noise: A Clear Look at the Science of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)</u> - Dr. Kimberly Cochran, Brittnay Meyer, and Hannah Ayala <u>KAI Track 1 of 3</u> - David Close and Curtis Friedel
12:15pm - 1:15pm	<b>Lunch Break and Virtual Tour 3: Robert Pavlis</b> Plants from Around the World
1:15pm - 2:15pm	<b>Breakout Sessions 7</b> (select one) <u>One Hundred Million Seeds</u> - Luigi Cani (30 mins) <u>Embracing the Seedy Part of Gardening!</u> - Brenda Dyck (30 mins) <u>Rehabilitating Traumatized Soil after Floods, Fires, and Mismanagement</u> - Dr. Jake Mowrer <u>Satisfying Your Plant Lust</u> - Jana Milbocker <u>Get them OUTSIDE: Growing kids in the Garden!</u> - Lisa Whittlesey <u>Social Media for Master Gardeners 1 of 2: Cultivating Your Digital Experience</u> - Shelby Dittman <u>KAI Track 2 of 3</u> - David Close and Curtis Friedel
2:15pm - 2:30pm	<b>BREAK</b>
2:30pm - 3:30pm	<b>Breakout Sessions 8 (choose one)</b> <u>Master Gardener Volunteers &amp; Mental Health First Aid</u> - Dr. Whitney Elmore (30 mins) <u>Bylaws and Ordinances: Rogue Gardens and the Weed Police</u> - Lorraine Johnson (30 mins) <u>Let's Close the Garden Gateway: Reducing the Spread of Invasive Plants to Protect Our Environment, Economy, and Well-Being</u> - Cathy Kavassalis <u>Learn, Grow, Eat &amp; Go: Growing Kids and Gardens that THRIVE</u> - Randy Seagraves <u>Plant Blindness</u> - Marc Frank <u>Social Media for Master Gardeners 2 of 2: Cultivating Your Digital Experience</u> - Shelby Dittman <u>KAI Track 3 of 3</u> - David Close and Curtis Friedel
3:30pm - 3:45pm	<b>BREAK</b>
3:45pm - 5:00pm	<b>Keynote 6: Brad Lancaster</b> Integrated Sun & Shade Harvesting for Buildings
5:00pm - 6:00pm	<b>BREAK</b>
6:00pm - 7:30pm	<b>Movie Night 3</b>




# THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

8:15am - 8:30am	<b>Welcome and Announcements</b>
8:30am - 9:30am	<b>Search For Excellence Awards 2</b> Kansas State, hosts of IMGC 2023
9:30am - 9:45am	<b>BREAK</b>
9:45am - 11:00am	<b>Keynote 7: Joe Lamp'l</b> Greening Your Garden While Protecting the Planet
11:00am - 11:15am	<b>BREAK</b>
10:30am - 11:30am	<b>Breakout Sessions 9</b> (select one) <u>The Power of Earthworms</u> - Samuel Baker (30 mins) <u>Humongous Fungus: The Huge Role of Beneficial Fungi</u> - Dr. Erfan Vafaie (30 mins) <u>Heirloom Gardening with Traditional Plants and Skills for a Changing World</u> - John Forti <u>Using AI in Content Creation</u> - Peter Wigren <u>Climate Resilient Landscapes for a Changing World</u> - Dr. David Creech <u>Using Seasonal Forecast Information to Balance Horticultural Risk</u> - Brian Bledsoe <u>Establishment and Management of Pollinator Habitat from Seed</u> - Robert Glennon
12:15pm - 1:15pm	<b>Lunch Break and Virtual Tour 4: Jana Milbocker</b> Gardens of the Gilded Age
1:15pm - 1:45pm	<b>BREAK</b>
1:45pm - 3:00pm	<b>Keynote 8: Robert Pavlis</b> Gardening Myths
3:00pm - 3:15pm	<b>BREAK</b>
3:15pm - 4:15pm	<b>Breakout Sessions 10</b> (choose one) <u>Bringing Nature to the Roof: Green Roofs for Residential and Small Commercial Spaces</u> -Kerry Ross (30 mins) <u>Making the Most of a Short- Season Garden</u> - Stephen Kierstad (30 mins) <u>Polishing Your Presentation Skills: Tips for Clear and Impactful Speaking</u> - Peggy Hill <u>Sustaining Life Beyond Earth: Cultivation of Healthy Crops in Space Exploration</u> - Dr. Jessica Atkin <u>Building a Future with Flowers: Lewisville's Journey to Re-think the American Lawn</u> - Thomas J. Gilmore <u>Capture the Spirit of the Garden: Designing with Fragrant Flowers and Aromatic Foliage</u> - Christopher Sheridan <u>Assisted Plant Migration for Climate Change</u> - Eva Monheim
4:15pm - 4:30pm	<b>BREAK</b>
4:30pm - 5:45pm	<b>Keynote 9: Nicole Stott</b> Back to Earth: What Life in Space Taught Me About Our Home Planet—And Our Mission to Protect It
5:45pm - 6:00pm	<b>BREAK</b>
6:00pm - 6:30pm	<b>Closing Remarks and 2027 International Master Gardener Conference Announcement</b> Dr. Jayla Fry, State Program Coordinator Nicky Maddams, State Program Manager and Conference Director SIZZLE REEL offering a glimpse of what's to come in 2027!

Thank you for being part of the **2025 International Master Gardener Conference**. We appreciate your participation and hope you leave with valuable insights, new connections, and inspiration to apply what you've learned.