

Southern Symposium VIII - Kells Bay Gardens

29th September - 1st October '23

A festival of friendship, fun, food and fronds.

Building on its triumphal post-Covid return in 2022, this year's 10th Anniversary, 8th Southern Symposium returns bigger and better than ever. **Five** speakers, over **three** days amid spectacular scenery, there's something for everyone from beginner to expert. Attendance options from €55

Listen! Learn! Discuss!

- **Seamus O'Brien**
- *Van Diemen's Land's wildflowers: The British-Irish Botanical Expedition to Tasmania (BIBET)*
Seamus is Head Gardener at the National Botanic Gardens, Kilmacurragh, Co. Wicklow. He lectures on garden history and botanical travel world-wide and his extensive knowledge of the garden history of these islands is legendary. KBG are delighted to facilitate one of his few Irish presentations in 2023.
- **Jack Aldridge**
- "The Woody Plant Wonders of Wisley and Beyond"
- Jack is a fast-rising star of British horticulture. Graduating from RHS Wisley in 2022, he is already responsible for Oakwood the 4.5-acre woodland garden there. He is eagerly anticipating his first visit to Kerry. He was recently appointed a trustee for White House Farm in Kent, the arboretum and garden of legendary plantsman Maurice Foster, one of his great mentors.
- **Bleddyn and Sue Wynn-Jones**
- "Seed and plant collecting in the mountains of Colombia."
- Bleddyn and Sue Wynn-Jones, have run Crûg Farm Plants, their unique nursery at the edge of Snowdonia, for several millennia. Their collection of plants, ranging from Anemone to Zelkova are propagated from almost 20,000 seed and plant collections gathered on 90 expeditions by the Wynn-Jones's. This has made Crûg Farm a place of pilgrimage for European plants people.
- **Ken Cox**
- "A century of Adventures in Rhododendrons"
- The 1919 Cox/Farrer expedition to Burma is a foundation stone of British Gardening. Peter & Kenneth Cox are now the UK's major rhododendron breeders. This talk covers the rhododendron and azalea hybrids raised at Glendoick, including the *birds* series of dwarf rhododendrons and the more recent work on cultivars with coloured foliage. Their plant hunting adventures in China and the Himalaya will also be share.
- **Dan Hinkley.**
- 1. *From Shadows to Sun; Making Windcliff*
- 2. *The Treasures of Vietnam.*
- Awarded the Veitch Memorial Medal (V.M.M.), by the RHS in 2007 for his outstanding contribution to advancing the science and practice of horticulture, Dan is renowned for his commitment to solid and sustainable horticultural practices, above average garden plants,

landscapes of distinction and raising the collective awareness of the diversity of plant life on Earth. He travels to discover and share the magic and mysteries of our natural world.

A brief history of the Southern Symposium

In the Summer of 2014, after 7 years in Kells Bay, Billy Alexander reached what he considered was the "End of the Beginning" of his work at Kells. The mammoth task of reclaiming the Gardens and restoring the House was in hand, and it was now time to celebrate and publicise the achievement. A Who's Who of Gardening Royalty assembled at Kells Bay for the first Symposium and heard talks from Seamus O'Brien of the National Botanic Gardens, and the legendary Roy Lancaster.

Over the course of a weekend of discussion, food, and wine in the spectacular setting of the gardens, it was decided to institute an annual event with the aim of celebrating gardening, plants and landscapes.

Since then, this event has become fixed as a highlight of Munster's horticultural calendar. It's roll of speakers is a list of the horticultural Pantheon. The wonderful hospitality, relaxed and friendly atmosphere ensure delegates return annually to renew, refresh and learn.

To reserve your attendance visit kellsbay.ie/southernsymposium