

GARDENING IN MACON SPEAKERS



Bonnie Satterthwaite originally from Savannah, is the Southeast Territory Sales Manager for the Espoma Company. The Espoma Company is a partner with National Garden Clubs, Inc providing garden clubs with grants, educational materials and meeting speakers. Bonnie has been involved in the lawn and garden industry for over 30 years and has taught hundreds of classes and been a featured speaker at garden club meetings, garden center events and radio programs relating the benefits of organic gardening. She will be presenting **“There was no Miracle Gro in the Garden of Eden!”**



Stan Gray has been growing iris for more than 60 years mostly on his family property in northern New Jersey, where his parents' gardens were planted in the late 1920's. He has been affiliated with the American Iris Society for more than 50 years and is well known as an iris grower to some of the nation's leading hybridizers. In 2007, Stan moved his entire New Jersey collection to Savannah for incorporation into the floral display at the then Bamboo Farm & Coastal Gardens under an agreement with the University of Georgia. For the next eight years, Stan focused exclusively on the testing of tall bearded iris, to determine which varieties would be able to withstand the rigorous environmental conditions of Savannah. Stan's newest collection of Louisiana Iris has been included in the Louisiana Iris Species Preservation Project that is now being showcased at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens in Savannah, GA. Stan's talk is titled **“When Iris Eyes Are Smiling.”**



Laura Martin and her husband live in Atlanta, Georgia, where she happily tends a large, wayward garden. She has had a long, happy career as an author and botanical illustrator, having published 26 books over the past 40 plus years. A degree in botany from UGA and a certificate degree in Botanical Art and Illustration from the New York Botanical Gardens gave her the technical foundation to explore both the world of science and of art. In addition to her books, Martin wrote a weekly gardening column for the AJC for 9 years and was gardening editor for several magazines. While not writing or gardening, Laura paints, weaves, plays the piano, creates miniature fairy homes and gardens, cooks and tends to grandchildren as often as possible. Laura will present **“Taming the Natives: Celebrating North American Wildflowers.”** Her latest book, *A Naturalist's Book of Wildflowers*, as well as her award winning book for children, *Nature's Art Box*, will be for sale following her lecture.

