

2018 Presenters



Susan Meyers, Monarch Watch Conservation Specialists

Georgia and Southeast Region <https://www.monarchwatch.org/>

Susan received her BS in Microbiology and MS in Environmental Science from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge and Florida Institute of Technology respectively. She is currently employed as an instructor for Stone Mountain Memorial Association teaching K-12 students that visit the Park a variety of science-based lessons from geology to life cycles. She also is a graduate of and administers the Advanced Training for Environmental Education in Georgia Program.

After visiting the overwintering colonies in Mexico with Dr. Bill Calvert in March 2003, Susan was "bitten by the Monarch bug" and began volunteering with Monarchs Across Georgia, a committee of Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia. She facilitates educator workshops using the Monarchs & More curriculum, and incorporating the citizen science projects of MLMP, Journey North tracking, Monarch Watch tagging and Waystations, and Monarch Health. Organizing trips to the overwintering colonies in Mexico since 2004, she initiated and continues to coordinate the Mexico Book Project, bringing books written in Spanish to schools near the sanctuaries. As a Monarch Watch Conservation Specialist, Susan will continue "planting the seeds" of awareness, understanding and commitment to Monarch education, conservation and research.



Karan A. Rawlins is Invasive Species Coordinator for the Center for Invasive Species & Ecosystem Health at the University of Georgia in Tifton. Rawlins earned a MS from University of Texas at Arlington.

Karan's duties include development of educational and public outreach materials on invasive species; development of smartphone apps for collecting and reporting data on invasive species (<http://apps.bugwood.org>); continuing the development of content for www.invasive.org; BugwoodWiki (<http://wiki.bugwood.org>) and the Invasive Plant Atlas of the United States (www.invasiveplantatlas.org); expanding the development and operation of the Georgia Invasive Species Task Force (www.gainvasives.org); development of Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas; development and training associated with the Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (www.EDDMapS.org) in Georgia and across the United States; development of the Invasive species Community of Practice in eXtension (www.extension.org/invasive_species); and collection of field survey data.

Karan is currently president of GA-EPPC; volunteers with citizen groups fighting invasive species; participates in conservation projects to preserve native habitats and the native species therein; and has contributed over 6500 images to the Bugwood Image Database System of both invasive and native species recorded during field work. [See Karan's photographs in the Bugwood Image Database System](#)

[The 2nd edition of the Homeowner's Guide to Preventing the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Species - How You Can Make a Difference](#)



Dr Jason M Schmidt PhD Originally from CO, Jason joined the Department of Entomology at the University of Georgia in January 015. With a backof 2ground in predator-prey interactions in soybean and corn systems, he studies a variety of impacts of the environment on promoting biological control. His work is focused on biological control in many cropping systems. Currently working on funded research projects to promote biological control in agricultural landscapes. One aspect of this is through the provisioning of beneficial insect populations using wildflowers to help protect biocontrol species and pollinators.

Website; <https://site.caes.uga.edu/schmidtlab/>



Noah McCoard is a wildlife Biologist with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Private Lands Program. Noah earned his bachelor's degree in Biology from Shawnee State University in 2005 and his Master's degree in Wildlife Biology from Marshall University in 2008. Noah has been working with wildlife for over ten years and with private landowners in Georgia for the past three years. Noah serves southeastern Georgia providing technical assistance to anyone seeking advice for wildlife habitat management. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/noah-mccoard-8b78b6134>



Tyler Lott is an outdoor educator and owner of Southeastern Wildlife Encounters. He is also President of Keeping Coffee Green, a tour guide with the Georgia Nature Conservancy at Broxton Rocks Preserve and Co-Owner of Finding the X Outdoors. Tyler has been a licensed Wildlife Educator in Georgia since 2011. He holds an Associates in Business from South Georgia State College and is currently pursuing his Bachelors in Wildlife Biology from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton. His main focus is wildlife conservation with a specialty in native reptiles and amphibians. He has recently authored the book "A Quick Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians in the State of Georgia" that is due to be published this year.



McKenzie Crosby has been production manager for Vincent Gardens since 2011. He is an avid plant grower and an expert in plant propagation. McKenzie has assisted Donna in growing Vincent Gardens to its current standards. He will be attending college at Oklahoma this winter as he pursues his degree in Veterinary Medicine.



Annette Wise is the founder and leader of the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail and programs. Annette Wise lives in Plains, Georgia and has been a family friend of President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter since 1973. As a college student during the summer of 1975, she worked for Carter's Warehouse in Plains, Georgia. After graduating from the University of Georgia, she married Lonnie Wise of Plains. Lonnie and Annette have lived in various locations across the state of Georgia as he pursued a career with Georgia Power and she began a teaching career. In 1995, when they returned to Plains, Annette accepted a job to develop the Jimmy Carter Education Program. Through programs developed in partnership with Plains Historical Preservation Trust and as an educator, she has authored two books, developed instructional videos, and historical performances. Some programs she has developed have received awards including the Georgia Department of Education -

Governor's Exemplary Award in 1978, The Georgia Partnership Distinguished Friend Award from Fort Valley State University Cooperative Extension Program in 2006, Governor's Award in the Humanities in 2011, and the Garden Club of Georgia's Beautification Conservation Education Seal of Honor Award in 2014.



"Beautifying Our World with Wildlife In Mind"

Donna Vincent has owned and operated *Vincent Gardens* with her husband Roger since 2007. Her business is a certified online mail order and propagation nursery located in Douglas Georgia that specializes in providing quality native plants for wildlife. Donna's training began in 1996 when she became a certified Georgia Master Gardener. After completing the MG class she spent five years volunteering at Westside Elementary teaching students from Pre K-5 grade about pollinators and installing many pollinator habitats. She currently specializes in providing butterfly larval host plants, native plants that will attract butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators and wildlife into your garden. Donna is currently expanding her business to include educational programs and providing assistance and guidance to groups interested in developing wildlife habitats on their properties.

Vendors

Vincent Gardens - Native plants - Donna Vincent and Mckenzie Crosby
Flat Creek Natives, LLC (formerly Gz Nursery) Greg Lewis, Perry GA
Elite Landscape, Douglas GA - Mulch, Tools, Metal Art

Information Tables

Monarch Across Georgia

Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail

Georgia Native Plant Society Coastal Plains Chapter

Southeastern Wildlife Encounters

UGA Invasive Species & Ecosystem

Local Overnight Accommodations:

[General Coffee State Park](#) - Cabins/Camping - 912-384-7082

[Hampton Inn](#) - 912-383-7550

[Holiday Inn Express](#) - 912-384-2100

[Jameson Inn](#) - 912-384-9432

[Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Douglas](#) - 912-720-2000