



Conference Speakers

Alaska Master Gardeners'
Annual Conference
April 7-8, 2023

Saturday Keynote



Ellen Zachos

is a Harvard graduate and the author of nine books including *The Wildcrafted Cocktail*, *The Forager's Pantry*, and *Backyard Foraging*. She writes a regular foraging column for Edible New Mexico magazine. Ellen shares recipes and foraging tips on [her website](#), and also offers several online foraging courses. Ellen is passionate about showing people how to use their **wild harvests**. She teaches wild cocktail and cooking classes at foraging workshops across the United States. A long-time instructor at the New York Botanical Garden, she now lives in Santa Fe. Ellen is also the co-host of the Plantrama podcast, with C.L. Fornari.

Les Brake

Growing up in a garden in ultra-challenging west Texas, Les Brake learned an invaluable lesson from his mother. When it comes to making a garden, the **geography of the heart** is what counts. If you want a garden in hellishly hot west Texas, or frigid Willow, Alaska, it can be done. When he started his garden in 1984, Les asked thousands of questions, read dozens of gardening books, cultivated friendships with people who were serious about their gardening, and joined a number of plant societies where he could pick the brains of specialists. Over the years, Brake and his partner, Jerry Conrad, went on to develop a garden that has been featured or appeared in roughly twenty magazines and books, with Alaska always as the star.

Saturday Keynote



Friday Presenter



Molly Cerridwen

was raised in a family of Yup'ik Traditional Healers. She's a lifelong learner, loves traveling, and is passionate about honoring her Elders and mentors and passing along their teachings to others. Her training is rooted in both Alaska Native traditional healing as well as the Western medical model, which allows her to work within the health care system and her own business, Shapeshifting Wellness. Molly's work respects the interconnectedness in the plant, fungi, animal, gem and spirit kingdoms and that same interconnectedness within human beings. She teaches virtual and hands-on workshops focusing on cooking with Alaska grown and gathered foods. Videos of her workshops can be found on the [CES YouTube channel](#).

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Brenda Adams

is the author of the acclaimed books, *Cool Plants for Cold Climates: A Garden Designer's Perspective*, winner of the Garden Writers' Association 2018 Silver Award, and *There's a Moose in My Garden: Designing Gardens in Alaska and the Far North*. An international-award-winning designer, Brenda has created over 260 unique gardens for residential and commercial clients and spoken at many conferences, including the Northwest Flower and Garden Show. During the past two springs, she has taught an in-depth, 6-week class on **garden design** for AMGA. She has also taught design classes for UAA and the Cooperative Extension. Her books are available at gardensbybrenda.com as well as Amazon and other on-line venues.

Steve Brown

Steve Brown is a Professor of Agricultural Extension and serves as the District Agriculture and Natural Resources Cooperative Extension Service Agent for the Mat-Su/Copper River and Anchorage Districts of Alaska. He serves as Program Leader for the Alaska Master Gardener Program. His subject matter specialties are high latitude agriculture/horticulture. In his spare time he is an avid mountaineer, marathon runner and giant cabbage contest competitor at the Alaska State Fair.



Justin Fulkerson

is the Lead Botanist at the Alaska Center for Conservation Science at the University of Alaska Anchorage and manages the UAA Herbarium. His research interests are in **plant evolutionary ecology, pollination ecology, ethnobotany, and the conservation of rare plants**. Justin has nearly two decades of research and professional experience as a botanist with extensive field experience in Alaska, the Pacific Northwest, and the Intermountain West. He has led studies on pollination ecology and pollinators from a variety of regions including the Arctic, Alaska, Southwest Idaho, and California.



James Evans photo

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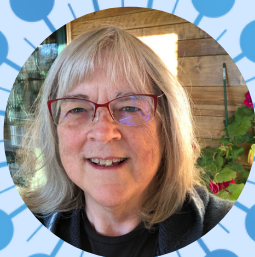


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Pat Holloway

is Professor Emerita of Horticulture, University of Alaska Fairbanks. She retired in 2015 after 30 years of teaching and research in horticulture and founder and director of the Georgeson Botanical Garden. Her passion is **Alaska native plants and plant propagation** and she has assisted commercial growers and gardeners around the state in propagation of berries, wildflowers, flowers and herbs. She also conducted research that laid the foundation for the Alaska peony industry. Presently, she is owner, author, horticultural consultant and publisher at A.F. Farmer, LLC. She conducts research to support the peony industry and most recently, authored a book on growing and propagating northern wildflowers for gardens.



Trevor Kirchhoff

After founding a successful Juneau **hydroponic** greens business, Trevor Kirchhoff moved to Anchorage at the end of 2018 to begin building **Anchorage Greens**. He grows premium quality greens and herbs right in the middle of Anchorage and sells directly to consumers through weekly subscription and non-subscription items. Trevor is passionate about plants and committed to pesticide free cultivation. He has worked as a grower and business owner in the hydroponic industry for more than a decade.



Don McNamara and Donna Rae Faulkner

are the owner-operators of Oceanside Farms, a small market farm in Homer, Alaska, established in 2011. They are certified instructors of **Korean Natural Farming** and have been adapting and applying KNF to build the soil food web and grow more healthy and nutritious vegetables and fruits and raise poultry - using primarily locally available materials and without synthetic pesticides or fertilizers.

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Josh Smith

is a life-long plant fanatic that grew up in the Fairbanks/North Pole area. He was an active participant in Future Farmers of America at North Pole High School. After graduation, he enlisted in the US Air Force, serving 10 years, including time in the Anchorage area. Now living in mild Chugiak, he strives to push the bounds of what can be grown in Alaska while channeling the passion for food security and growing food ignited by FFA. He is now working towards opening a **specialty fruit and nut nursery** while promoting education, edible, and experimental plantings across the state!

along with his partner, Vania Hawkins, established the **experimental landscape architecture studio** Intrinsic Landscapes in 2002, and has since curated a multi-faceted design+build practice that creates embodied spaces, objects, and situations. Intrinsic Landscapes views their work as the craft of fusing together social and environmental systems, articulated through the sculpting of materials and the land. In addition to choreographing experiences that connect people to spaces through landscape-based projects, Intrinsic Landscapes is passionate about experimenting and communicating through forays in sculpture, furniture, and art installations.

Chad Taylor



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