Meet Our Presenters for the 2020 Charleston Annual Meeting of Members

Our 2020 Annual Meeting of Members is on our alternate year meaning this will be a one-day event. Although our time is abbreviated it would not be complete without a full day of programs from area experts. Charleston is rich with culture and we are taking advantage of the local talent to illuminate us on this amazing city’s long history.

“Herbs in the Lowcountry and Southern Cooking” with Nathalie Dupree - Sponsored by South Central District

Join beloved food expert and Grande Dame of southern cooking Nathalie Dupree on, “Herbs in the Lowcountry and Southern Cooking.” Lowcountry food differs from Southern Cooking as it is food developed along the natural geographical boundaries between the coastal regions of South Carolina and the northern Georgia coastline and by the many who exchanged their cultures and knowledge of this area’s history.

About Nathalie Dupree Nathalie is the bestselling author of fourteen cookbooks, and host of more than 300 national and international cooking shows. She’s the winner of four James Beard Awards including three for cookbooks and one for “Who’s Who in American Cooking.” She has been the president of the Atlanta chapter of the International Women's Forum, founder and past president of IACP (International Association of Culinary Professionals), founder and board member of Southern Foodways, and founder and co-president of two chapters of Les Dames d’Escoffier from whom she was awarded the honor of “Grande Dame.” In 2019, she was honored with the IACP Lifetime Achievement Award. Her books New Southern Cooking and Mastering the Art of Southern Cooking are on the 2017 Southern Living 100 Best Cookbooks of All-Time list.

“Explore the Modalities of Lowcountry Gardening: The Medicinal, Culinary, and the 20th Century Historicist Gardens” with David Shields Sponsored by the Great Lakes District

Lost food historian David Shields will, “Explore the Modalities of Lowcountry Gardening: The Medicinal, Culinary, and the 20th Century Historicist Gardens.” David will open his program speaking of the wild foraging of native plants and attempts to naturalize them after which he will move into the old English and French herbs of the 19th century as a function of the development of a of the distinctive Lowcountry culinary idiom, and finally end with how garden designers of the early 20th century proposed bedding designs that referenced history, but held modernist agendas.

About David Shields: David is the Carolina Distinguished Professor in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of South Carolina. As chairman of the Carolina Gold Rice Foundation he has been instrumental in the recovery and restoration of many key ingredients to southern cooking—Carolina Gold Rice, Benne, Purple Ribbon Sugarcane, Purple Straw Wheat, Seashore Black Rye, Sea Island White Flint Corn, the Rice Pea, the Dyehouse Cherry, and the Carolina African Runner Peanut. As a historian of agriculture and food preparation David has published Southern Provisions, on the Creation and Revival of a Cuisine (University of Chicago Press, 2015) as well as The Culinarians: Lives & Careers from the first Age of American Fine Dining. He is the Southern Foodways Alliance’s “Keeper of the Flame,” Slow Food USA’s “Snail Blazer of Biodiversity,” and finally was a finalist for the James Beard book award in food scholarship in 2018. When David is not knee deep in researching historical
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seed publications, he publishes books in the areas of history of photography and print culture in early America.

"Hoodoo Medicine: Gullah Herbal Remedies" with Dr. Faith Mitchell Sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic District and Jamie Jo Washburne

Based on her book, "Hoodoo Medicine: Gullah Herbal Remedies" Dr. Mitchell will share a nearly lost realm of African-American folk culture. Faith will enlighten us with the rich history of the Gullah people who live in the Georgia and South Carolina Sea Islands, explain their tradition of using plants, and give examples of medicines that are described in her book.

About Dr. Faith Mitchell: Faith earned her Doctorate in Medical Anthropology in 1980 from the University of California, Berkeley. During her student days she had the opportunity to live among the Gullah people gaining firsthand access to how the Gullah lived and used folk medicine. Her book “HooDoo Medicine: Gullah Herbal Remedies” reflects on her time on the Sea Islands. More recently Faith has published a new book based on the history and customs of the Lowcountry called The Book of Secrets, Part 1. When Faith isn’t writing she is the President and CEO at Grantmakers In Health. Prior to that Faith was a senior staff member of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, DC, the Senior Coordinator for Population in the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration in the US State Department, and a program officer at the Hewlett and San Francisco foundations.

“Update on Phytophthora Root and Crown Rot on Lavender” with Dr. Steven Jeffers Sponsored by Southeast District and the Philadelphia Unit

Professor Steven N. Jeffers of Clemson University will update us on the status of “Phytophthora Root and Crown Rot on Lavender.” Dr. Jeffers was The Herb Society’s 2018 Research Grant recipient and has spent the past few years evaluating fungicides for managing root rot on English lavender and hybrid lavender. While the research grant provided ample opportunities to advance the treatment of lavender plants Dr. Jeffers’s research continues. Learn the latest research efforts being conducted at Clemson University.

About Dr. Steven Jeffers: Steven is a Professor of Plant Pathology and an Extension Specialist with statewide responsibilities for diseases of ornamental crops in nurseries, greenhouses, and landscapes. He also works on diseases of trees in both urban and natural ecosystems. He came to Clemson University in 1995 after seven years at the University of Wisconsin-Madison working on fruit crop diseases and three years in private industry developing biological control products for postharvest diseases of apples and citrus.

His research focuses on diseases caused by species of Phytophthora. He is interested in the biology and ecology of Phytophthora spp., pathogen detection, identifying sources of inoculum, and integrated disease management. He and his students have been investigating Phytophthora root and crown rot on lavender since June 2015.