

## Press Release:

### Spring into Summer Gardening Symposium

The public is invited to attend a one-day gardening symposium on Thursday, June 2 from 9:00 am-3:30 pm. The Spring into Summer Gardening Symposium, hosted by the Wilson County Extension Master Gardeners and the Wilson Botanical Gardens, will be in the Wilson Agricultural Center located at 1806 SW Goldsboro Street, Wilson, NC 27893. The Wilson Botanical Gardens surround the Agricultural Center.

The featured speaker is Dr. Robert Lyons, former Director of the Longwood Graduate Program in Public Horticulture and currently Professor Emeritus at the University of Delaware. Dr. Lyons has taught classes on herbaceous plant materials for over 30 years and has been a photographer for over 35 years.

His first presentation will be **Outstanding Herbaceous Plants: Your Rx for Long-Lasting Color in the Landscape**. This talk will expose and highlight herbaceous plants, both brand new and tried and true, that have long-lasting flowers, eye-catching foliage, unique ornamental features, and a great potential for striking impact in the garden.

After Dr. Lyons' morning talk there will be a choice of four breakout sessions. Each attendee can select one of the four that they want to attend. These four sessions will be repeated after lunch to allow attendees to listen to a second talk. The topics of these sessions include: Youth Gardening, Herbs, Plants for Pollination and Succulents. A final session about Bee Biology will be held in the auditorium for all conference attendees.

Dr. Lyons will give a second presentation at lunch entitled **The Color of the Native Plant Palette: Herbaceous Considerations and Other Related Thoughts**. He will discuss a wide array of native species, whether annual, perennial, or somewhere in between, that have continued to attract widespread attention by gardeners for their flowering and/or foliage features. Dr. Lyons will show that the sensible inclusion of native, non-invasive plants contribute to successful landscape performance, visual interest, and function within a low maintenance philosophy.

Pre-registration for this event is required. The cost is \$25 per person and includes lunch. Additional information about the Conference and registration can be found at [www.wilsonbotanicalgardens.org](http://www.wilsonbotanicalgardens.org) or by calling 252-237-0113. The registration deadline is May 26.