



Speaker's Bureau

Call (207) 633-4333, ext.110 to book one of our fabulous staff speakers for your group's next visit to the Gardens!

“Going Organic at Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens” by Executive Director William Cullina

Two years ago, we decided to convert to organic practices at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens. Many on the staff were skeptical that we could maintain a high standard of care with a limited budget and staff if we went this route, but we felt it was vital that we try. Luckily the experiment has been an overwhelming success: the plants are far healthier, pollinators more diverse, visitors happier, and costs have remained the same or even decreased. The switch has not been without challenges, however, and in this lecture I will discuss candidly what has worked and what has not when Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens “went organic.”

Time: 1 hour

Style: Illustrated Talk

Price: \$250

“Sugar, Sex, and Poison: Shocking Plant Secrets Caught on Camera” by Executive Director William Cullina

As we all know, plants are at the base of both the human and non-human food chain. Everything eats them directly or indirectly, which may or may not be a good thing as far as plants are concerned. Because they do not move around, it is easy to forget that plants are not helpless. They have evolved an incredible arsenal of chemicals, camouflage, spines, hairs, and waxes to discourage herbivores. On the other hand, they spend a huge amount of their energy on pollen, nectar, edible fruits, and sugary root exudates designed to attract and nourish animals, insects, fungi and bacteria so they can perform services such as pollination, seed dispersal, defense, and nutrient acquisition. It is a carefully balanced natural economy and community based on the products of photosynthesis that is amazing in its complexity and efficiency. Strengthening this natural economy through sound horticultural and agricultural practices is in essence what the organic movement is all about. In this talk, Bill Cullina will show how this world of pollen, poisons, pigments, pheromones, sugars and sex translates to sound organic practices we all can benefit from.

Time: 1 hour

Style: Illustrated Talk

Price: \$250

“The Botany of Design” by Executive Director William Cullina

Using his latest book, *Understanding Perennials* as a starting point, Bill Cullina tackles the thorny subject of garden design in a completely different way. In this fun and information filled talk he explores such things as the reasons for big leaves, variegation, red foliage and flowers and ways to create more satisfying designs without breaking the budget. He looks at life beyond the color wheel, the importance of healthy soil and reveals some of his best horticultural secrets while weaving together aesthetics, psychology, botany, and ecology into a fascinating one hour ride. It is a talk that beginning gardeners as well as seasoned pros will both learn from and enjoy.

Time: 1 ½ hour

Style: Illustrated Talk

Price: \$250

“Gardening for All the Senses – with the Emphasis on the All” by Director of Communications Barbara Freeman

Using vivid images from the world-class Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, as well as from other spectacular private and public gardens and landscapes, writer/photographer Barbara Freeman will show how all of us can delight the five senses in our own gardens...or even on a windowsill. Then, just for fun, she'll introduce less-traditional “senses” we can and should keep in mind while planning, building, growing, and harvesting our gardens: the sense of humor, sense of anticipation, sense of balance, sense of proportion, color sense, and quite a few others that mesh perfectly with gardening and resonate with gardeners. Barbara will bring along lists of plants that appeal to the five senses and a few recipes with “sense appeal.”

Time: 1 hour

Style: Illustrated Talk

Price: \$200

“A Virtual Tour of Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens: Around the Gardens and Through the Seasons” by Director of Communications Barbara Freeman

Through well over a hundred colorful photos that tell the story beautifully, writer/photographer Barbara Freeman will take you on a tour of Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, not only around the many gardens and features on the 250 acres, but also back in time and through the seasons. There will be close-ups of stunning flowers, as well as vistas and photos of events and programs the gardens offers – for all ages in all seasons.

Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, a world-class garden in the midcoast town of Boothbay, is being hailed as one of Maine's top attractions. Visitors are delighted by a dozen spectacular gardens, including a fabulous two-acre children's garden and a one-acre sensory garden; miles of waterfront and woodland trails; magnificent stonework; fine art exhibits indoors and out; and, now, the greenest building in Maine – the exceptionally well designed education center. The Virtual Tour is an excellent way to explore every aspect of the Gardens as an armchair traveler. It's also a great chance to plan what you'd like to see on your next visit.

Time: 1 hour

Style: Illustrated Talk

Price: \$200

“From the Stone Age to Our Age: An Insider's Illustrated History of Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens” by Director of Communications Barbara Freeman

Do you know there's a tennis court near the entrance to Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens? Have you heard what super-green purpose it now serves? Did you know the property was once slated to become a housing development, and what became of it? Or how the land was used back into the mists of time? Do you know which stonework is antique and which is new? Or how we make the new look old? Have you followed the development of the gardens as a raft of talented designers and horticulturists transformed it into one of the finest botanical gardens you'll find anywhere?

See this transformation first-hand as Director of Communications Barbara Freeman shows before-and-after photos and tells an enlightening, and entertaining, tale of the making of a garden. As the longest-tenured staff member of the Gardens, who was also a charter member and early volunteer, Barbara has seen the Gardens grow step by step and enjoys sharing the inside story of how it all came to be. Barbara created the earlier versions of this presentation when asked to provide a Gardens history lesson to new docents. One of the things about history is that there's more of it all the time! With new gardens and new project each and every year, Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens is no exception. It's a fascinating story, told through colorful photos.

Time: 1 hour

Style: Illustrated Talk

Price: \$200

“Taking Horticulture to New Heights... Vertical Gardening from Inspiration to Practical Application” by Horticulturist Dick Zieg

A presentation that starts with what inspired me about vertical planters and progresses through the research into what has been done on a grand scale down to what homeowners may want to attempt on their own. Included are images of Patrick Blanc’s installations from around the world. Blanc is the innovator of the technique of growing plants on vertical surfaces without soil. Images of other techniques for accomplishing a vertical planter are presented and discussed along with a stackable planter that I have designed that can be affordable, attainable and successful for the beginning gardener.

Time: 1 hour

Style: Illustrated Talk

Price: \$200

“Flowers for Bees” by Horticulturist and Beekeeper Dick Zieg

The talk starts with the morphology or plant parts of flowers and the anatomy of honeybees and how that determines what flowers may be more pleasing to them. That is followed by an extensive slide presentation of plants that one would likely use to attract honeybees to the garden.

Time: 1 hour

Style: Illustrated Talk

Price: \$200

“Trees and Shrubs with Multi-Season Interest” by Horticulturist Will Bridges

A look at some great woody plants for all seasons in the garden! These plants are not just one-trick ponies, but true work horses in the garden. We will combine a short slide show with a walking tour if weather permits.

Time: 1 hour

Style: Illustrated Talk & Interpreted Walk

Price: \$200

“Native Maine Trees at the Gardens” by Gardens’ Staff Member and Tree Farmer Amanda Russell

Co-owner of Wind Ridge Farm in Edgecomb, the 2010 Maine Outstanding Tree Farm and finalist for the 2012 Northeast Outstanding Tree Farm, Amanda has spent 31 years managing her 100+ acre woodlot with her husband, Andy Abello. Beginning at the Visitor Center, you’ll visit the Haney Hillside Trail, the Shoreland Trail, the Birch Allee, and the Children’s Garden. Amanda will highlight the native trees of the woodlands and abandoned pastureland along the way, citing best management practices to maintain the ecological diversity of Maine’s woodlands, such as mixed-growth stands, successional forests, the importance of downed woody material, and standing-dead snag trees.

Time: 1 hour

Style: Interpreted Walk

Price: \$200

“An Introduction to the Wild Plants of Coastal Maine” by Director of Education and Staff Botanist Melissa Cullina

Enjoy an easy hike with educator and botanist Melissa Cullina along the Maine Woodland Trail to meet the beautiful wild ferns, trees, shrubs, wildflowers and mosses living there. Naming each kind of plant, Melissa will describe the ecology and natural history of these characteristic members of our coastal forests. Winding through rock outcrops and carpets of moss, there will be plenty of time to ask questions, take photographs, and enjoy the serene habitat we’ll explore.

Time: 1 hour

Style: Interpreted Walk

Price: \$200