



Dr. Allan Armitage is well known as a writer, speaker and researcher throughout the world. He has evaluated garden plants in Montreal, Canada; East Lansing, Michigan and Athens, Georgia, gaining an appreciation of plant development in the North and South. He holds his B. Sc from MacDonald College, Quebec,

M.Sc. from University of Guelph, Ontario and his Ph.D. from Michigan State University. At the University of Georgia, he runs the research gardens where new plant material from most of the flower breeders in the world is evaluated. The Gardens at UGA are among the finest trial gardens in the nation. They are open to the public throughout the year. Armitage's work with heat- and humidity-tolerant crops resulted in the national marketing program called "**Athens Select.**" Approximately 30 plants have been introduced under the "Athens Select" label, including Pennisetum 'Princess', Lochroma 'Purple Queen', Ruellia 'Ragin Cajun' and Begonia 'Bonita Shea.'

Felder Rushing is a 10th-generation American gardener whose pioneer ancestors settled across the Southeast, bringing many plants with them. Rushing's overstuffed, quirky cottage garden has been featured in many TV programs and magazines (including a cover of Southern Living), and includes a huge variety of weather-hardy plants along with a collection



of folk art. There is no turf grass, just plants, yard art, and "people places." The author and co-author of 15 gardening books (including several national award winners) and former Extension Service urban horticulture specialist has written thousands of gardening columns in

syndicated newspapers, and has had hundreds of articles and photographs published in regional and national garden magazines, including Garden Design, Horticulture, Landscape Architecture, Better Homes and Gardens, Fine Gardening, Organic Gardening, and the National Geographic. Felder has been featured three times in full-length articles in the New York Times. He has hosted a television program that was shown across the South, and appeared many times on other TV garden programs. Felder currently co-hosts a call-in garden program called "The Gestalt Gardener."

Hank Bruno was raised on a farm and worked in the landscape nursery business of his parents. After earning undergraduate degrees in Botany and Anthropology from Duke University in 1976 he entered the Peace Corps, serving in Guatemala. With two years of archeological fieldwork in the



southeast he entered graduate school at Texas A&M University. Working full-time as a landscape maintenance supervisor and conducting research in archeobotany he

received his M.A. in 1988. He arrived at Callaway Gardens in October 1991 where he served as the Director of Horticulture. Mr. Bruno is currently Director of Horticulture at the Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens, in Belmont, N.C. In addition to horticulture, he has worked in plant conservation with the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance and serves on the steering committee of the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference. His interests include plant ecology, ethno botany, collections management and landscaping with native plants.

Mike Sikes is the horticulturist for the Gardener's Confidence Collection. He has spent more than 25 years in the horticulture



industry. He is a graduate of the University of Georgia's School of Horticulture, is a certified Master Gardener, and has served as president of the Georgia Nursery Association and Friends of the State Botanical Garden of Georgia.

Sikes also has been recognized

as the Georgia Green Industry Association's Distinguished Professional of the Year. His expertise is readily shared with other gardeners who strive to have the utmost confidence in their own garden whether that includes acres of plants or patio containers because he knows each and every garden is special to its owner. Mike is a Horticulturist & Marketing Coordinator for McCorkle Nurseries, Inc. He is frequently on the road in search of new plants to bring to the market. With over 25 years in the horticulture business, he has a keen eye for new and unusual varieties. He is an admitted "plantaholic" whose passion for plants is contagious.