



HighLights



Trial Gardens and HortResearch at the South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station

Volume 3, Number 17

September 30, 2016

Published by Dr. Gene Blythe

Plan to attend the **43rd Annual Ornamental Horticulture Field Day** at the South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station in Poplarville on **Thursday, October 6, 2016**. Registration begins at 9:00 AM and the program begins at 9:30 AM. A \$10.00 registration fee (\$6.50 for students) includes lunch and refreshments. A list of topics scheduled for presentation at the Field Day can be found in the September 6, 2016, issue of HighLights, available at: <http://mafes.msstate.edu/publications/highlights.asp>.



'Benary's Giant' zinnias are shown above growing in the Display Gardens as a source of landscape color and cut flowers. Zinnias are easy-to-grow summer annuals, with upright-growing varieties producing long-stemmed flowers that are well suited for floral arrangements, such as the arrangement shown below. Dr. Jim DelPrince will discuss the use of fresh and preserved zinnias for floral design at Field Day. At the conclusion of Field Day, Dr. DelPrince will also conduct an optional walking tour in the gardens for guests wishing to learn about collecting plant materials from their own gardens for floral design.



At Field Day, there will be a preview of the first All-America Selections Winners for 2017, including *Celosia* 'Asian Garden' (above), a favorite of beneficial insects. Also, learn from Pat Drackett and Scott Langlois about the life cycle of the monarch butterfly on the swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) (photos below), a U.S. native perennial and one of the easier-to grow milkweeds.



Photo by Scott Langlois



Photo by Scott Langlois



Photo by Jim DelPrince