

# Program

9:00      *Registration*

9:30      *“Don’t Save the Bees, Save the Weeds”*

**Charlie Agar**

10:45     *Making the Most of Native Plants in Cultivated Places*

**Andrea DeLong-Amaya**

12:00     *Lunch*

12:45     *Choosing Vegetable Varieties for Texas Gardens*

**Gail Smith**

2:00      *Sustainable Gardening*

**Wyatt Page**

# Charlie Agar

## CHARLIE BEE COMPANY



Charlie Agar runs Charlie Bee Company in Seguin, Texas, where he keeps bees, rescues wild colonies, and teaches others about these fascinating creatures. A former writer and traveler turned full-time beekeeper, Charlie now manages hundreds of hives and shares what bees have taught him about resilience, connection, and caring for the land.

Charlie taught English in Japan for a time and then spent years exploring East and Southeast Asia—experiences that morphed into a short career

writing guidebooks for *Frommer's* about Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia. He later worked as a newspaper reporter in Colorado and held roles in sales and marketing before the bees took over for good.

He hosts small-group tours and bee encounters at the family homestead near New Berlin, Texas, and his work is featured in the PBS docu-follow series *Charlie Bee Company*, with Season 2 debuting in fall 2025.

Explore and learn more on Charlie's website: [Charliebee.com](http://Charliebee.com). Subscribe to "The Honey List," enjoy his blog "Inside the Box," and dig in a little deeper with the videos where you can watch Charlie in action.

# Andrea DeLong-Amaya

*DIRECTOR OF HORTICULTURE, LADY BIRD JOHNSON  
WILDFLOWER CENTER*



Andrea DeLong-Amaya oversees the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's gardens and nursery programs. She's been a staff member since 1998 and has over 30 years of experience with Texas native plants in horticulture, ecology and garden design.

She teaches classes in native plant horticulture and has contributed numerous gardening articles to publications such as *Rodale's Organic Gardening*, Neil Sperry's *Gardens*, and *Texas Gardener and Wildflower* (the Center's member magazine). Her regionally best-selling book, the *Texas Native Plant Primer* (Timber Press), was released in March of 2025.

DeLong-Amaya has appeared numerous times on *Central Texas Gardener*, PBS's long-running television program, and was a two-time guest on WNYC's *Science Friday*. Jennifer Jewell featured Andrea's work in her 2020 book, "The Earth in Her Hands: 75 Extraordinary Women Working in the World of Plants," and interviewed DeLong-Amaya on the podcast *Cultivating Place*.

The Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College honored DeLong-Amaya with the prestigious 2025 Scott Garden & Horticulture Award in March 2025.

Contact Andrea at [adelongamaya@wildflower.org](mailto:adelongamaya@wildflower.org).

# Gail Smith

## TEXAS MASTER GARDENER



Gail will focus on learning the importance of proper plant selection to maximize production in your vegetable garden.

Gail has been a Texas Master Gardener since 2017. She received Vegetable Advanced Training in San Antonio in 2018 through Texas A&M Agrilife. She has received advanced training in other areas including Advanced Composting in 2023 in Fort Bend County also through Texas A&M Agrilife. Though gardening has been a part of her life

for more than thirty years it was not until joining the Master Gardener Program that she discovered the science behind a successful vegetable garden.

Gail lives with her husband, Danny, in Bastrop, Texas. Danny is a supportive guy who provides motivation for Gail's gardening work. All he had to say was, "you would save money if you just bought it at the Farmer's Market" and it set her into motion! Besides being passionate about gardening, she is an enthusiastic animal lover. She has horses, chickens, ducks, parakeets, and her son's cockatiel. In a warm, loving effort to provide company to one of her birds, she added two finches to the cage. She decided when those two became 28 she had to make some adjustments!

# Wyatt Page

## *GILL GARDEN CENTER*



Wyatt Page is the Assistant Manager at Gill Garden Center in Corpus Christi, Texas. He has been a member of the Gill team since 2015. Wyatt is a Texas Certified Nursery Professional and the recipient of the Green Profit Magazine's 2021 Young Retailer of the Year Award.

Wyatt earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Texas A&M University Corpus Christi. He reports that he did not have any plans that included gardening when he enrolled in the University but found gardening is his passion and life's work.

Wyatt has made numerous presentations to the Native Plant Society – South Texas Chapter. He is an experienced speaker who enjoys sharing that passion. His special area of interest is native plants. A new undertaking at the Gill Garden Center is a new greenhouse where Wyatt and others from the team, are trialing unique native plants including Zizotes Milkweed (*Asclepias oenotheroides*). Wyatt is a talented young grower who enjoys other hobbies as well as gardening. For example, he throws pottery in his own studio. He is enthusiastic about anything “outdoors”. He is a runner, not just for physical fitness, but for racing competition. He is a hiker, a camper and a surfer. And he has chickens!

Wyatt can be contacted at [wpage005@gmail.com](mailto:wpage005@gmail.com)