

# Kells Bay Gardens – Southern Symposium X

Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2025

## Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

- All Day      The Gardens & the Plant Centre are open to all delegates until Dusk
- 18:00      Symposium Buffet Supper  
Join Billy and our Speakers for an informal evening of Horticulture banter
- 19:30      Mark Collins, Dhu Varren Garden, Milltown, Co. Kerry  
“Botanic Highlights from my Excursions to New Zealand and Chile”

## Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October

- 08:00      Breakfast in the Dining Room (Residents only)
- 09:30      Delegates Gather on Terrace, complimentary Tea & Coffee  
Collect your name tags
- 10:00      Welcome and Introduction by Billy Alexander
- 10:15      Raf Lenaerts, Botanic Treasures, Antwerp, Belgium  
“Cultivating Rare and New Magnolias”
- 11:30      Tea/Coffee
- 12:15      Oliver Schurmann  
Mount Venus Nursery, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16  
“20 Years of Show-Gardens, Design and Planting”
- 13:30      The Kells Bay Sala Thai Buffet Lunch

- 14:45 Kelly Dodson and Sue Milliken, Far Reaches Farm  
 “Plant Obsession Meets Conservation in the Far Reaches of Washington State”
- Sue Milliken and Kelly Dodson of Far Reaches Farm and the nonprofit Far Reaches Botanical Conservancy share the evolution of their plant collection spanning thousands of taxa from their decades of plant hunting, hybridising, and overseas importations
- 16:00 Questions and Answers with our Guest Speakers
- 16:15 Billy Alexander – Closing Remarks
- 16:30-17:30 Guided Walk by Neil Porteous in the Gardens with speakers and guests

### *Sunday 5th October*

- 08:00 Breakfast in the Dining Room (Residents only)
- 09:15 Delegates Gather on Terrace, complimentary Tea & Coffee
- 09:30 Peadar Collins, The Irish Tree Centre, Kildorrery, Co. Cork  
 “The Fascination of Trees”
- 10:45 Tea/Coffee
- 11:15 Sir Tim Smit KBE  
 The Lost Gardens of Heligan, St. Austell, Cornwall, England  
 “Phoenix from the Ashes, the second coming of horticulture and the dawning of a new civilisation”
- 12:30 Questions and Answers with our Guest Speakers
- 13:00 Lunch, Soup and Gourmet Sandwiches
- 13:30 Weekend Formalities Conclude  
 Delegates are welcome to visit the Gardens & the Plant Centre