

# STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

## WILLIAM E. BARRICK

*Executive Director of Bellingrath Gardens and Home*

William E. Barrick received BS and MS degrees from Auburn University and a PhD in Landscape Horticulture from Michigan State University.

After graduation, he served as an Assistant Professor in Ornamental Horticulture at the University of Florida. He was Executive Vice President and Director of Gardens at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Ga., for almost twenty years before becoming Executive Director of Bellingrath Gardens and Home in November 1999.

Dr. Barrick is a Past President of the American Public Garden Association, Past Chairman of the American Horticultural Society, 1994 recipient of the Arthur Hoyt Scott Horticulture Medal and the 2012 Governor's Tourism Award from the Alabama Tourism Department. In 2015, he was honored with the American Horticultural Society's Liberty Hyde Bailey Award and Auburn University's College of Agriculture Outstanding Alumni Award for the Horticulture Program.

Dr. Barrick has served on the board of Mobile Bay Convention and Visitors Bureau since 2000 and currently serves as Vice Chairman of the Board. Additionally, he serves on the board of the South Mobile County Tourism Authority as a founding member and Chairman of this organization. Most recently, he was appointed by Governor Robert Bentley to the Alabama Coastal Advisory Committee.

He currently serves on the board of the Providence Hospital Foundation and the Downtown Mobile Alliance board, and is a member of the Rotary Club of Mobile. He is a past member of the Infirmary West Advisory Board, the Advisory Committee of Spring Hill College, the Visiting Committee of the University of Mobile, the Visiting Committee of Longwood Gardens, the Advisory Committee for the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., and the College of Agriculture Advisory Committee of Auburn University.

He is the author of the American Horticultural Society's "75 Great American Garden Plants," co-author of the American Horticultural Society's "Southeast SmartGarden Regional Guide" and a contributing writer for "How to Achieve A Heaven on Earth." He is a graduate of Leadership Georgia, Leadership Mobile and Leadership Alabama. Dr. Barrick is also an affiliate professor in ornamental horticulture at Auburn University.

He and his wife, Jessica, are members of Dauphin Way United Methodist Church and are involved in several cultural organizations in the community.



## THOMAS C. MCGEHEE

*Museum Director of the Bellingrath Home*



Tom McGehee has served as the Museum Director for Bellingrath Gardens and Home since January 1994. In that capacity, he oversees the 15-room Bellingrath Home and its collection of decorative arts and antiques as well as its archives. He also maintains the Delchamps Collection of Boehm Porcelain.

McGehee currently serves as president of the Friends of Magnolia Cemetery and is a member of the boards of the Friends of the Alabama Governor's Mansion, the Rotary Club of Mobile and the Friends of the History Museum of Mobile. In 2012, he was named Rotarian of the Year. He has served for 21 years as chairman of the Tree Commission for the City of Mobile and recently ended his third term as secretary of the Victorian Society in America headquartered in Philadelphia. He is a longtime member of Government Street Presbyterian Church, where he recently completed a term as Clerk of Session.

In 1996, the City of Mobile's Historic Development Commission awarded him the Elizabeth Gould Award for his research into architect George B. Rogers as well as Mobile's lost architectural heritage. He is a 1997 graduate of the Newport (RI) Summer School conducted by the Victorian Society, a 1999 graduate of the Winter Institute of Decorative Arts held at Winterthur, a 2000 graduate of the Cooper-Hewitt's French Decorative Arts Studies in Paris, a 2001 graduate of the London Summer School conducted by the Victorian Society, and a 2008 graduate of the Attingham Trust Summer School held in the United Kingdom, as well as the first Attingham Trust Study of the London Town House, held in 2010.

Since 1997, McGehee has been a regular lecturer for the Roads Scholar program (formerly Elder Hostel) hosted by the University of South Alabama, and has conducted walking tours of Mobile's historic districts and Magnolia Cemetery.

His "Ask McGehee" column has appeared monthly in Mobile Bay Magazine for more than a decade and it has regularly won the annual Readers' Choice Award. He also serves as editor for the Magnolia Messenger, the newsletter for the Friends of Magnolia Cemetery, which is published three times a year.

McGehee is a native of Bronxville, N.Y., and a graduate of the Bronxville School and the University of Georgia, where he earned a BA in journalism with minors in business and history.

He is married to the former Lucile Rutherford Smith of Monroeville. His daughter, Megan, currently lives in Manhattan, where she works for a private financial group.

**CHARLES E. OWENS**

*Nursery Manager and Manager of Maintenance*



Chuck Owens is the Nursery Manager and Manager of Maintenance for Bellingrath Gardens and Home, where he has been employed since 1998. Before coming to Bellingrath Gardens, he worked for many years in the landscape installation and maintenance industry and in his family's recreation/amusement business.

Mr. Owens is a native of Decatur, Ala., and a graduate of Auburn University in Landscape and Ornamental Horticulture. He is a member of the National Chrysanthemum Society and the Alabama Fruit and Vegetable Association. He and his wife, Amy, are members of Oyster Bay Baptist Church. They live on a small farm with their three daughters in the Rosinton community in Baldwin County, Ala., where they grow pecans, satsumas and other citrus.



**BARBARA SMITH**

*Display Coordinator and Gardens Manager*

Barbara Smith is the Display Coordinator and Gardens Manager at Bellingrath Gardens and Home, where she has been employed since 2000. Before coming to Bellingrath Gardens, she worked in interiorscaping in metro Atlanta.

Mrs. Smith is a native of Douglasville, Ga., and attended college at Floyd College in Rome, Ga. She and her husband, Adam Moss, a retired lieutenant colonel with the U.S. Marines, live on Dog River and enjoy boating and participating in river cleanup events.