

WVNLA NEWS

West Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association, Inc. www.wvnla.org November/December 2011

2012 WINTER SYMPOSIUM
DETAILS ON PAGE 2!

WVNLA Summer Garden Tour 2011

by Chris Chanlett

In mid-August Vice-President Bill Mills led a WVNLA tour of fifteen people to significant garden sites around Philadelphia. We took a leisurely half-day in each of four places dense in history and plant life.

Chanticleer: A Pleasure Garden enthralled us with a series of large scale plantings, each driven by one of seven gardeners who enjoy an enormous staff to mow and rake and haul off the clippings. No fussy labeling clutters this flowing landscape designed and constantly redesigned to make its claim to be "the most romantic, imaginative, and exciting public garden in America." After a few wide-eyed hours and a sumptuous lunch none of us disputed that.

Scott Arboretum landscapes the campus of Swarthmore College and coordinates the generous endowments of many of its alumni. The Conards endowed a rose collection in the 30s that continues to evolve as the Arboretum seeks to put its maintenance on an environmental footing. A colossal cistern collects a great deal of the roof runoff for the plantings. Swarthmore has incorporated green roofs on some new buildings to reduce runoff and cooling loads. These xeriscapes succeed aesthetically and add another green ↗

Tidbits, Updates, Etc.

2012 WVNLA Winter Symposium

Charleston, WV, January 18, 19, 20, 2012

MANTS (Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show)

January 11 - 13, 2012

Baltimore Convention Center Baltimore, MD

Show Hours: January 11 & 12 (9:00 am - 5:00 pm)

January 13 (9:00 am - 2:00 pm)



A dramatic dead tree painted red on the grounds of Scott Arboretum, Swarthmore College

layer to the tree canopy and robust shrub and perennial plantings. A dead adolescent oak had been painted red and some colorful tropicals in big containers peppered the place.

Mt. Cuba Center demonstrates just how perfect Nature can look under good management! Like the previous locations, the Center reflects what good taste and plenty of money can accomplish. Since creating this private estate in 1935 where hills roll up *continued on page 3*

South Carolina Horticulture Industry Trade Show and Seminars

February 2-4, 2012

Myrtle Beach Convention Center www.scla.org

CENTS, Columbus, OH www.onla.org

January 23 - 25, 2012





WVNLA Winter Workshop and Symposium
January 18, 19 & 20
Charleston, West Virginia

Wednesday, January 18

WV State Universities's Capitol Theater
WVNLA Ornamental & Turf Pesticide Workshop
(sponsored by WVNLA and the WV Department of Agriculture - this is a certification opportunity). WVSU Capitol Theater is just two doors down from the Summit Conference Center in downtown Charleston.

Workshops include: Controlling Invasive Species, Structural or Habitat Modifications, Identifying Natural Enemies, and Weed and Fungus Prevention. We hope to offer 6-8 credits. WVNLA members will be able to attend this Workshop for free. Non-members will have to pay a \$35.00 fee.

Thursday and Friday, January 19 and 20

Summit Conference Center
WVNLA Winter Symposium

The next two days of the conference will offer the following topics **AND** on Thursday, there will be two tracks to choose from. One track is oriented towards business owners, and one track is oriented towards a hands-on class.

Topics and where indicated, presenters

- *Keynote:* A panel of dynamic, progressive business leaders share their story in several short presentations geared to excite us all!
- *The Nonstop Garden*, Stephanie Cohen
- *Equipped With the Proper Landscape Tools*
- *A Landscape Architects Perspective*, Matthew Urbanski
- *Installing Simple Drip Irrigation Systems and Maintenance*, Brent Mecham, Irrigation Association
- *Strategic Business Planning*, Tom Witt Ph.D., Bureau of Business and Economic Research, WVU School of Business
- *Soil Amending and Turf Management*, Michael Goatley
- *An overview of WVNLA Summer Tour*, Bill Mills
- *Good Design Better Business*, Jerry Fritz, Jerry Fritz Garden Design & Linden Hill Gardens
- *Longwood Gardens, Integrated Pest Management*, Mike Leventry ↗



Twin pool cabanas at Chanticleer Garden



Offices of the Scott Arboretum

Symposium cont.

- *Roof and Wall Garden Design, Installation and Maintenance*, Greg Garner, ELT EasyGreen, Ontario, Canada
- *The Swap Shop - last year's popular idea bank*
- *Managing Lawns to Protect Water Quality*, Michael Goatley
- *Photography-Formatting, Technology and Digital imaging*, Steve Payne
- *Awards Presentations* - the Landscape Awards entries to be displayed during Symposium and selected winners will be shown on screen when winners are announced
- *Annual Meeting*

Cost for the Symposium, which includes all snacks plus lunch on Thursday and Friday at the Summit is \$35.00 for members, \$50.00 a day for non-members. Registration may be done by calling or sending an email to the WVNLA at 304.553.1234 or wvnlassoc@gmail.com. Invitations will be mailed out to all members. As updates occur, the information will be posted on the Association's web site. Make plans to attend the most exciting Winter Symposium ever!

Also see *Speaker Sampling* on page 4



Summer Tour continued (to 400 feet the highest elevation in Delaware), the Copelands moved from formal gardens to comprehensive dedication to collect, test, and display to their maximum effect every worthy native of the Appalachian Piedmont. They leave no stone unturned to provide “magical gardens” and a model of environmentally-responsible land stewardship. Only Bill Mills’ connections got us through the gates and into another elegant meal under some stern portraits.

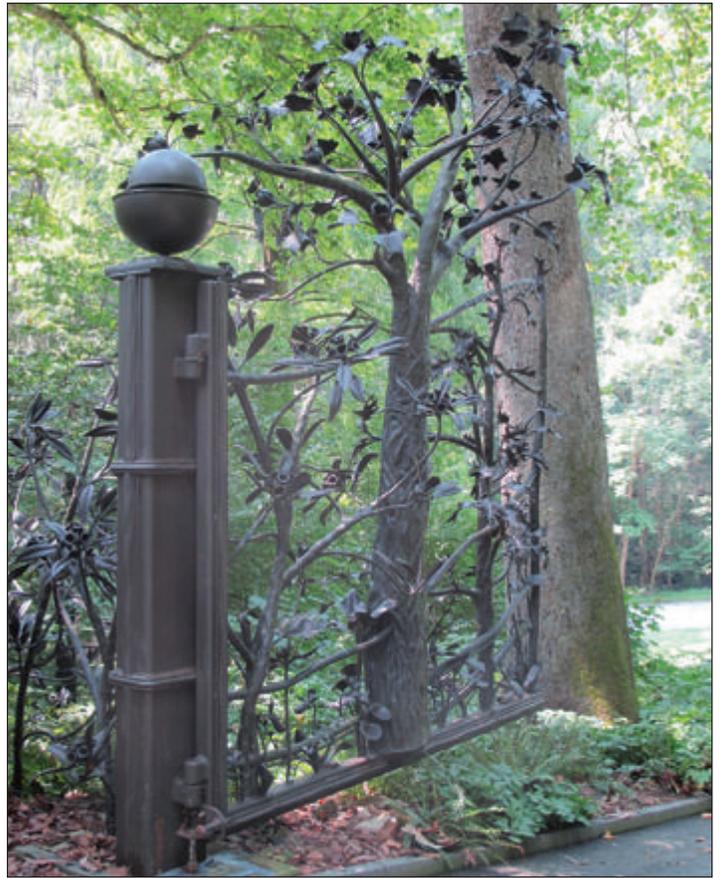
Bartram’s Garden on the other hand showed us how wanting the most important of sites can be for lack of resources. The place is the oldest botanic garden in North America and the cradle of the nursery industry. Beginning in 1728 John Bartram built a farmstead and collection of every native plant he could scour from numerous explorations along the Atlantic and up the tributaries. Four generations of the family learned how to collect, cultivate, catalog, and ship American flora to an Old World salivating for new plants. The business went under in the 1850s and the gardens became public property in the 1890s as Philly spilled outwards.

The bordering Schuylkill River became a sewer for the region but now recovers to offer a rich wetland. A railroad gouged through the property serving a cement plant whose deposits are finally covered over. The rail line now physically blocks the site from the poor neighborhood that booms a surreal background onto our tour. Undoubtedly this has just been the wrong location to attract preservationists’ investment.

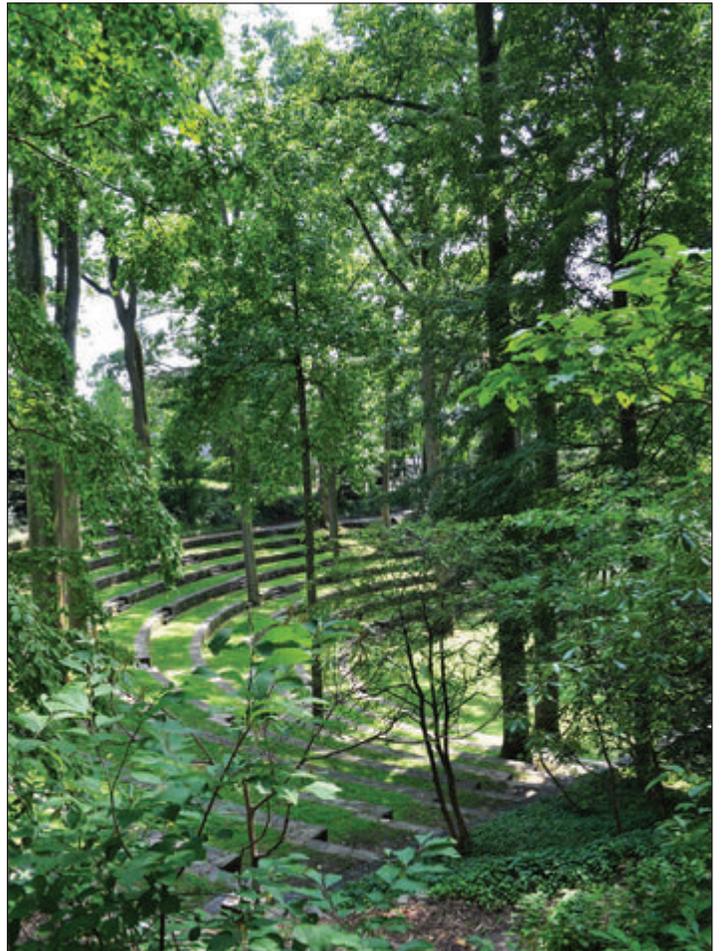
Nevertheless a hardy few have persisted for over a century encouraged by three survivors from the Bartrams’ stewardship: a massive male ginkgo, one of the three original ones imported from China in 1785; an enormous decrepit yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*) with a sizable offspring nearby; and an awesome specimen of the *Franklinia atamaha* for which John Bartram collected the seed in Georgia in 1765. He named it for his friend Ben Franklin and all existing stock descends from that moment. Within a few decades *Franklinia* disappeared in the wild.

This was one of the many illuminations that we had on the tour. Participants thank Bill Mills and the WVNLA making this experience possible.

Please note accompanying photos to the left and right.



The ironwork entry gate to Mt. Cuba Center



Scott Arboretum amphitheatre, Swarthmore College



WVNLA Selects 2012 Volunteer Project

The WVNLA Board of Directors has selected the West Virginia Botanic Garden as its 2012 Member Volunteer Project. The Association was pleased to present Linda Bagby, President of the WV Botanic Garden, and George Longenecker, Executive Director, with the \$100,000.00 pledge.

The goal of the financial commitment is to help stimulate the construction of a much-needed building on the West Virginia Botanic Garden site, located outside of Morgantown, West Virginia. Brett Merritt, past President of the Association stated, "It seems like a perfect fit, with what the WV Botanic Garden is and what it can be."

The WVNLA pledged its support to The West Virginia Botanic Garden to establish an endowed trust with part of the pledge, while part of the pledge and interest from the Trust will be accessed and utilized by the WVBG.

The West Virginia Botanic Garden, in harmony with nature, seeks to enhance the quality of life through public enjoyment and education involving inspirational landscapes and displays of a rich variety of ornamental plants appropriate to the region.

Their dream is beautifully landscaped gardens reflecting on a shimmering pond. Trails weave from bright flowering meadows into a cool, shaded woodland. Streams sparkle beneath stately hemlocks. Some visitors stand silently, resting in the splendor of the vista; others energetically explore this wonderful community resource.

Begun as only a dream in 2000, the WVBG is on its way to becoming a reality on the 82-acre former Tibbs Run Reservoir property off the Tyrone Road in Monongalia County, WV. The former 15-acre basin will be transformed into two smaller pools with islands and aquatic plant displays. The old water works, still present, will stand as a link to the past.

The WVBG will feature a large variety of plants appropriate to the region's climate and soils in both designed and natural settings. Visitors will learn from these gardens in every season of the year. Most of the land is wooded, and much will remain undisturbed except for trail construction and some plant enhancement.

Symposium Speaker Samplings

Stephanie Cohen

"Good things come in small packages" is an apt description of perennial plant expert Stephanie Cohen. She calls herself "vertically challenged" and named her own perennial place Shortwood Gardens in a tongue-in-cheek nod to nearby Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pa.

Often called "Dr. Root" in reference to Dr. Ruth Westheimer, the candid radio and television sex therapist, Stephanie shares her witty and humorous, tell-it-as-I-see-it style with the gardening world. She is author of *The Perennial Gardener's Design Primer* and *The Nonstop Garden: A Step-by-Step Guide to Smart Plant Choices*

Steve Payne

Steve has been photographing West Virginia and the eastern United States for over 25 years. His work is respected and valued by many corporate and private collectors, and his commercial photography has been featured in hundreds of publications.

In his hometown of Charleston, he is famous for his intimate portraits of people. In and out of West Virginia, Steve Payne is well known for his fine art landscape and nature photography. These "portraits" of the meditative elements of rocks, water, leaves and trees in the Greenbrier River Valley, Dolly Sods and Cheat Mountain areas in eastern West Virginia, have found homes around the world.

Steve's website www.stevepayne.com is a beautiful example of the scope of work he does and he is an early adapter of digital photography.

Matthew Urbanski

Matthew Urbanski is an American landscape architect. He has planned and designed landscapes in the United States, Canada, and France, including waterfronts, parks, college campuses, sculpture gardens, and private gardens. Collaborating with Michael Van Valkenburgh, he was a lead designer of Brooklyn Bridge Park in Brooklyn, New York, Alumnae Valley at Wellesley College in Wellesley, Massachusetts, Allegheny Riverfront Park in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Teardrop Park in New York City. In addition to his work as a designer, Urbanski is a Lecturer at Harvard's Graduate School of Design and is co-owner of a native plants nursery in New Jersey.

Jerry Fritz

A graduate of Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, ↗



Speakers cont.

Jerry Fritz puts his lifelong passion for plants and design into every garden he creates, and he never misses an opportunity to share his obsession with clients, customers, and fellow gardeners. The year 2011 marks Jerry's 22nd anniversary as the proprietor of Jerry Fritz Garden Design, Inc., and the 11th year in the development of Linden Hill Gardens, his retail nursery and destination garden located in Ottsville, Pennsylvania.

Brent Mecham

Brent Mecham, Irrigation Association industry development director, is responsible for promoting efficient irrigation technologies, products and services as they relate to standards, codes and best practices for the irrigation industry. Prior to IA, Mecham created an award winning landscape and irrigation management program with the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District which gained national recognition for the innovative ways to demonstrate best management practices that conserve and protect water resources in urban landscapes.

James Goatley Jr., Ph.D.

Dr. Goatley is the Associate Professor of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences and Extension Turfgrass Specialist at Virginia Tech University, a position he has held for 6 years. Prior to that he was a Professor in the department of Plant and Soil Sciences (Golf and Sports Turf Management curriculum) at Mississippi State University for 16 years. He also organizes and leads the sports turf educational sessions at the Virginia Turfgrass Conference.

Greg Garner

Greg sold the family farm he'd been raised on in 2003 to try a new business venture: green roofing. He learned about this new technology and made the decision to commit completely to the green roofing industry and the development of the product line ELT EasyGreen®. With his background in agriculture and business; years of perseverance and patience have resulted in a truly world class green company.

ELT has been providing green roof and living wall systems for 7 years. The World is now realizing the need for sustainable practices. Greg's goal is to provide environmental solutions in a manner consistent with conservation and sustainability. To be the vehicle with which clients can leave a legacy of environmental stewardship; a legacy for the next generation to enjoy, appreciate and protect.

Speakers cont.

Mike Leventry

Mike is the Integrated Pest Management Specialist at Longwood Gardens. He is responsible for managing pests of all indoor and outdoor ornamental plants to maximize plant health while minimizing the environmental impact. One of Mike's primary responsibilities is to track and maintain the health of Longwood's 500+ hemlock species. He has taught classes in Continuing Education for many years.

Benefits of Being a WVNLA Member

Being a West Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association member has benefits that go way beyond the list below. Our Association will continue to offer these benefits and more for members who want to be leaders in the green industry.

WVNLA Benefits:

- Free web based Landscape Safety Program
- Offers Recertification credits
- Promotes member's business worldwide through marketing and related industries
- Sponsorship of research through West Virginia University and the Horticultural Research Institute
- Acknowledgement of members accomplishments through Annual Awards Program
- Educational opportunities to members by offering cutting-edge speakers and programs
- Sponsor scholarships for horticulture and landscape architecture majors at West Virginia institutions of higher learning
- Educational Tours: arboretums, landscape centers, public and private gardens, etc.
- Increase business opportunities by collective networking
- Co-sponsor and owner of MANTS (Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show)
- Provides community commitment by member participation projects
- Sponsors American Nursery and Landscape Association
- Provides members with bi-monthly newsletter and prepares and prints the Passport Members information and services booklet
- Provides Members with a WVNLA member logo certificate indicating their participation



Recycle Plastics

East Jordan Plastics, Inc. in Michigan, is interested in purchasing your unwanted plastic. Every container they manufacture is 100% recyclable.

Companies that participate:

- reduce waste removal by keeping containers out of dumpsters and landfills
- enhance their sustainable public image
- save and make money
- close the loop on plastic horticultural containers lifecycle
- free up valuable space where you currently store unwanted tags, pots and trays

Visit their web site to learn more:

www.eastjordanplastics.com/project100

Welcome New Member

Welcome Highland Nurseries in Buckhannon. They offer nursery supplies, a perennial nursery and wholesale and retail nursery services for central West Virginia.

Highland Nurseries, Inc.

Brenda Lilly

RR9, Box 298 Buckhannon, WV 26201

Brendalilly@comcast.net

Email Addresses

We want to make it as easy as is possible to contact your organizational leaders. If you do not have email capabilities, we will be pleased to pass along any letters sent to Board members. Below are email addresses for everyone on the Board.

Patrick Biafore patrick@biafore.com

Bill Mills TerraSalis@gmail.com

Mark Springer Mark@lavalette.net

Tim Forren forrensoil@aol.com

Brett Merritt brett@gandgnursery.com

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Happy Holidays from all of us
to you and yours!

