

## President's Message

I cannot believe it is already fall. I guess this year has been so busy and challenging that I have missed summer. As I was looking through emails I ran across one from Marty Grunder and The Grow



WVNLA President  
Steve Saunders

Group, reminding me to start budgeting for 2022. This got me thinking ahead to our Winter Symposium on January 26. If you have not yet

planned on coming, you need to because you do not want to miss Marty Grunder, Rick Darke and Carol Reese. They are national speakers addressing the issues that speak to us. It really is noteworthy that a small organization such as ours is bringing in such heavy hitters.

The Winter Symposium provides a great opportunity to really interact with them in a more intimate setting than they usually appear. Plus, the price is incredible. Just \$50 (WVNLA member price) for a full day of Marty Grunder. Unheard of! He headlines huge events such as NALP (National Association of Landscape Professionals), New England Grows, and Grow!

Marty's The Grow Group website captures him better than I can: *As comfortable on stage as he is on a job site, he has delivered more than 550 talks and motivated audiences of all shapes and sizes, from a small gathering of 20 to a stadium of 9,000. Everything our*

Please see **EVENTS** on page 3.

## Biltmore Horticulture Wows Tour Group

In the late 1880s, when Frederick Law Olmstead, our country's father of landscape architecture, was laying out Biltmore in Asheville, North Carolina, owner George Vanderbilt asked him to design not only a bucolic oasis with views of the scenic Smokey Mountains but also a working estate with an eye toward preservation and management. Before Vanderbilt approached him, Olmstead had already designed New York's Central Park and Boston's Emerald Necklace. As it turned out, Biltmore would be his last and largest project. Today, Olmsted's vision still guides every plan made and species planted on the estate.

On August 27, WVNLA members and guests, and WVU professors and students toured Biltmore's grounds in the capable hands of the

estate's lead horticulturist, Parker Andes, and his colleague Bill Quade. We gathered early on a foggy morning at the appointed spot, just left of the chateaulike "house," to meet Parker, a WVU landscape architecture graduate who has been with Biltmore for more than 20 years. As he greeted us, Parker pointed to what is normally the "million-dollar view" of distant mountains that first inspired Vanderbilt to build his estate

there, but it was hidden by a bank of fog. Even the house, with its massive dimensions, could not be seen from the front lawn. Yet, the dense coverage proved to be a blessing that morning, as the temperatures would later touch the 90s.

For our tour, we split into two groups to cover the grounds more expediently. The first stop for our group was a graveled aisle along what used to be a swimming pool. This area is covered with an arbor of vining wisteria. The enormous,



The formal walled gardens dazzle with seasonal color and lead the way to the conservatory in the background.

Please see **BILTMORE** on page 2.