

WVNLA launches members garden tour series

In their slightly younger days, a group of Charleston-area garden designers and landscapers gathered regularly to tour, seek inspiration, and critique each others' work. After they'd wandered through a client's landscape (with permission, of course), they'd depart and then get back together to connect over refreshments.

"It was a great way to see each other's work and spend time together," said Tim Forren of Forren Soil. Some years later, Tim proposed to other WVNLA board members that the custom be reincarnated in Association-sponsored regional garden tours. Board members agreed and began planning the first Designers Choice Garden Tour, to be held in Charleston. The plan was for subsequent tours take place in other regions of the state.

To keep the tour group size intimate and manageable, only WVNLA members and professional associates were invited. The tour was not intended to be a large, public affair but rather an opportunity to showcase members' work to other professionals.

About 25 people attended the first tour, held on Sept. 19. Tour committee members Tim Forren, Kathie Faulknier of The Occasional Gardner, and Lynne Schwartz-Barker of Flowerscape led attendees through select gardens they had designed, answering questions as they went.

The tour started at a sunken memorial garden Kathie Faulknier designed at a downtown church. A large portion of the garden slopes down from the sidewalk to a private courtyard shaded by a

After the memorial garden, tour guests were driven to the South Hills section of Charleston to visit an estate landscape designed by Tim Forren. Surrounded by woods, the inner grounds feature



A stone path curves along a flowerbed in this garden designed by Lynne Schwartz-Barker.

"It was a very successful day for everyone involved. I spent time talking with WVNLA members I hadn't met before and also caught up with old friends. It was well worth doing." -Tim Forren

historic bell tower. Located on a busy street, the garden provides a transition to the unexpectedly quiet courtyard below. Kathie selected sturdy boxwoods and oak leaf hydrangea for the sloped garden while she packed in a lot of color along the street's sidewalk with knockout roses and lantana.

formal gardens, curving walkways, stone walls, a gazebo, and naturalized plantings tailored to enhance a gracious and sprawling white brick home.

The formal nature of this garden contrasted with the next property on the tour, which features more of an English-style garden designed by Lynne Schwartz-Barker. Lynne first began working on this garden in 2001, when her crew installed an irrigation system. Since then, she and her client have added new features nearly every year, including large screening shrubs along a busy road, a white garden, a potting shed garden, and a

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GARDEN TOUR (Continued from page 1.)

colorful border garden. This landscape was recently selected for inclusion in the Smithsonian Institute's Archives of American Gardens.

"This is a masterwork for me because of the time that we've been here and the commitment that the owner has made financially and



Attendees listen as Kathie Faulknier describes the sunken memorial garden she created on the grounds of a church.

emotionally to the garden," said Lynne. "She tells us that she feels such love being in the garden."

After a short ride out of the hills and down to the valley, attendees toured two riverside gardens, both with spectacular across-the-river views of the gleaming Capitol dome. Both of these gardens are on small lots with large houses, so Lynne planned and planted for maximum impact.

The first garden is more formal. There is no

lawn, just a mix of evergreen and deciduous flowering shrubs, with a sprinkling of summer annuals. Along the side of the house, a border of boxwoods fronted by bright annuals leads visitors to a beautiful stone patio. At the



Gates open into outdoor living space in which Kathie and her husband Brett hosted the tour's reception.

corner of the patio, a staircase leads down to a screened porch and a lower patio with great views of the Kanawha River.

Lynne designed the next, less formal garden with two large, resident dogs in mind. Featured are a dog beach, complete with sand and a red umbrella; a deck overlooking the river; colorful privacy shrub borders; and a plethora of summer annuals and lush containers.

The tour ended in Kathie's personal retreat, the gardens she created around the home she shares with her husband, Brett, and their two children. The lovely landscaping in front of the home hints at what awaits in the backyard: beautiful stone walls, terraces, and a fireplace, which Kathie designed in what was previously a tangled jungle.

"We spend all of our time out here," Kathie said, calling attention to the gracious patio and stonework, softened along the edges by well-selected plants.

After the tour, visitors enjoyed refreshments and a chance to visit and discuss the gardens



A fountain anchors the stone wall, which is fronted by formally trimmed boxwood in a landscape by Tim Forren.

they'd seen. "It was a very successful day for everyone involved," Tim said. "I spent time talking with WVNLA members I hadn't met before and also caught up with old friends. It was well worth doing."

The next Designers Choice Garden Tour is tentatively scheduled for June 2016 in Morgantown. Please keep the tour in mind as you work in your own communities. We are looking for properties designed and landscaped by WVNLA members to showcase on future tours. Reach Julie Robinson at 304-553-1234 or wvnlassoc@gmail.com with any ideas.

Officer tackles the tricky topic of invasive plants

By Doug Jolley

Plant Regulatory Officer for the West Virginia

Department of Agriculture's Plant Industries Division

Doug Jolley answers questions regarding invasive plants in West Virginia.

What defines an invasive plant?

Copious amounts of information are available on the subject of invasive plant species. Most definitions provided for the term (noxious) invasive plant species include the following components. Species of plants not found in pre-European settlement of the United States are considered to be invasive. These plants become noxious in nature when they are capable of reproducing at such high rates as to displace native plant populations and to disrupt the natural reproduction of the native populations. Noxious invasive plant species can alter the ecologies in which they proliferate and they can cause a decrease in property values if the species is one that is difficult to eradicate.

Who determines which plants are invasive?

The USDA maintains a list of Federal Noxious Weeds which follows provisions of the Plant Protection Act of 2000. Individual states maintain lists of plants designated as legally noxious also. These lists vary greatly state by state. Conservation organizations also make lists of invasive plants of concern for their own regional interest.

What restrictions exist in West Virginia?

In West Virginia, the West Virginia Plant Pest Act lists plants which are not permitted to be shipped into the state.

How are the plants restricted?

This list aims to restrict the movement of invasive plants into West Virginia via the nursery industry and by individuals and governs the shipment of plants into West Virginia. Seventeen plants have been declared noxious weeds by the WV Department of Agriculture. These plants are not permitted to be shipped into West Virginia without a permit. These plants on the noxious weed list are:

- Johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*)
- Marijuana (*Cannabis sativa*)
- Opium Poppy (*Papaver somniferum*)

- Kudzu (*Peararia thunbergiana*)
- Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*)
- Japanese knotweed (*Falopia japonica*)
- Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)
- Tartarian honeysuckle (*Lonicera tartarica*)
- Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)
- Plumeless thistle (*Carduus acanthoides*)
- Curled thistle (*Carduus crispus*)
- Musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*)
- Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*)
- Mile-a-Minute (*Polygonum perfoliatum*)
- Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)
- Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*)
- Morrow's honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrowii*).

Unfortunately, the movement of invasive plants occurs all the time. Birds and both wild and domestic animals continually distribute seed. The movement of earth, whether a small home project or large construction project, distributes noxious plants across a neighborhood or across the state. Floods, high winds and other disruptive weather events also disperse seeds and plant parts. The movement of these plants is virtually unstoppable.

Historically, some noxious invasive plant species have been introduced by the nursery trade. Two species that are widespread throughout West Virginia can be used as examples. Japanese knotweed was introduced into the United States and was used in ornamental plantings in the late 1800s. In the 1940s, the Tree of Heaven was touted as a wonderful urban tree selection.

Some organizations list popular nursery plants such as burning bush, butterfly bush and Norway maple as invasive. Also, without uniform state designations, one adjacent state may allow a plant that its neighbor bans.

What can be done about existing invasive plants?

Within the nursery industry, it is important that invasive plants not be distributed. Potted and ball-and-burlap plants should be inspected for the presence of invasive species. Fields used to grow nursery stock often harbor invasive plants and anyone tending these sites should stay alert to the presence of such plants and make every effort to keep invasive species eradicated. Familiarity with

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WVBG Welcome Center construction moves forward

By Linda Bagby

WVBG Building Subcommittee Chair

Construction of the first building on the site of the West Virginia Botanic Garden (WVBG) began on Sept. 1. The new Welcome Center is being constructed in part with materials donated from West Virginia University's PEAK solar house project. The Welcome Center will be used by volunteers and visitors to the garden, and will house public restrooms, offices, and meeting and storage spaces.

In just a month, the outline of the building had already taken shape. The excavation was dug and footings were poured in the first weeks. The concrete block foundation walls went up quickly, and the blocks of the wall that will be underground were reinforced internally with rebar and concrete, and waterproofed on the outside. The basement slab was poured, and the partition walls for the rooms in the lower level and the restrooms are in process.

The steel beam that will carry much of the load of the building above has been placed. This beam will allow us to have a spacious classroom in the lower level uninterrupted by support posts.

Now that the subfloor of the upper floor is in place, the donated parts of the solar building can be assembled on it. It will be exciting to watch that process! The upper floor will house the reception

space, which will feature a staffed desk to welcome visitors. Trail maps and other literature about the garden will be available. Visitors will be able to view a vegetated roof demonstration from the reception area. The Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust provided funding for the vegetated roof and some equipment.

If all goes well and weather permits, construction is expected to be complete in early 2016. All of us at the WVBG are extremely grateful to the members of the WVNLA for their help in making this building a reality!



The doorway (center) leads to what will be classroom space in the new Welcome Center.

INVASIVES (Continued from page 3.)

stock areas is important in keeping nursery areas plant pest free.

For retail establishments, brochures which highlight and identify invasive plants are available from some of the entities listed in the review of resources. Customers might be alerted to issues around their own homes. Landscape clients can also be alerted to invasive plant species growing on maintained properties.

Invasive plants growing in the general countryside are rarely contained. Civic and conservation organizations can help keep designated areas such as parks and public places free from invasive plants with plant eradication sessions. One issue that arises with eradication projects then becomes proper disposal of collected plants.

Is there any legislation pending in West Virginia regarding invasives?

At this time, no legislation is under consideration in West Virginia concerning invasive plant species.

The issue of how to address invasive plants is ongoing and nebulous at best. The nursery industry can be a first line of defense in the halt of invasive plant dispersal and awareness to the general public.

Resources concerning invasive plants are provided by several agencies and organizations:

USDA; NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service), USDA; Forest Service, US Department of the Interior; Bureau of Land Management; WVU Extension Service; IPM Chronicle, West Virginia Department of Agriculture, West Virginia Department of Natural Resources; Potomac Highlands Cooperative Weed and Pest Management Area.

Winterize now for a hassle-free spring start-up

The experts at LandscapeOnline and stihlusa.com offer some advice to prevent frustration when it's time to get the equipment roaring to life in the spring.

Mowers

- Empty the gas tank by running the engine until it cuts off from lack of fuel. To make doubly sure the tank is completely empty, prime and attempt to restart.
- If opting to leave fuel in the tank, add fuel stabilizer to a full gas tank and run the engine a couple of minutes. Then fill up the tank. A full tank prevents water condensation from getting in tank and keeps gaskets from drying.
- Change the oil and spark plug and thoroughly clean the engine housing.
- Clean and replace air filter.
- Change the spark plug.
- Tip the machine on its side (with the air filter and carburetor side up) to remove all the debris from underneath the unit. Clean out the grass clippings and lubricate the blade. Clean the pulleys and belts and lubricate the cables, wheels, and starter with a silicon spray to keep the unit from rusting throughout the winter months.
- Remove and sharpen the blade.

String Trimmers and Hedge Clippers

- Clean and lubricate and check for loose nuts and bolts.
- Inspect the line to ensure there are no knots or tangles, and replace the spool if necessary.

Scholarship deadline approaches

Do you know a college student who (1) is a West Virginia resident, (2) maintains at least a 2.5 GPA, and (3) has completed half of the course work in ornamental horticulture, landscape architecture, or nursery and greenhouse management? If so, be sure to tell him or her about the Marcus W. Rennix Memorial Scholarship, awarded each year by WVNLA. The deadline for the 2015 award is Dec. 1.

WVNLA awards a total of \$5,000 each year to students who apply and are chosen by our board of directors. The money is divided among the recipients. For more specifics and an application, refer students to the Scholarships page on our website (on the pull-down menu under Giving and Volunteering on the homepage), wvnla.org. Encourage them to apply soon!

- Install a new spark plug.
- Drain the fuel. Check the fuel lines to ensure they have not become brittle.

Blowers

Make sure the nozzle and engine are debris-free. Store the engine on a dry floor, or hang on a wall hook.

Tools

Maintain tools by sharpening shovels, spades, hoes and pruners; rub down wood handles with linseed oil and wipe metal blades with an oily cloth to help prevent rusting.

Important January dates to note

CPH Exam

Want to add Certified Professional Horticulturist (CPH) to your list of credentials? The CPH exam will next be offered on **Thursday, Jan. 21 at 4:30 p.m.** at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in Charleston. The exam will take place at the conclusion of our Pesticide Applicators Recertification Workshop. To prepare for the exam, order our CPH manual at a cost of \$50.

For more information, email wvnalssoc@gmail.com, or call 304-553-1234, or visit wvnla.org.

Pesticide Applicators Recertification

WVNLA will offer a Pesticide Applicators Recertification session on **Thursday, Jan. 21** at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, in Charleston. All WVNLA members attend at no charge. Registration information will be mailed to members soon.

Winter Symposium

WVNLA's 2016 Winter Symposium will be held on **Friday Jan. 22** at Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, Charleston. Details of the event appear on pages 6-7.

WVNLA's Annual Meeting

Please note that WVNLA's Annual Meeting will be held at **4 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 22** after the conclusion of the Winter Symposium at Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, Charleston. All members are encouraged to attend.

National speakers, hot topics in store at 2016 Winter Symposium in Charleston

The holiday season is rapidly approaching and the 2016 Winter Symposium is not far behind! This year the symposium, titled “Grow a Great Landscape,” will be held Jan. 22 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in Charleston. The recently remodeled hotel is easy to find on the riverfront and will provide free parking for registered attendees.

As in past years, we will offer speakers for both design and business tracks in the morning and afternoon, but we’ll convene for lunch in the ballroom. We’ll remain together for a quick session after lunch in which our own members will lead informal discussions on hot topics such as boxwood blight, the effects of downy mildew on the color industry, and the long-term climate forecast. We’ll head back to the classrooms for the afternoon sessions. This format will give attendees plenty of opportunities to mix and mingle, and exchange ideas and information.

We’ve lined up terrific speakers from across the country to address design topics such as hot new plants, garden soils, on-site design, edible ornamentals, and specialty pruning. Business-focused speakers will tackle subjects such as on-site analysis, labor challenges, social media, trends in horticulture, and how to write winning proposals.

The cost to attend the Winter Symposium is \$50 for WVNLA members and \$100 for nonmembers. Look for a mailing to arrive soon with details and registration information, or visit our website, wvnla.org, to see the day’s schedule. Following are details about our speakers and their topics, in order of appearance:

Design

“Understanding Garden Soils” by Bryce Lane

Bryce grew up in western Massachusetts, where he worked at a local garden center through high school and college. There he discovered his passion for plants and teaching others about them. Today Bryce teaches in the Department of Horticultural Science at North Carolina State University. He also produces and hosts a two-time Emmy-winning UNC TV public television show called *In the Garden with Bryce Lane*. He



Bryce Lane

holds a bachelor’s degree in plant science from the University of Massachusetts and a master’s degree in horticulture from Ohio State University

“Edible Ornamentals” by Debra Knapke, The Garden Sage

Debra is a garden designer, lecturer, teacher, and advisor in central Ohio. Debra has served on numerous public park, garden, museum, and association boards. She is also a frequent guest speaker on the WOSU radio programs *GreenScene* and *All Sides with Ann Fisher*. She holds a bachelor’s degree in speech and hearing science with a minor in vocal music performance, a master’s degree in horticulture, and a master’s degree in speech/language pathology from Ohio State University.



Debra Knapke

“On-Site Drawing” by Tres Fromme

Working nationwide, Tres’s focus is organization and site-specific public space and garden collaborations. For a decade he led planning and design at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pa. He is currently the Atlanta Botanical Garden’s landscape design and planning manager, as well as principal of



Tres Fromme

3.Fromme Design. Recently, Tres collaborated with the West Virginia Botanic Garden to set a conceptual direction for future master planning.

“Hot and New Plants” by Dr. Andrew C. Bell

As the curator of woody plants at the Chicago Botanic Gardens, Andrew is responsible for managing the development of the Gardens’ tree and shrub collections. His work includes evaluating and promoting woody plants for sustainable landscapes and studying the effects of climate change on



Andrew Bell

urban street trees. He is also an adjunct associate professor at Illinois Institute of Technology and an adjunct assistant professor at Northwestern University. Andrew holds a bachelor's degree in horticulture and landscape design from the University of Tennessee; a master's degree in botany from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland; and a doctorate in horticultural science from North Carolina State University.

"Specialty Pruning" by Tom Vasale

Tom is a retired horticulturist residing in Charleston, W.Va. He owned and operated Tom's Word Horticulture Consulting, a small design/build landscaping business, for 23 years before retiring. Prior to that, he was the director of municipal beautification for the City of Charleston, the agriculture extension agent for West Virginia University in Kanawha County, and the state horticulturist for the West Virginia Department of Agriculture.



Tom Vasale

Tom's articles have appeared in a number of magazines and newsletters, including *Fine Gardening*; *The Avant Gardener*; *People, Places, and Plants*; and *West Virginia Executive*. He has lectured for the Perennial Plant Association and numerous garden clubs and civic organizations. He holds a bachelor's degree in agriculture with an emphasis on ornamental horticulture from West Virginia University.

Business

"Avoiding Site Analysis Paralysis" and "Are Your Proposals Saying 'Please Don't Work with Us?'" by Jody Shilan

An award-winning landscape designer and former landscape design/build contractor, Jody has sold millions of dollars of design and installation work throughout his career.

Although he still does freelance design, he now uses his more than 35 years of experience to teach other landscape contractors how to increase their sales by following his unique landscape design/build/sales process. He does this through public speaking; private consulting; group workshops; and his "exclusive," members-only website, FromDesign2Build.com.



Jody Shilan

Most recently, Jody hosts *FD2B "Talk" Radio*, a weekly Internet program. Jody holds a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from Rutgers University and a master's degree in landscape architecture from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

"Finding Labor: H-2A and H-2B Employers" by Kerry Scott

Kerry is program manager for MAS Labor, the country's largest supplier of H-2A and H-2B legal guest workers, based in Lovingson, Virginia. MAS provides H-2A services in 42 states and in virtually every agricultural sector, from apiculture to viticulture. Kerry originally made farm calls for MAS, advising clients on how to stay in compliance with the highly regulated H-2A program. He is now responsible for business development for MAS and reports directly to the owners of the company. Kerry earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Washington and Lee University on an Army ROTC scholarship and served in the Army Reserve for 28 years. He earned a master's degree in international relations from Troy University.



Kerry Scott

"Landscaping on the Edge: Latest Trends in Horticulture" by Bryce Lane (See his bio on page 6.)

"Making Social Media Work for You" by Jan Bills

Jan owns and operates Two Women and a Hoe, a boutique landscape company based in southeast Michigan. The company specializes in indoor/outdoor sustainable design, consultation, installation, and organic garden maintenance. Since 2006, Jan has assisted clients with their landscape and garden needs, and shared her extensive gardening experiences through lectures, presentations, social media, and demonstrations. Jan is an Advanced Master Gardener, Certified Landscape Designer, and contributing writer for *State-by-State Michigan Gardening*. She holds a bachelor's degree in business and management and a master's degree in organizational management.



Jan Bills

WVNLA NEWS

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Dates to Note

2016

Jan. 6-8	MANTS , Baltimore, MD. mants.com .
Jan. 11-13	CENTS , Columbus, OH. cents16.com .
Jan. 21	WVNLA Pesticide Applicators Recertification Workshop , Charleston, WV.
Jan. 21	WVNLA Certified Professional Horticulturist Exam , 4:30 p.m. Charleston, WV. wvnla.org .
Jan. 22	WVNLA Board meeting , 7 a.m.
	WVNLA Winter Symposium , 8 a.m. to 4 pm.
	WVNLA Annual Meeting , 4 p.m. Charleston, WV. wvnla.org .



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