



## The Quarterly Newsletter of the Virginia Society of Landscape Designers

### Fourth Quarter October 2017

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#### **Introduction to our 2017 President- Meg French**

Meg French is a landscape designer, horticulturist, consultant and owner of Meg French Landscape Design in Virginia Beach. She graduated from Auburn University with a B.S. in Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape Design.

She moved to Virginia Beach in 1986 and worked for 10 years as a landscape designer and horticulturist for McDonald Garden Center. After marrying Bill French (owner and President of Gentle Rain Irrigation) she went on to begin her own landscape design and consulting business and also freelanced with Gentle Rain. She and Bill reside in Virginia Beach and have two adult sons.

She is a very active member and is the current president of The Virginia Society of Landscape Designers. She also is a Certified Master Naturalist and a member of The Virginia Beach Garden Club, having recently served on the horticulture committee for The Garden Club of Virginia.

She is a natural habitat and pollinator enthusiast and enjoys speaking around the state about the importance of conservation landscaping and the importance of planting natives in the residential and commercial landscape.

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## President's Message

VSLD has had an incredibly busy year to date, and it's important to stop, take a breath and consider all that we've accomplished so far, and all the exciting events still to come! We have lots to report! All of the VSLD (and many other industry related) events, are great opportunities to earn those important required CEU's by attending the events or helping VSLD by representing us manning a table at these events.

At the Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short Course (held at The Founders Inn in Virginia Beach) in January of this year, VSLD had an information table during the 3 day educational event. Tim Hess and I organized a well attended VSLD cocktail social one of the evenings in the Founders Inn "Hunt Room". A great time was had by all and it was a great opportunity to meet and network with other designers and industry professionals in the area!

On February 18<sup>th</sup>, our annual "Winter Meeting" was held at the historic Craddock Terry Hotel in Lynchburg, Virginia. Yulita Ellis (2016 President) planned a fabulous event with speaker Peggy Singleman, who is the Director of Horticulture at Maymont as well as a fellow VSLD member. Peggy gave us a wonderful talk on her practices in design and maintenance that have helped to create and maintain beautiful, sustainable, and ecologically supportive landscapes on the grounds of historical Maymont.

We've been busy at work on many VSLD fronts ever since. It's hard to believe we are 3/4 of the way through our year already! Over the course of this past spring, VSLD participated in several Scholarship Fairs and appreciated help from Brian O'Neil, Patty Adkins and Eric Gunderson in the set up, manning, and break down of our VSLD information table. We had great applicants to consider for our Annual VSLD Scholarship. This year, through the leadership of Carol Pilgrim, we awarded our \$500 scholarship to Harald Ellorina who is attending Tidewater Community College. We wish him the best as he pursues his degree in Horticulture and Landscape Design.

We had a unique opportunity to share our Summer Tour this year with VNLA (Virginia Nursery Landscape Association) on July 21<sup>st</sup>. It was a great one day event, attended by mixed group of 60 VSLD and VNLA members and we traveled very comfortably by private charter bus. The morning was spent touring 4 private residential gardens in the oceanfront area of Virginia Beach. Lunch was at Norfolk Botanical Garden to include a tram tour hosted by NBG Director of Horticulture and fellow VSLD member, Brian O'Neil. We wrapped up our day in the garden of Linda and Bill Pinkham (past owners of Smithfield Gardens). The tour was well documented by our award winning VSLD photographer, Michelle Fletcher. We are so fortunate to have her beautiful photos! Thanks to her, we will all be able to enjoy these days for years to come as we hope to make the photo transfer to Flickr in the near future. As we remember this year's Summer Tour, please keep in mind that it is rare that the average person has a chance to see beautiful and private gardens such as these. If you have not been on a Summer Tour before, or have not been in a while, you do not want to miss this in 2018!

As we look forward to our next great event, we are excited to share that Chris Coen and Shelly Arthur have been hard at work organizing a "new do" for our next Winter Business Meeting, on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. This year we are partnering with Norfolk Botanical Garden to bring you our annual "Winter Meeting" in a symposium style event. We will begin by creating a foundation of knowledge for our theme, by a talk by Carol Heiser (Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries). Her discussion will be followed by a talk and design charette taught by Thomas Rainer, landscape architect, speaker and author of "Planting in a Post Wild World". We expect this meeting to be a sold out event and seats are limited. Please do not put off getting your registration in during the

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter October, 2017

“VSLD members only” window for registration. After this, registration will open to the public. This is an event you will not want to miss!

Lastly, many thanks to Yulita for putting our Newsletter together! What a lot of news we had to get out! I hope to see you all at our Winter Meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, if not before at the Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short Course in January (Founders Inn, Virginia Beach)!!

Meg French

## **Officers for 2017**

**Past President: Yulita Ellis**

**President: Meg French**

**Vice-President: Tim Hess**

**Treasurer: Theresa Biagioli**

**Secretary: Tom Thompson**

**One Year Directors: Shelly Arthur, Anna Best**

**Two Year Directors: Jane Abbott, Penny Seay**

## **Treasurers Report**

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The VSLD has had several expenditures this year. Here is a report of our finances as of October 11, 2017. The balance is \$17,230.34. There are outstanding debts of \$24.85 for new checks, and \$500 for a sponsorship to the Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council's Turning a New Leaf Conference. After the two debts clear we will have a balance of \$16,705.49. The VSLD has ventured into the world of electronic banking with the opening of a new account with Union Bank. Our treasurer can now manage our account online as well as in person at a local branch.

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## **Winter Meeting 2018**

The VSLD Board is proud to announce that this year's educational program for the winter meeting will include nearly four hours of lecture and workshop led by Thomas Rainer (co-author, Planting in a Post-Wild World) with the assistance of Carol Heiser (VSLD member and Education Program Section Manager and Habitat Education Coordinator, VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries). Thomas will discuss his concept of plant communities and walk us through an actual design project, demonstrating how we can use plant communities to lead to better, more easily managed designs. The meeting will

be on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2018, at the Norfolk Botanical Garden in their freshly refurbished lecture hall from 9a.m. to 3p.m. After the business meeting, you are invited to explore NBG via a complimentary tram tour or on foot.

Registration will open to VSLD and VNLA members in November; you will find a registration form in the envelope with your membership renewal, and it will also be distributed by email and on the website. The Board has approved 7 CEUs for this event. Because we anticipate significant registration interest from non-members in allied professions, it is important that you get your registration in early!

### **Virginia Society of Landscape Designers Sponsorships and Events 2017**

The VSLD has over the course of the year spent our time promoting our organization through sponsorships and partnerships with other green industry organizations and events. We believe that through sponsorships we are able to promote the organization in a very cost-effective way. Here are some of the events we have participated in and sponsored during the year.

- In January VSLD hosted a “meet and greet” at the Mid Atlantic Horticulture Short Course. Thanks to Tim Hess, our vice-president, and Meg French our president, for being hosts at this event. The VSLD will be sponsors of the event in January 2018.
- On February 18, we held our annual Winter Meeting in Lynchburg at the five-star-rated historic Craddock Terry Hotel and Conference Center. VSLD’s very own Peggy Singlemann was guest speaker. She offered unique insight into how we as designers can “Meet all the Bells and Whistles, and by the way make it low maintenance.”
- On March 24, we were sponsorship partners in the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Shenandoah Valley Plant Symposium. The symposium featured guest speakers Douglas Tallamy, Will Hooker, Vincent Simone, and Ellen Ecker Ogden.
- VSLD sponsored two ads in the Virginia Historic Garden Week Book to benefit Historic Garden restorations throughout Virginia.
- We co-hosted and sponsored the 2017 VNLA Field Day and Summer Tour. The event was held at Bennett’s Creek Nursery. The two day event started Thursday July 20, followed up on Friday with garden tours of 4 private gardens in Virginia Beach, then one private garden in Norfolk along with a garden tour of Norfolk Botanical Gardens. Thanks goes out to President Meg French for organizing the summer tour portion of the two-day event on behalf of VSLD.
- On November 3, VSLD will sponsor the CCLC which will be held in Herndon. We have included a link to the registration in calendar of events.

## **2017 New Certified Members and Honorary Members**

### Certified

Jeff Howe of Windridge Landscapes, Afton

John Creery of River City Gardens LLC, Doswell

Jamesetta Walker of 1 Woman and a Shovel in Chesapeake and Four Seasons Nursery in Virginia Beach

Rufus "Butch" Rinker of Ruppert Companies, Richmond

Molly Spell Artz of Spell Garden Design LLC, Richmond

### Honorary

Enion Williams

Nanette Parsons

Chip Powell

Karen Kelly

Diane Roselius

VSLD currently has 93 certified members

**Membership renewal letters are set to go out in November.**

## **Gardens in the Benedictine Abbey- Submitted by Jane Abbott**

Garden in the Benedictine Abbey of Melk in Austria is a French classical garden that calms the soul but, at the same time holds whimsical surprises more characteristic of a Disneyland visit perhaps? Transport yourself physically or virtually to the confluence of the Melk and Pielach Rivers as they flow into the Danube in Austria. There, perched high above the rivers and the village of Melk, the Benedictine Melk Abbey stuns the visitor with its rich baroque architecture, its treasures, its music, its library, its highly decorated chapel and its many works of art. It also offers a gem of a garden as well.





4<sup>th</sup> Quarter October, 2017

Drawn by the large garden house where musical and literary events take place one enters the geometrically balanced garden by a wide gravel walkway, passing meticulously trimmed boxwoods, some of which are planted in white painted planters. Every 45 degree angle is marked by a square stone.

And then what? Who is hiding behind that shrub?



Is that a monkey hanging from the archway? Yes, it is!

Chairs and tables and comfortable benches offer a chance to relax and take in all the details.



4<sup>th</sup> Quarter October, 2017

May you be inspired to take your garden design very seriously but also leave room for humor in your work!

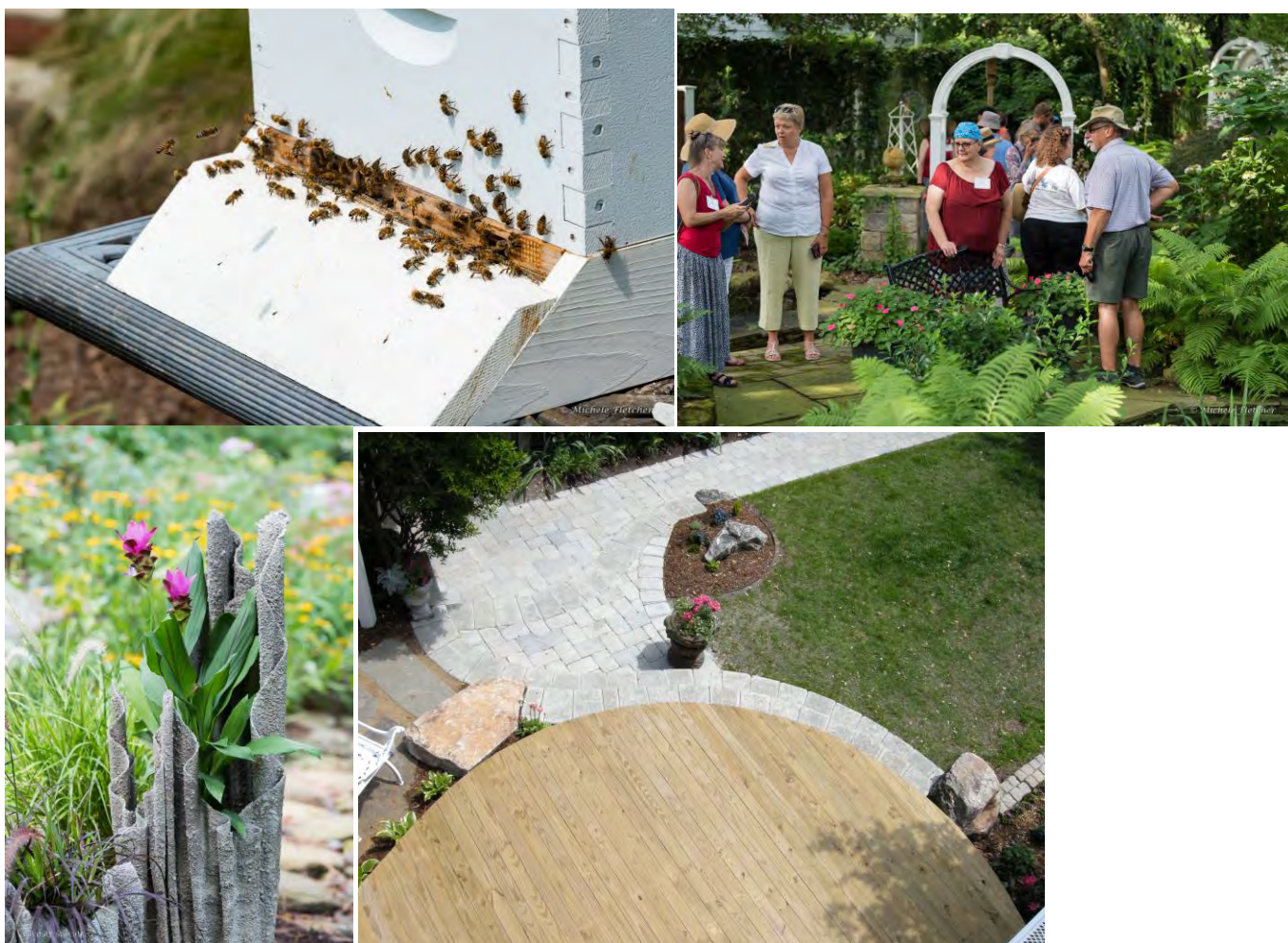
### Summer Tour 2017





4<sup>th</sup> Quarter October, 2017



4<sup>th</sup> Quarter October, 2017

If you were not there you missed a great tour!

## 2017-2018 Calendar of Events & Meetings



The Woods in Your Backyard  
Online Course - Fall 2017  
12 weeks from Aug. 30 to Dec. 3, 2017

**Learn why you should manage your land; the basics of tree identification, forestry, and wildlife habitat management; how to choose a few land management projects to meet your goals; and how to set a timetable and record your progress.**

The course cost is \$85.00 per person, which includes the 108-page "Woods in Your Backyard" guide, workbook, and a tree identification guide. Registration closes **September 4**.

The course is limited to 25 participants, so sign up now!

For more information and a course preview, go to <https://extension.umd.edu/woodland/woods-your-backyard/online-course>.

To register through Eventbrite, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-woods-in-your-backyard-online-course-fall-2017-tickets-36483147075>



Turning a New Leaf Conference  
Nov 2 & 3, 2017  
from the Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council  
<http://chesapeakelandscapes.org/new-leaf>

This conference brings together landscaping professionals, environmental nonprofits, and government agencies to exchange information and network.

[Click here for a conference schedule](#)

[Click here for a conference brochure](#)



2018 Symposium - Save the Date!  
The 2018 Land Ethics Symposium  
will be held Thursday, March 15th, 2018.

Details about speakers and registration will be available mid-December, 2017. EARN 5 CEUs!

[Click here for an overview of the 2017 symposium](#)

## **Officers & Directors 2017**

### **Officers**

#### **President**

Meg French  
Meg French Landscape Design  
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#### **Vice President**

Tim Hess  
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#### **Past President**

Yulita Ellis  
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#### **Secretary**

Tom Thompson  
Natural Art Landscaping  
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#### **Treasurer:**

Theresa Biagioli  
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### **Directors 2yr.**

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Jane Abbott  
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### **Directors 1yr.**

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## **Committees**

### **Certification Chair**

Jane Abbott  
Simply Beautiful Landscape Ideas  
(804) 355-5211  
[janeabbott@verizon.net](mailto:janeabbott@verizon.net)

### **Website Chair**

Open

### **Membership Chair**

Janet Baruch  
Greenway Gardens  
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[members@vsld.org](mailto:members@vsld.org)

### **Marketing/Social Media Chair**

Anna Best  
Samara Landscape Design  
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### **Official Photographer**

Michele Fletcher  
Michele Fletcher Landscape Designs  
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### **Recruitment Chair**

Open

### **Public Relations Chair**

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### **Scholarship Committee Chair**

Carol Pilgrim  
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### **Newsletter Editor**

Open

### **Mentorship Chair**

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**Contact us:**

**<http://www.vslld.org/contact.htm>**

