

VSLD *n e w s*



Summer 2008

President's Message



Photo Courtesy of Tiffany McCord

*Check us out
on the web at:
www.vslid.org*

Dear VSLD Members,

What a wonderful summer tour Virginia Rockwell put together for us. Charlottesville is a delightful city to visit for landscape designers. Particularly for one who believes strongly that a community should create and maintain beautiful public spaces. Our tour of the rain garden, built in place of a large asphalt parking lot, at the Union Bank & Trust branch on Barracks Road and the talk by the landscape architect who designed it was informative and inspiring. Definitely makes me hopeful to see a commercial enterprise commit to an environmental project that will help filter storm water run off to reduce pollutants in the immediate waterways as well as the Chesapeake Bay.

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Incorporating environmental principles of design in mainstream America is a slow process, as is the greening of roofs. I remember first reading about green roofs in Europe during the early 80's and thinking what a neat concept. A wonderful way to expand my usable space for plants! Twenty some years later, it seems to be making its way into American commercial and residential architecture. The summer tour stopped at a small residential development with three houses that have been built with green roofs. Each house is built using design features to capture and filter at least 60% of storm water. Several designers commented that their clients would not be happy with the weedy look of rain gardens and wildflower meadows. But perhaps it's like the world of fashion. It takes someone to set the trend in your neighborhood and others will follow.

In contrast to modern design was the stop at Ionia Farm. Established in 1770, the farm has been in continuous operation. It is a lovely piece of property with an enviable vegetable garden. Helps keep a

historical perspective on the pressing issues of the day!

Photos of the tour are in this issue and on the web. If you did not get to join us, I hope you will consider making it next year. Peggy Krapf has volunteered to organize our 2009 summer tour on the Eastern Shore. If you have any suggestions of places to visit there or useful contacts, please contact her.

Thank you Virginia, Scotty, Denise, Nanette, Tiffany and everyone else who helped with the tour arrangements. It was a successful, educational and fun tour.



Photo Courtesy of Tiffany McCord

2010 will be VSLD's 50th anniversary! The Board would like to start planning for this event by forming a committee to suggest ideas on how best to celebrate. If you would like to participate, please contact Kathy Wulf. Kathy has volunteered to update our logo. If there is a graphic artist among our members who would like to offer their expertise, please let her know. Any memorabilia from the early days would be fun to share; if you are a long time member and have something in your closet or file cabinet, dust it off!

Next week I will be touring the Pacific Northwest. It is so different from the Mid-Atlantic gardening weather. Predictions are highs in the 70s and lows in the 50s!

Keep cool,
Margaret



Treasurer's Report

Nanette Parsons
As of 6/30/08

Checking Account	\$14,710.24
Savings Account	\$ 8,077.75
TOTAL FUNDS	\$22,787.99

Secretary's Report

Jane Abbott
Membership Totals as of May 20, 2008

Associate Members	17
Certified Members	102
Honorary members	2
Liaison Members	3
Student Members	28
Total:	158

Please send any comments, articles, upcoming events, and pictures to
Tiffany McCord, newsletter editor at tsmccord@mac.com.

SAVE THE DATE
FEBRUARY 7, 2009



VSLD WINTER MEETING
GARI MELCHERS STUDIO PAVILION
FREDERICKSBURG, VA

PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US FOR
LUNCH, DESIGN AWARDS, ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

SPEAKER: LISA DELPLACE, ASLA (OEHME, VAN SWEEDEN & ASSOCIATES)



QUESTION:

If you convert from a traditional turf landscape to a waterefficient landscape through proper choice of plants and careful design, how much can you reduce your outdoor water use?

- A. 5 percent
- B. 10 to 15 percent
- C. 18 percent
- D. 20 to 50 percent

See this issue of the *WaterSense Current* or turn to page 11 for the answer.

WaterSense, a partnership program sponsored by EPA, seeks to protect the future of our nation's water supply by offering people a simple way to use less water.

The *WaterSense Current* is a quarterly update dedicated to news and events related to WaterSense
<http://www.epa.gov/watersense/index.htm>

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUMMER/FALL 2008

- August 14** VNLA ANNUAL FIELD DAY: Tankard Nurseries, Exmore, VA
Contact: 8004760055, info@vnla.org, www.vnla.org
- Aug. 14, 15** VNLA ANNUAL SUMMER TOUR: Eastern Shore Nurseries and Gardens
Contact: 8004760055, info@vnla.org, www.vnla.org
- August 21** CONSERVATION LANDSCAPING WORKSHOP & CHARETTE: TECHNIQUES FOR URBAN DESIGN (FREE)
Contact Carol.Heiser@dgif.virginia.gov or (804) 367-6989
Register by August 14 for the Aug. 21 workshop
- Sept. 10** ALL AMERICAS' HORTICULTURE FIELD DAY HRAREC ANNUAL FIELD DAY
in conjunction with the MidAtlantic Horticulture Short Course (MAHSC) Virginia Beach, VA
Contact: Dawn Alleman program@mahsc.org (757) 6470110 www.vahort.org
- Sept. 11** VINES AND GROWDCOVERS FOR RICHMOND: Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens
8:30am to 12:30pm. Vines and groundcovers add height, structure and layers of interest to the garden while providing settings for showier garden plants, so correct selection is essential to achieve the proper balance of texture and form in the garden. Instructor Beth Burrell of The Giving Tree, Ltd., reviews the use of these plants in the landscape and provides suggestions for use in our area.
- Sept. 12** TREES VIRGINIA CONFERENCE: Best Western Inn Conference Center, Waynesboro, VA
Waynesboro Plant Health Care for Urban Trees
Contact: www.treesvirginia.org 4349771375x3324 or becky.woodson@dof.virginia.gov
- Sept. 15, 18** NORTHEASTERN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY (NEWSS)
Noxious & Invasive Vegetation Management Short Course (NIVM) in Pennsylvania
Contact: 7177877204, mbravo@state.pa.us
- Sept. 19** ADVANCED VIRGINIA CERTIFIED HORTICULTURIST EXAM
at Strange's Garden Center, Richmond
Contact: 800-476-0055, vch@vnla.org, www.vnla.org/certification.htm
- Sept. 19, 20** LEWIS GINTER FALL PLANT SALE
Sept. 19, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sept. 20, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Sept. 20** THE VIRGINIA GARDEN FESTIVAL: Virginia Science Museum, Richmond, VA
9 am - 4 pm (FREE). Sponsored by the Virginia Green Industry Council
Consumer educational programs, many demonstrations, garden vendors, food and fun!
Contact: 540-382-0943, info@viriniagreen.org www.viriniagreen.org
- Sept. 20-22** FASHION IN BLOOM: Conard-Pyle Co, West Grove, PA.
Sponsored by the Garden Centers of America, Homestead Growers, Davidsonville, MD, American Horticultural Society, Alexandria, VA
- Sept. 26 - Oct. 5** STATE FAIR OF VIRGINIA
Richmond Raceway Complex, formerly known as Strawberry Hill
Contact: 8045693200, www.statefairva.org

A GLOSSARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL TERMS FOR “GREEN” RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE *Volume One*

For much of the information herein, we gratefully acknowledge references to H. Steven Dashefsky’s book, *Environmental Literacy: Everything You Need to Know About Saving Our Planet*. New York: Random House, 1993; and Wikipedia.com.

Acid rain: unusually acidic precipitation caused primarily by emissions of sulfur and nitrogen compounds that react in the atmosphere to produce acids.

Aquifer: an underground layer of water-bearing permeable rock or unconsolidated materials (gravel, sand, silt, or clay) from which groundwater can be usefully extracted using a water well.

Biodiversity: the variation of life forms within a given ecosystem, biome, or for the entire Earth; often used as a measure of the health of biological systems.

Biofiltration: a pollution control technique using living material to capture and biologically degrade pollutants. Examples include: bioswales; constructed and natural wetlands; and living walls.

Circle of Poison: refers to the sale of pesticides banned in the U.S. but exported to other countries, where they are used for crops that are then imported to the U.S. for sale in American markets, bearing pesticide residues.

Clearcutting: forest logging method in which every tree is cut, devastating the ecosystem by destroying habitat, increasing soil erosion, and increasing biospheric carbon dioxide levels.

Composting: converting organic wastes including food scraps, grass clippings, leaves, animal wastes and sewage sludge for use as fertilizer and soil conditioner. Some countries practice composting on a large scale, reducing or eliminating the need for landfills.

Conservation Districts: local organizations which protect the environmental quality of a town, city or area; authorized to assess environmental problems, set priorities, and coordinate and implement local efforts to address these issues.

Deforestation: rapid destruction of forests to make way for crops, livestock, timber and development; burning and loss of vegetation contribute to air pollution and global warming, loss of habitat, reduced biodiversity and species extinction.

Dominant Species: a single species that is so abundant that it dictates the overall characteristics of the area.

Dredging: mechanical removal and disposal of accumulated contaminated sediment at the bottom of a body of water—often further contaminating the water and the aquatic ecosystem.

Exotic Species: a non-native organism, i.e. One that is introduced into a new area, often as a biological control, with a frequent result of becoming a dominant species, displacing the habitats of native species.

Extinct: species no longer in existence; often forced into extinction when they cannot adapt to natural or human-induced changes in their environment.

Floodplain: low land along a river which is prone to periodic flooding; extent is usually classified by expected size of storm, e.g the 100 year floodplain is the extent of land that may be expected to flood during the largest storm event within a century.

Green manure: one of three types of organic fertilizers; refers to any plant that is tilled into the soil to improve fertility by increasing the amount of organic matter for the next crop—E.g. Alfalfa, ryegrass.

Green Roof: a roof with vegetative cover planted over soil or another growing medium and a waterproofing membrane, sometimes with additional layers such as root barrier and drainage and irrigation systems.

Grey Water: non-industrial wastewater generated from domestic processes such as dishwashing, laundry, and bathing, comprising 50-80% of residential wastewater.

Groundwater: water that is absorbed into the earth’s crust and stored in aquifers; although it represents only about .5 per cent of all water, it supplies at least half of all U.S. drinking water; often polluted by pesticides, leachate, and hazardous waste.

Habitat: a place, either aquatic or terrestrial, where an organism lives and its survival needs are met. *Microhabitat* refers to habitat restricted to a very small area, such as under a rock or leaf.

Hazardous waste: substances that negatively affect the health of organisms; can be chronic, causing cancer, birth defects or genetic defects gradually over time (e.g. Mercury or lead); or acute, lethal through a single large dose (e.g. Chemical plant disasters, oil spills).

Heavy Metals: natural elements such as mercury, cadmium, lead, chromium and nickel. In all, 35 are health hazards to humans and the environment. They are used in such products as paint, fungicide, gasoline, and car batteries, and the electroplating process.

Invasive Species: non-native plants or animals that have an adverse influence—economically, environmentally, or ecologically—on the habitats they come to dominate.

Leach Field: septic drain field composed of a system of underground perforated pipe, usually laid in a grid pattern, from whence it can leach into the soil.

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design): green building rating system developed by the U.S. green Building Council (USGBC), providing standards for environmentally sustainable construction.

Living Walls: walls composed of pre-vegetated panels or fabric systems attached to a structural wall or frame, functioning to cool a building’s interior, filter pollutants, and make the best use of vertical surfaces in urban areas.

Monoculture: growing vast areas of a single crop, potentially increasing the spread of pests and diseases, and reducing genetic diversity.

The Virginia Society of Landscape Designers Annual Summer Garden Tour Charlottesville, VA

The University of Virginia: The Dell



Sterba Residence in Keswick Estates



VSLD Members, associates, and friends



Union Bank & Trust

VSLD BOOTHWATCH

Autumn 2008 edition
by Chris Coen, VSLD Booth Coordinator
clarentine@gmail.com / 804-475-6767

Time to start gearing up for the fall booth appearances! As you can see below, we have several potential dates on which volunteers will be needed - one day may see both booths in action at different locations, which I believe is a first. Please do step up and help make this work for us all. Recently I queried VSLD designers who'd worked the booth for their observations. I wanted to share a few of those comments with you:

"The time that I sat the booth in Richmond I got one really great job. Even though it was in Hopewell, the client was happy to pay for travel.... Considering how far [my home location] is from Richmond, I didn't expect anything to pan out, I just liked being at the show and I liked picking the public's brain to see where they were in their wants and desires in the landscape world. What I learned from talking to people is that they really do look to us for ideas and inspiration. If ... we educate ourselves on how to create beautiful, beneficial, and environmentally sound landscapes, this is what we will be able to sell to the public. And we all win.

Back to the booth. I think it's one of our best tools for getting our name out there. For those of us who are visual learners, it works. Also, given the importance of targeting the audience in advertising, I think we're showing up at the right places."

"I like to think some of our other members have reaped the benefits by my encouraging homeowners to call a professional in their area. I hope I also have encouraged at least several landscape designers to join our organization. ... Anything we can do to promote professionalism in our field is well worth it!"

"I personally have not made any or many contacts since I work the VB booth and [my company] does not do work that side of the tunnel. I just got a roundabout contact of someone in Williamsburg who met Patty Adkins at the Gosman booth at the VB show but Patty does not go to the peninsula so she referred the customer to me. The lady wanted a master plan which I don't do since we are design-build so I referred her to Barbara Schuler for the master plan and told her we could handle any of the patio, installation, etc. when she and her husband decide what they do not want to do. So the VSLD network is alive and well. Conversely, when I get a call from VB/Norfolk/Chesapeake, I refer the person to VSLD certified members that-a-way. ... I probably do as much talking to the other non-profit booth members promoting VSLD as I do to the general public. Something to encourage other members working the booth to do."

"My experience with working the booth is that I have historically gotten one or two good leads from both the Maymont show and the Lewis Ginter plant sale when I man the booth."

VSLD is in significant part an educational organization dedicated to teaching the public why they need to hire a landscape designer, and as you can see that is a large part of what many members accomplish while working the booth. There are other reasons - making personal contacts with related industry professionals, earning CEUs, and picking up on trends in the clients' needs are all mentioned above.

When you read the list of places we expect to have the booth this fall, please keep all of these reasons for working the booth in mind, and contact me to tell me when and where you can help support VSLD by volunteering to work the booth.

September 10, 2008	Horticulture Field Day at Virginia Beach	VIRGINIA BEACH
September 19-20, 2008	Fall Plant Sale at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden ***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED***	RICHMOND
September 20, 2008	Virginia Garden Festival at the Science Museum ***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED***	RICHMOND

5th ANNUAL VSLD LANDSCAPE DESIGN CONTEST

Entry Categories

- Landscape plan / Built
- Landscape plan / Unbuilt
- Vignette / Built
- Vignette /Unbuilt
- Large scale plan /Built
(Over \$75,000)
- Members Choice
(Entries to be voted on by members attending VSLD 2009 Winter Meeting. Entries will include designs brought to meeting.)

Vignette may include any portion of a landscape design. Entries may be sub-divided into like categories prior to judging.

Judging Criteria

- Problem solving / effectiveness
- Sustainability of plant material
- Environmental impact
- Creativity and ingenuity
- Functionality
- Maintenance considerations
- Presentation
- Overall impact

Entry Requirements

1. Landscape, Vignette, or Master Plan
2. Written summary of project scope/ requirements
3. Identification of entry category (see above)
4. Identification of sketches, computer enhanced photos/ software, multimedia etc. used

DUE DATE: Postmarked on or before January 15th, 2009

MAILING ADDRESS: VSLD Design Contest
Attn. To: Scott Creery, VSLD Vice President
11128 Verdon Road
Doswell, VA 23047

Materials will not be returned and may be used for VSLD publicity purposes. It is the designer's responsibility to obtain a media release from their client. Please list the publications, newspapers, etc. where you would like a winning announcement to appear.

Awards will be presented at the 2009 VSLD Winter Meeting

Design Software vs. Hand Rendering

By Chris Coen

In case you didn't see the "In Your Own Words" article in the July issue of *Landscape and Hardscape Construction*, allow me to point you at it, as the topic of conversation this time is design software and many of those commenting appear to be landscape designers/architects. This is a topic we've tossed around in various groups for a while now. I think it was even proposed as a topic for a winter meeting at one point.

The long and the short of the "Own Words" article was that, while software does make certain tasks easier (coordinating with architects and surveyors and digital simulation of projects), there are a lot of folks still working primarily with pencil and paper whose clients are very happy to see that sort of effort and even state a preference for hand-rendering. So, if you're like me and prefer to work pencil in hand, be reassured!

Landscape and Hardscape Construction is a free, ad-supported magazine that I've been getting for, I think, two or three years now, ever since Kathy Duncan pointed it out to me. In addition to "In Your Own Words," they have articles comparing different brands of equipment and in the past have explored topics like accounting for small businesses. It's more than worth the price...which is free.

You can subscribe online at www.lcmmagazine.com, and there is a forum website where you can join in discussions on various topics or even propose one of your own (<http://lhcsite.com>).



Prince Georges County Bids Farewell to Bradford Pear

By Tiffany McCord

As Landscape Designers, we are all quite aware of trends in plant breeding. We pride ourselves in being able to pass along to our clients the newly improved such-and-such plant that will bloom longer, be more pest resistant, and never require any pruning whatsoever (let me know if you come upon this plant). We have also undoubtedly taken the opportunity to warn our clients about the impending doom of older species that have not proven their worth over time. A good example that we're all familiar with, and one which has met with some serious scrutiny recently, is the Bradford Pear tree. In the 1970's, Prince Georges County adopted the Bradford Pear (which was developed at their Glenn Dale Plant Introduction Station) as it's official county tree; now they are officially dropping it from the esteemed role.

Although the tree puts on an admirable show of white blossoms in the spring, it is more commonly noted for possessing weak limbs that break-off and cause damage to property and streets, and for being a non-native with invasive tendencies. The Bradford Pear was originally developed by scientists Frederick Bradford and Charles Creech who were searching for a fruit-bearing variety of Pear that would resist the pervasive fireblight afflicting orchards around the country. They found that the Callery Pear, *Pyrus calleryana*, was highly disease resistant but did not bear edible fruit. From this came the Bradford Pear which was thought to be better suited for the home landscape because it does not bear the thorns of the Callery Pear.

The Prince Georges County Council recognizes that the tree has fallen out of popularity for a variety of reasons, and is now considering a worthy successor.



Conservation Landscaping Tour and Training

For landscape architects, landscape designers, contractors, land planners and other professionals in the landscape design and installation field

Mark your calendar now for the
Northern Virginia Regional Tour
Friday September 12, 2008
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

We will visit several sites in **Fairfax and Prince William Counties** that illustrate the **Eight Essential Elements of Conservation Landscaping**, which include environmentally sensitive design, low-impact development, use of non-invasive native plants, and good wildlife habitat (see the entire list at www.chesapeakelandscap.org). Tour will include residential and commercial sites; Wetland Studies & Solutions and Daniel's Run Elementary are just two examples being showcased. Each site features a special speaker with technical expertise to provide an overview and answer questions. *Other Sites TBA.*



Habitat at Daniel's Run Elementary (C. Heiser)



Green Roof at Wetland Studies & Solutions (C. Heiser)

HOW TO REGISTER:

- Sign up now! Registration is limited to 50 people, first-come/first-served basis. **DEADLINE September 5.**
- Fee is **\$25 per person** and includes transportation, lunch and a folder of resource materials. Make check payable to "Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council" and put "Virginia Tour" in the memo line. **Mail registration form and check to:** CCLC Tour, c/o Christin Jolicoeur, NVSWCD, 12055 Government Center Pkwy, Suite 905, Fairfax VA 22035-5512.
- QUESTIONS? Contact:**
Carol.Heiser@dgif.virginia.gov (804) 367-6989 or
Christin.Jolicoeur@fairfaxcounty.gov (703) 324-1423



This Tour and Training is sponsored by the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, both CCLC member organizations.



The Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council is a coalition of individuals and organizations dedicated to researching, promoting, and educating the public about conservation-based gardening and landscaping practices in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The Council is committed to fostering changes in public attitudes and the implementation of practices that result in a cleaner, healthier and more beautiful environment benefiting residents and the region's biological diversity. Visit us on the web at www.chesapeakelandscap.org

MEMBER BULLETIN BOARD

CLASSIFIEDS

Drawing board for sale! Top is Three by Five Feet, metal legs, includes cover and chair and florescent light. Supply draw and drawing draw. Tilt top and Parallel bar. \$350.00 Call Diana in Williamsburg, VA 757-229-4368

NOTABLE NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barbara Schuler of Creative Garden Design had an article published in *American Nurseryman's* July 15 publication. The article was titled Water Garden Design Considerations.

VSLD IS IN NEED OF AN UPDATED LOGO! If this inspires your creative fancy, please submit ideas to Kathy Wulf at kathy@gardensbygreenleaf.com. The new logo will be unveiled for our 50th anniversary. You may submit your ideas in any format that you like, however, working digital files (jpg, tif, pdf) are preferred.

We are fortunate to announce one of the premiere events for the new book *Remarkable Trees of Virginia*, authored by **Nancy Ross Hugo** and **Dr. Jeffrey Kirwan**, with striking photographs by Robert Llewellyn. On October 30, Nancy Ross Hugo will speak on the project that led to the creation of the book, to be published this fall by the University of Virginia Press. The lecture will highlight an exhibit of photographs from the book. Coauthor Jeffrey Kirwan and photographer Robert Llewellyn will also be present, and books will be available for purchase and signing. \$30 members / \$40 nonmembers includes dessert.

To register, call 804-262-9887 ext. 322.

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

6:30 to 8:30pm

OBITUARY

Sheri Russell passed away early Saturday morning, June 28, 2008, leaving behind a life full of love, laughter, and adventure. Cherishing her memory are her children, Allen and Elizabeth Hatzimanolis of Richmond; her mother, Marian Hutchens Daniels of Richmond; her father, Dale A. Russell and his wife, Kay, of New Kent; her brother, Wayne Russell and his wife, Kathy of Charlottesville; her nieces, Holly Russell Millstein of McLean, Emily Sides of Charlotte, Lynn, Laura, Beth, Charlotte, and Hannah Russell of Charlottesville; her nephew, Caleb Russell of Charlottesville; and her stepsister, Denise Daniels DiLello of Richmond. Sheri earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1975 from the College of William and Mary. After graduation and traveling around the country, she worked as a photographer for Houston Home and Gardens. Sheri, a Realtor with Long and Foster, listed and sold residential real estate in the Richmond area for over 20 years. She enjoyed meeting clients, introducing them to the city she loved, and helping them find a new home. She felt fortunate to be surrounded by colleagues who became friends and shared a community. Sheri followed her passion for plants by attending classes at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens and obtaining a Certificate in Landscape Design from George Washington University. Sheri was a member of the **Virginia Society of Landscape Designers**, The Westham Garden Club, and St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Sheri loved laughing with her family and friends, and is sorry to leave the party early. The family requests that memorials be sent to The Maymont Foundation, 1700 Hampton Street, Richmond, Va. 23220; or Central Virginia Foodbank, 1415 Rhoadmiller Street, Richmond, Va. 23220.

Published in the Richmond Times-Dispatch from 6/29/2008 - 6/30/2008

ANSWER FROM PAGE 2:

Converting from a traditional turf landscape to a waterefficient landscape through proper choice of plants and careful design can reduce outdoor water use by 20 to 50 percent.



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