



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

### Fall 2015

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### **President's Letter:**

Oct. 2015

I just got back from Chesapeake, Virginia, delivering the VSLD's popup display and a bunch of scholarship applications to Meg French and Brian O'Neil so that they could attend a scholarship fair at the Chesapeake campus of

Tidewater Community College on behalf of the VSLD. As I walked the aisles of the fair looking for our table, I was struck by the "heavy hitters" who also had tables set up – government agencies from the DOD and NASA to large companies like BB&T to smaller organizations like ours and a few other non-profits, I was struck by a few thoughts. First and foremost, I realized how grateful I was to Meg and Brian for volunteering to man our display and save us the embarrassment of being THE empty space in a room full of the other organizations present. Second, we need to really think about either doubling the amount of our scholarship or creating a second one so that we don't look like a bunch of pikers. Lastly, we need more people to volunteer and be active in our organization.

The first two are easy to take care of. Thanks to Meg, Brian, and Patty Adkins for their time contribution at the scholarship fair. It's not an easy thing to give up half of your weekend after a long week of work. The three of you bailed us out and I appreciate it.



Diospyros kaki 'Saijo'

Photo by Helen Janele

I can bring the matter of the scholarship dollars up at the next board meeting, and maybe we can scrounge a few more dollars up from

another budgeted source. Perhaps we can pull from the money we used to spend on events like the State Fair and home and garden shows--the places where we used to set up our display to promote our organization and profession. We don't do those anymore because we couldn't staff them. So, we might as well give the money we used for those events to further the education of an energetic, excited horticulture student or two.

I'm more than a little bummed about the level of volunteerism in the VSLD. However, I don't know what to do about it. We can always stop showing up and having a display at any event if the membership doesn't want to spend the time to man those displays. I've manned them a couple of times and it can be boring. I can/could always find something else I would rather be doing. I always figured time donations came along with being in a small organization. The real problem we're facing with respect to volunteerism is getting enough people to fill all of the VOTING spots on the board and finding at least two people to coordinate next year's Summer Tour.

Summer tour to your liking this year? Katie made sure we went out of state this year since that was one of the things y'all requested. The tour went to public and private gardens, stopped at some places where we could spend money, eat well and somebody else did all the driving. It didn't really cost that much either. By all accounts, it ran quite smoothly. That didn't just happen, folks. We are now officially behind in the planning for next year's tour, if there even is one. I suppose the Summer Tour could always go the way of the Design Contest. We're looking for at least two volunteers to coordinate it. And then there is the Board of Directors.....

There are nine voting board members - president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, past president and four directors. As I write this we need to fill spots for vice-president, secretary, treasurer and three directors – 66% of the board. Katie Sokol will be contacting

some of y'all in the near future, if she hasn't already, or you can just step up and volunteer and save her the search.. We also have a few essential committee chairs open which we really would have a difficult time functioning without, but the biggies are the voting positions. The people who fill those positions are the ones who are tasked with conducting Society business – without them, the VSLD ceases to exist. Like Article XII of the bylaws cease to exist. Yeah – holy \*\*\*\*!

So what do you say? Being on the board isn't so bad – it only lasts for two or three years, and you get a free lunch every time you attend a meeting. In fact, I like/liked the lunches so much I went back for another term last time. Well, truth be told, the lunches really aren't THAT good. As for the Summer Tour – did you know that if you volunteer to coordinate it YOU get to choose where we go? Within reason. Something to think about, isn't it?

Tom Thompson

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **VSLD 2016 Board Openings**

We have quite a few openings for the upcoming year so please consider volunteering. The board meets 4 times during the year, usually in the Richmond/Charlottesville area. Mileage reimbursement is available in excess of 50 miles and lunch is included. Meetings typically run from 10 am to 2 pm. Please contact Katie Sokol, Past-President, 540-742-3306 or [downriverlandscapedesign@gmail.com](mailto:downriverlandscapedesign@gmail.com) if you are interested. Positions will be voted on at the 2016 Annual Winter Meeting held in late February. A full list of officer duties can be found on the VSLD website.

### Board of Directors - (3) Two year terms are available

- Contribute new ideas to grow and stimulate VSLD
- Assist where needed
- Attend board meetings/vote

### Vice-President

- Stand in for the President when the President is unavailable (in the absence of the President, shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Board of Directors. He/she shall perform such other duties as usually pertained to the office of President)
- Attend board meetings / vote

### Secretary

- Take notes of board meetings (shall keep the records of membership and the minutes of the meetings of the Society and the Board of Directors. He/she shall issue notices of all meetings of membership and the Board of Directors and any other notices required by this Constitution and By –Laws. He/she shall perform such other duties as usually pertain to that office and such as may be assigned to him by the President or the Board of Directors)
- Send out mass email to membership when needed
- Attend board meetings / vote

### Treasurer

- Meetings
  - › Attend quarterly Board meetings – Treasurer is a voting position
  - › Give Treasurer's Expense and Income Report at Board meetings
- Check Book
  - › Make deposits – membership dues,

summer tour registrations, winter meeting registrations.

- Collect funds payable to the Society and disburse the same on order of the Board of Directors, keeping proper records of all receipts and disbursements.
- › Write checks for VSLD expenses

### LANDSCAPES 2015 Reminder:



**[Formerly PLANET's Green Industry Conference]** is to be held in Louisville, Kentucky, October 21-23, 2015. Please visit the website at <http://landscapesconvention.org> for more information about the event.

WEBSITE: <http://bit.ly/nalplandscapes>

CONTACT: Joan Haller

EMAIL: [events@landscapeprofessionals.org](mailto:events@landscapeprofessionals.org)

TEL: 800-395-2522

### Winter Meeting - Save the Date! February 20, 2016

CitySpace, 100 5th Street NE (on the pedestrian mall), Charlottesville

Mark your calendars for our annual business meeting and educational event! On Saturday, February 20, Lauren Fisher - an associate landscape architect with Sandy Clinton's firm, Clinton & Associates - will present a lecture on garden transformation and the role of exterior decoration. We'll have a catered lunch and get to catch up with each other, as well as elect our association's officers for the coming year.

Lauren Fisher is an Associate Landscape Architect with Clinton & Associates, PC. She received her Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree from Virginia Tech, where she minored in Horticulture. She has taken projects from concept, through construction



documentation, to built work. Her portfolio encompasses a wide range of residential and commercial scale work. Lauren's expertise and appreciation for horticulture and passion for detail-driven design are reflected in every project. She currently serves as the project manager and general contractor for the firm's residential garden projects, creating valued relationships with each client.

In addition to Lauren's extensive design documentation, construction administration, and contracting experience, she specializes in garden ornamentation & décor, providing exterior decorating services to commercial and residential sites. Her keen eye for proportion, texture, and color create whimsical seasonal installations for container gardens and inviting furniture vignettes that encourage users to linger just a little longer. Working closely with manufacturers, distributors and artisans from across the globe, she helps to create comprehensive, site-appropriate furniture and planter packages. And her hands-on approach to seasonal decorative displays emphasizes her years of experience and enthusiasm for floral design. The final product creates intimate gathering spaces and enlivened and vibrant streetscapes.

Firm description Link: <http://www.clinton-la.com>

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## MID-ATLANTIC HORTICULTURE SHORT COURSE

**January 19 - 22, 2016**

Virginia Beach, VA — The Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short Course is "Back at the Beach" for 2016! Save your sun-cream, but mark your calendars for January 19 - 22, 2016, to arrive at our resort destination: [the Founders Inn & Spa in Virginia Beach, Virginia.](#)

Simply put, MAHSC is the best value for your training dollar. Serving 15+ professional organizations as a

continuing education credit source, your certifications remain valid after you double or triple dip into our CEU buffet. Registration starts at \$120 which includes 6.5 hours of CEUs every day, plus you can add Lunch & Learns or Workshops for extra CEUs daily. Dynamic educators reveal how to maximize your efforts, present new techniques for plant health, teach the basics like botany & soils and showcase technical or chemical advances for all aspects of the Green Industry. Three days of industry-specific tracks will get your staff primed for a productive & profitable year. Register online from mid-October. Groups of 10+ employees save an additional 10%.

### 2016 INVITED SPEAKERS

**Pam Beck**, Garden Writer, Lecturer, Photographer  
**Linda Chalker-Scott**, Extension Urban Horticulturist, Author, University of Washington  
**Bernie Erven**, Emeritus, Human Resources & Management, Ohio State University  
**Billy Goodnick**, Landscape Architect, Author, Santa Barbara, California  
**John Kartesz**, Director, the Biota of North America Program  
**Danielle Pieranunzi**, Sustainable SITES Initiative, Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center  
**David McCall**, Turfgrass Specialist, Virginia Tech University  
**Thomas Rainer**, Landscape Architect, Teacher, Writer, Associate Principal, Rhodeside & Harwell  
**Vincent Simeone**, Horticulturist, Lecturer, Planting Fields Arboretum  
**Douglas Tallamy**, Entomologist, Professor, Author, University of Delaware  
**Claudia West**, Horticultural Consultant, Author, North Creek Nurseries  
**Eric Wiseman**, Urban Forestry, Virginia Tech University

### HORTICULTURE SKILLS IN SPANISH

(FOR SPANISH SPEAKING STAFF MEMBERS):

**Día de Habilidad en Horticultura en Español**

(Monday Jan. 18 - pre-conference event)

### SPECIALTY WORKSHOPS (IN DEVELOPMENT)

Pest Insect ID, Beneficial Insect ID, Herbaceous & Woody

Plant Propagation, Standard Bonsai, Kusamono Bonsai, Selling a Living Lawn-less Landscapes, Office Skill Stretchers

### CONTINUING EDUCATION AVAILABLE FROM THESE PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (PENDING APPROVAL):

- American Society Landscape Architects (LA CES™)

- ☐ **Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD)**
- ☐ **Certified Nurseryman** (or state equivalent)
- ☐ **Crew Manager and Advanced Crew Manager**  
(a Virginia Horticultural Foundation program)
- ☐ **Golf Course Superintendents' Assoc. of America (GCSAA)**
- ☐ **International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)**
- ☐ **Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute (ICPI)**
- ☐ **Irrigation Association (IA)**
- ☐ **National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA)**
- **North Carolina Board of Landscape Architects (NC BoLA)**
- ☐ **Pesticide Recertification** (*Mid-Atlantic states + DC*)
- ☐ **Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS)**
- ☐ **Professional Landcare Network (PLANET)**
- ☐ **Virginia Certified & Adv. Horticulturist (VCH & VACH)**
- ☐ **Virginia Dept. Professional Occupational Regulation**  
(registered Virginia Landscape Architects)
- ☐ **Virginia Dept. of Conservation & Recreation's**  
**Certified Nutrient Manager Program**
- ☐ **Virginia Society of Landscape Designers (VSLD)**

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<http://www.mahsc.org> or email: [info@vahort.org](mailto:info@vahort.org)

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## **Summer Tour-2015 Report**

### **Better the Second Time?**

by Chris Coen

You might think that, having already seen a garden - having spent a long visit prowling its hills and ponds, its garden rooms, its overlooks and secret nooks - you would not gain much by going back again to that same garden. This year's summer tour demonstrated, however, that if a single visit is a snapshot, a return visit can be an IMAX movie.

We revisited several gardens we'd seen about ten years earlier: Chanticleer, Charles Cresson's Hedgleigh Spring, and the Scott Arboretum at Swarthmore College. Ten years in the life of a garden, especially ones long-established like these three, can seem like the blink of an eye. Trees get bigger, shrub borders mature, but the bones of the garden remain essentially the same. On that first visit, what we saw was the surface of the gardens. It takes time to see down to a garden's bones.

We rarely have enough time on tour to really absorb that structure, so I was really pleased to come back.

Because we had been there before, the changes in the landscapes stood out more clearly. Cresson's garden had weathered the blow-down of a massive tree which once anchored the garden near the house. His landscape is becoming more like that of a sun lover while still honoring the period of its birth. Swarthmore lost some trees, too; saplings have sprung up in the amphitheater in the very hollows of fallen giants.



Swarthmore Amphitheater Photo: Chris Coen

At Chanticleer, a brand new garden will soon traverse a steep hill that I remember winding down my first visit, losing track of my location in relation to the house and the rest of the landscape. The new garden will visually strengthen the connection between the house and the garden rooms at the far edge of the property, but a visitor still will wind past ponds and up gravel-strewn pathways to the ruin.





Chanticleer Ruin

Photo: Chris Coen



Kathy Brooks and friends

Photo: Kathy Brooks

Mt. Cuba Center displayed a giant wind vane in the shape of a samara.



Chanticleer's Rotating Samara Sculpture

Photo: M. Fletcher

Chanticleer played repeatedly with scale; the path below the ruin garden is graced by a pair of enormous acorns like those from the oaks which were planted when the house was built.



Swarthmore Adirondack Chairs Photo: Michele Fletcher





Chanticleer Acorns

Photo: Chris Coen

Every year they lay out a different agricultural species in a long, winding ribbon (the Serpentine) which connects many of the smaller garden rooms, a riff on farm fields that has highlighted the architecture of plants like sorghum, artichokes, and barley.

The ways in which scale affects how we react to a space was made even more clear in the residential gardens we saw. In Andrew Bunting's garden, excess and exuberance created an almost overwhelming entryway

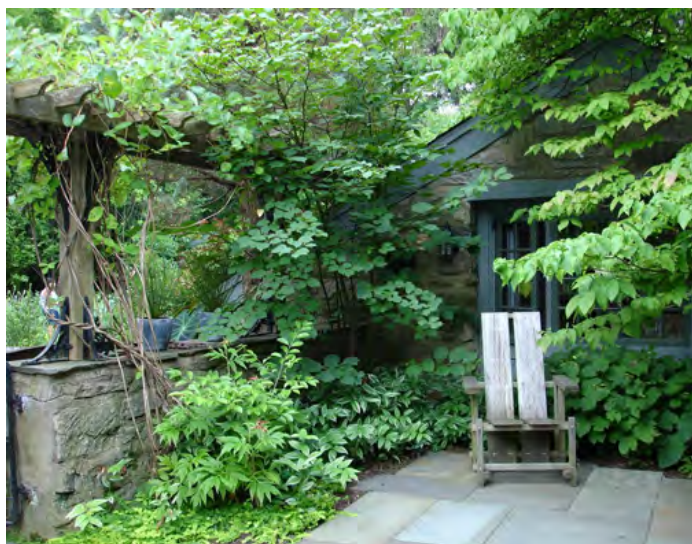
The Jabco/Henderson garden's more unified, restrained colors, however, made for a calming, restful experience



Jabco/Henderson Front Entry

Photo: Chris Coen

(in addition to introducing me to a new favorite plant, *Daucus carota* 'Dara').



Bunting Garden- Swarthmore

Photo: Chris Coen



Daucus carota 'Dara'

Photo: Chris Coen

We were fortunate to have great weather, a patient and talented driver, and enough



volunteers to make it all a memorable experience. I am very much looking forward to the tour for next year that's being planned right now. I'm sure it will be every bit as much fun!



Shellenbarger Bowl Garden- Delaware Photo: Chris Coen



Entrance to Shellenbarger Bowl Garden Photo: H. Janele

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## Report on Statewide Scholarship Fair

Tidewater Community College, Chesapeake Campus

Saturday and Sunday Sept. 26-27, 2015

by Susan Kappel

Brian O'Neil, Patty Adkins, and Meg French generously volunteered to man a booth for VSLD at the Scholarship Fair. The fair organizers estimate 3200 high school and college students attended over both days. Meg and Brian both report that they spoke to many students about careers in Horticulture and Landscape Design in particular. Meg felt that it was well worth the effort and that having two people there on Sunday was better-more contacts!

We hope that this will attract more applicants for our scholarship as well as some new student members. And please consider adding a little bit to your membership check towards the scholarship fund. We have not gotten the full \$500 funded for the last several years. And maybe you can help us with this outreach next year!

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Chanticleer Tea Cup Garden Photo: H. Janele



## Treasurer's Report -Susan Kappel-

Third Quarter

7/1/2015 through 9/17/2015 (Cash  
Basis)

Category	7/1/2015- 7/31/2015	8/1/2015- 8/31/2015	9/1/2015- 9/17/2015	OVERALL TOTAL
[Income]				
Application Fee	0	25	0	25
Other Income	1,604.00	0	0	1,604.00
TOTAL [Income]	1,604.00	25	0	1,629.00
EXPENSES				
Advertising (Business)	71.9	0	0	71.9
Postage and Delivery (Business)	0	18.46	0	18.46
Printing and Reproduction (Business)	0	116.94	0	116.94
Summer Tour Expense	3,875.44	0	0	3,875.44
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,947.34	135.4	0	4,082.74
OVERALL TOTAL	-2,343.34	-110.4	0	-2,453.74

	\$15,608.9
Begin Bal- 6/30	5
	\$13,155.2
End Bal- 9/17	1

<b>Summer tour-</b>	
income	\$10,624
expense	\$10,385
	\$239

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**FOR A DISTINCTIVE INFORMAL-LOOKING ROSE GARDEN FEATURE SINGLE-FLOWERED KINDS.** A problem with big, blousey double rose blooms is that they can look over-bred and un-natural, looking best in

formal gardens. A second problem is that the plant's reproductive parts are crowded out by layers of petals so they are of little value to bees and butterflies. By switching to plants with single blooms (usually with five petals) you

will not only help these creature find food, but you will turn your garden into a more natural-looking sanctuary.

Single roses are mostly associated with shrub-size plants, mounded in form a mounded plant like 'Betty Prior', but singles can vary in height to become climbers (such as the extremely aggressive yellow 'Mermaid') and low-spreading varieties like the white cluster-flowered *R. wichureana*. Here are some of the best single-flowered varieties, most of them heirlooms and many with the bonus of a sweet fragrance: 'Altissimo' is a climber rising to 8 ft., displaying large deep red flowers up to 4 inches across. 'Austrian Copper', or *R. foetida* grows to 5 ft., covering itself in 1 inch copper-colored flowers unlike anything else in the rose kingdom, and serving up a beautiful rose hip display in the fall. 'Autumn Delight' is a hybrid musk, with 1 inch orange flowers. 'Ballerina' is a repeat flowering bushy plant bearing generous clusters of pale pink 1 inch flowers. Harison's rose (*Rosa harisonii*) is a splendid early-flowering yellow shrub-like rose, commonly called the yellow rose of Texas. 'Frau Dagmer Hastrup' is a rugosa, drought tolerant, fragrant and salt tolerant, producing 3-inch pink flowers up to 3 ft. high. 'Golden Wings' is a glorious yellow shrub, growing to 6 ft. high, with 5 inch flowers. 'Mermaid' is a hybrid bracteata, growing to 25 ft. high with soft yellow flowers that are best restricted to zones 7-10. 'Mutabilis' is distinctive in that its flowers change color, opening yellow, turning bright pink and then red. The 3 inch flowers are fragrant into the bargain. Restrict this charmer to zones 7-10. 'Marguerite Hilling' is a sport of 'Nevada', growing to 5 ft. with large bright pink flowers up to 5 inches across. 'Nevada' grows to 5 ft. high, popular for planting beside a pond or stream so its long canes arch out over the water, studded with 5 inch flowers. 'Sally Homes' is a repeat flowering shrub rose regarded by many rose growers as the best of all single-flowered roses because it holds its enormous flowers in clusters with up to 40 4-inch flowers on a single branch. Plants grow to

7 ft. high and are best displayed so the long canes can cascade over a balcony.

A good place to see most of these recommended varieties is Roses of Today and Yesterday, located at Watsonville, California. Also, visit their website: [postmaster@rosesofyesterday.com](mailto:postmaster@rosesofyesterday.com).

Very new to the scene is a series of single-flowered roses called the 'Sweet Spot' series, introduced into the US by Anthony Tesselaar. These have 2 inch cup-shaped flowers with contrasting eyes. It is a repeat-flowerer. The first four are 'Calypso' (a pink with mahogany center), 'Peach', 'Ruby' and 'Yellow'. They are a completely new rose category developed by using a wild Persian rose, mostly bi-colored or tri-colored and especially good to grow in containers close to a deck or patio so their striking colors can be admired to best advantage. —permission to reprint from *The Avant Gardener* August 2015

## Quotable

By Chris Coen

"Part building, part furniture, part recreational folly, [these giant wooden megaphones are] meant to focus visitor attention on the smallest acoustic details of the site—rainfall, branches brushing against one another in the breeze, distant footsteps, thunder."

Imagine an octagonal, flared cone – a megaphone – made of wood, large enough to provide both seating and entertainment as it amplifies sound gathered from the landscape it's placed into. It is at once **of** the landscape and **in** the landscape. This is garden art at its finest, I think.





Tõnu Tunnel Forest megaphone

What's the best piece of garden art you've ever seen?

(Original story at <http://bldgblog.blogspot.com/2015/09/forest-megaphone.html>; the installation they're describing is at the Pahnhi Nature Center in Estonia. Now **there's** a garden tour I wouldn't mind making!)



## Lewis Ginter Report

By Kay Moore

Kay says Lewis Ginter staff worked overtime to host the International Bike Race in Richmond this September and now is taking some downtime. She has nothing to report except to share the excitement of the race with us in photo format.





trends and philosophy regarding the environment, more property owners are hoping to get it right the first time. We all know what a strong role the economy plays on property owner's decisions to hire a true professional. These reasons alone may or may not help us in our endeavors to connect with new clients.

My plea to you all and my reasons for writing this (my first article ever), is to emphasize to all of our membership the importance of volunteering your time to help keep this organization strong and relevant. I foresee in the future the advantage, that we as professional designers; may have in being sought out by homeowners. These homeowners may be required by HOA's and local government agencies to have a professionally designed landscape plan. As government regulations will dictate to property owners how they will be responsible for the property they own and the manner in which their rainfall is managed, the burden and responsibility will be placed on their shoulders to fulfill those requirements. If homeowners and builders do not know how to do this, they will turn to someone who does. This is how our credentials will come into play.

The VSLD needs a strong membership. We need an active membership. We need YOU. As your Vice-President, I write this article to reach out to you; and ask you, to ask yourself "Just how important do you think you are?" More importantly how important and relevant do you want the VSLD to be? Please become an active member and volunteer your time to help us grow and strengthen our organization.

Sincerely,  
Yulita Ellis

## Just how important do we think we are?

We have all seen them, really bad "professional" landscape designs and installations. So, let us ask ourselves: what can we or what should we do to decrease the number of these really bad designs? First of all, we should continue to promote true professionalism by continuing to improve our own skills. Secondly, we should continue our membership in this, our own professional organization--the VSLD--which supports and promotes us as professionals. Lastly, we should offer our input, share our knowledge, and volunteer our time to help keep our organization strong and relevant. This is what we can and should do to reduce the number of really bad landscapes we pass by on a daily basis.

More and more, due to changes in trends, philosophy, technology, and the economy, we are challenged to maintain our status as needed and reliable sources of professional landscape design service providers. As technology changes so, does the ability to access digital technology which supposedly allows homeowners to "design" their own landscapes. What may seem like a really great design, when examined by a professional, may actually be an awful design. With changes in



## 2015-2016 Calendar of Events & Meetings

October 8–11, 2015

2015 APLD International Landscape Design Conference, Washington, DC  
Saturday Garden Tour of MD and Sunday Garden Tour of VA Piedmont,  
[http://apld.org/\\_media/2015DC\\_ConferenceRegForm.pdf](http://apld.org/_media/2015DC_ConferenceRegForm.pdf)

October 13, 2015

Ecological Landscape Alliance Webinar  
“Natural Swimming Ponds: Beauty, Recreation and Habitat with no Chemicals”  
5–6 PM, Cost for non-ELA members: \$10  
Contact Penny Lewis, 617-436-5838 or email: [ela.info@comcast.org](mailto:ela.info@comcast.org)/  
<http://www.ecolandscaping.org>

October 21–23, 2015

LANDSCAPES 2015, Louisville, KY  
<http://bit.ly/nalplandscapes>

Contact Joan Haller at [events@landscapeprofessionals.org](mailto:events@landscapeprofessionals.org) or Telephone at 800-395-2522

November 12, 2015

Dinner and Preconference Screening of New Documentary Film on Conservation Landscaping  
Sheraton Baltimore; Towson, MD  
<http://www.chesapeakelandscape.org>

November 13, 2015

Turning a New Leaf Conference, Sheraton Baltimore; Towson, MD  
Creating Landscapes that Work with our Natural Resources  
<http://www.chesapeakelandscape.org>

January 19–22, 2016

Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short Course, Founder's Inn & Spa,  
Virginia Beach, VA  
<http://www.mahsc.org> or email at [info@vahort.org](mailto:info@vahort.org)

February 20, 2016

VSLD Winter Meeting, City Space; Charlottesville, VA  
Garden Transformation and Use of Exterior Ornamentation  
Registration Form on VSLD Website

Fall 2016

Gillette Forum Returns



Bromeliad at Jeff Jabco's Residence in Swarthmore, PA

Photo: Helen Janele

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## **Officers & Directors 2015**

### **Officers**

#### **President**

Tom Thompson  
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#### **Vice President**

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#### **Past President**

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## **Committees**

### **Certification Chair**

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### **Website Chair**

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### **Membership Chair**

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### **Interim-Marketing/Social Media Chair, Official Photographer**

Michele Fletcher  
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[Michele **still** looking for replacement]

### **Public Relations Chair**

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### **Scholarship Committee Chair**

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### **Newsletter Editor**

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