



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Virginia Society of Landscape Designers

Summer 2012

President's Letter: Summer Tour and Other Things

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Thanks to everyone who attended this year's summer tour, and to those of you who couldn't attend, we missed you. And you missed some pretty interesting sites and lectures too. We ate and drank like tourists at the luau Monday night and sweated like

investment bankers at an SEC investigation on Tuesday, while visiting the Capitol grounds, a green roof (at noon, in Richmond, in July), and an urban farm with ONE shade tree in Manchester. We caught a break temperature-wise on Wednesday, and were treated to three residential gardens- each with their own distinct (and wildly different) styles. You should have been there!

Which brings me to a related topic.... During the registration period for the summer tour, I received a few calls and emails from members inquiring as to whether they could attend one or two days but not all three and pay for only those days/events that they attended. The board discussed this last year and came to the conclusion that instituting an "a la carte"

registration process would add a level of complexity that would make life pretty tough on the person running the tour. I might ask the board to revisit this policy, but I need some feedback from you. Would you have attended the summer tour this year had you been allowed to pick and choose, and pay for, just the sites/events you wanted to attend, rather than purchasing the entire package? Send me an email (naturalartlandscaping@yahoo.com) or call me at 804-674-5703 if you want to weigh in on this.

Last newsletter I mentioned the board had voted in favor of having the VSLD design and build a garden display at the Maymont Flower and Garden Show this coming February. We now have a theme to work with – Mardi Gras All Over the World, and a concept for the garden, which was thought up by Yulita Ellis at the luau during the tour. I'll relay the details later as the design develops. I was able to secure an 800 square foot space which will be located at the center of the garden display area, so the PRESSURE IS ON!! We have to put on a good show. We'll be looking for volunteers to find and gather materials, to build and take down the garden, to man the garden during the show and a bunch of other stuff that makes one of these gardens possible. I'll be looking for wrought iron anything, garden sculpture or statues, street lights, a fire hydrant, empty beer/wine/liquor bottles (have fun with that one!), masks, beads, balloons, confetti, tropical plants, traditional plants (you know, the typical Gillette plant palette), garden furniture, paver

bricks, and more. I'll have a plant/material list in a couple of weeks so keep your eyes open for anything we can use.

That's about all I have right now – it's not a lot but it is fairly important. Let me know what you think of changing the registration for the summer tour and start thinking about how you can help with the Maymont Show. And, if you have anything you want the board to discuss, just let me know. Thanks. *Tom Thompson*

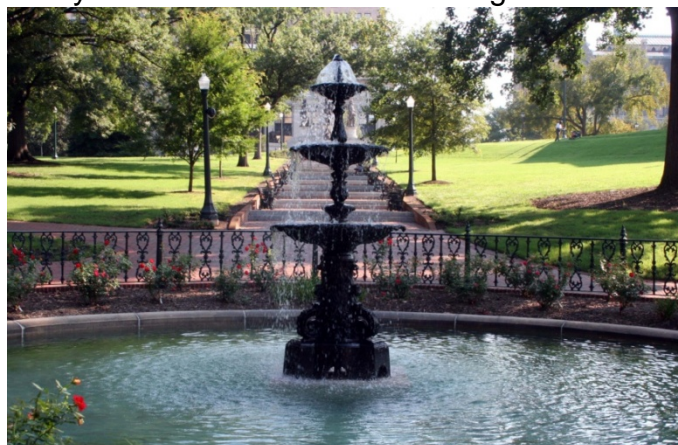
The Greening of Richmond- VSLD Summer Tour by Katie Sokol

A luxury style air-conditioned bus is the ONLY way to travel on a VSLD summer tour! Kudos to Tom Thompson for that AND the great blue neck towels which helped to keep us cool. I even used mine on a nature walk later in the week. Although I missed the last day of the tour, I thoroughly enjoyed the Maymont dinner on Monday evening with a special tour of the Japanese Garden given by director Peggy Singlemann. An approaching storm cut short our visit but it was long enough to absorb the beauty of this 100 year old garden.



Maymont Luau: Kathy Brooks, Kay Moore, Peggy Krapf, Terry Tosh, Yulita Ellis, Chris Sonne's mother, Chris Sonne, Peggy Singlemann, Diane Roselius, Susan Kappel, and Carol Heiser.

On day 2 the tour took us to the State Capitol grounds, a green roof at VCU, and the urban farm, Tricycle Gardens. Our tour guides at the capitol were Landscape Architect, Chris Hale and Chris Sonne, P.E. They were extremely informative even though nearby lawn mowers made talking a challenge. A future greening project might be to reduce some of the mowed areas! The greening improvements were undertaken in August 2010 and included the installation of three rain gardens, replacing an impervious brick walkway and steps with a porous paving system allowing the ground to absorb stormwater, and installing stormwater planters along a portion of 9th Street. An 8000 gallon underground tank was also installed to harvest rainwater which will be used for the lovely Bell Tower Fountain and irrigation.



The rain gardens were all filling in nicely after less than two years of growth. It was exciting to see a project of such environmental significance taking place in Virginia's state capitol and its success will surely attract more projects of this type.

Editor's Notes:

Many, many thanks to those members who contributed to the newsletter this summer. Diane Roselius suggested the "Why Trees Matter" article and Vicki O'Neal- the Italian tour info and photos. Katie Sokol penned the wonderful account above with photos and Chris Coen stepped up with **numerous** lifelines thrown to me as I struggled with Word. H. Janele

More Summer Tour Photos



Siegel Residence Fountain *Photo: Chris Coen*



Tricycle Gardens Urban Farms *Photo: Katie Sokol*



Hot,Hot Green Roof: VCU'S Pollack Bldg. *Photo: Katie Sokol*



Private Residence Green Wall: *Photo: Chris Coen*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Design Challenge from *Fine Gardening* Magazine!



How would you redesign this landscape? [“The Before & AfterDesign Challenge”]

This nationally recognized garden publication is launching a design competition which will feature winning designers in the magazine along with their proposed garden plans. The deadline for entries is Friday, September 14, 2012. For more details visit <http://www.finegardening.com/design/before-and-after-design-challenge.aspx> .This is a wonderful way for VSLD designers to promote their businesses and get national exposure in this acclaimed garden publication. Questions? Contact Ann Stratton, Assistant Editor by e-mail at astratton@taunton.com or phone at 203-304-3543.

VSLD Annual Scholarship Winner

Announced: Peggy Fox of Newport News is the winner of our annual scholarship! She is studying landscape design at Tidewater Community College, and is an active educator and volunteer with many horticulture related organizations. Along with the scholarship money, Peggy receives a complimentary 2012

Student Membership in VSLD. Upon the completion of her schooling, she plans to become an active member of our organization. Welcome Peggy!

Student VSLD member Vic Calaman is now a Certified VSLD Designer. Welcome to you, Vic!



Impatiens auricoma 'Jungle Gold' Photo: Vicki O'Neal

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden Information:

There is a free lecture on butterflies given by Dr. Janet Daniels of the University of Florida on Thursday, **Sept 27th** at 7 pm. The talk is free, but you need to save a seat by pre-registering at www.lewisginter.org.

Other upcoming dates of interest include the Winter Symposium and CVNLA Short Course on **Feb. 13-15th, 2013** and the Tree Care Symposium on Friday, **March 2, 2013**. (This is a date change.)

Kay Moore-- Lewis Ginter Liason

Kathy Brooks To Be Highlighted On PBS: Please mark your calendars for the upcoming airing on the PBS Channel 23, **August 21** of Richard Nunnally's "Virginia Homegrown" show. The topic is "Edible Landscapes" and Richard will be interviewing our very own past president, Kathy Brooks, in her own gardens!

Certified Crew Leader Course (HRNLA): This week-long course covers topics such as crew

management, botany, planting and pruning, and pests and pesticides. The cost is \$395 per person and includes training materials. It is to be held **August 20-24** at the Hampton Roads Agricultural & Research Station in Virginia Beach. Contact HRNLA@cox.net for details, including the availability of scholarships. The flyer can be accessed here: http://gallery.mailchimp.com/8d9d2dbb73dbfe89f8a052bb0/files/VA_CREWLEADER_FLYER.doc

More Opportunities for CEUs:

In August, Trees Virginia and the Virginia Cooperative Extension organization are offering a lecture entitled "Street Trees in Virginia: What We Have, What We Want, and How We Get There." To better serve their audience, the lecture will be presented four times, in different locations throughout the state - Culpeper on **August 15**, Hampton Roads on **August 16**, Lynchburg on **August 17**, and Wytheville on **August 20**. Visit <http://treesvirginia.org/joomla/> for locations and registration information.

Waynesboro Parks and Recreation and Trees Virginia is sponsoring a course called "Fifty Shades of Green," which will include arbormaster training. The course will be held **September 21** in Waynesboro. Registration is \$85. The flyer can be accessed here: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=bcko7ziab&oeidk=a07e66h95vzb31bd31a&oseq=a01fzqxm11hs3>

****Don't forget that the 8th Annual Eastern Native Grass Symposium will be held October 1-4 in Charlottesville. Registration fees increase after August 31, and registration closes September 24. See their website for program details and registration: <http://www.cpe.vt.edu/engs/registration.html>.**



Photo Credit: Katie Sokol

The following article contains information of potential interest to all the VSLD membership involved with installations of their designs.



Prepare for Shortages and Price Increases

During the early years of the last decade, unprecedented construction fueled annual double digit growth by many tree growers. It seemed the only thing limiting sales was lack of inventory, so growers responded by investing in additional inventory. When the bubble broke in 2007-2008, the demand for trees was dramatically reduced, as if somebody had turned off a switch. Unlike some business, tree growers are unable to quickly adjust the size of their inventory to match their sales. The trees are out there and they continue to need to be cared for... watered, pruned, fertilized, mowed around and sprayed for insects and disease.

Growers have had to aggressively reduce expenses in an attempt to lessen the negative cash flow. This is a difficult endeavor when the price of supplies such as fuel, burlap, wire baskets and other essential supplies have increased. So in many cases, pruning, fertilizer, pesticides and other steps to insure quality trees have been skipped. Many purchasers have had to work extra hard to find trees of acceptable quality to meet the now increasing demands of customers.

The only other major cost cutting option for most growers has been a sharp decrease in the planting of liners/young trees in the nursery for future sales. For most growers, second only to labor, is the cost of inventory establishment. The more trees you plant, the more that have to be cared for. So if a grower cannot afford to maintain the trees he already has, and also cannot sell the available trees in his inventory, what motivation and resources does he have to plant more trees?

According to some of the leading liner producers, tree planting in nurseries has decreased by as much as 80 percent over the last three to four years. In 2008 and

2009, planting decreased by about 20 percent and then an additional 30-40 percent in 2010 and 2011.

Because of the three to four years it takes to get many trees to a marketable size, shortages are just starting to become evident. This shortage will ripple through inventories for years to come, first effecting 1.5-2.5" material, and eventually with the 3-5"+ material.

"This shortage will ripple through inventories for years to come..."

Growers will have no choice but to raise prices in an attempt to recover the substantial losses of the last several years. That is for the ones that will make it. We have all seen prominent nurseries fail over the last

three years. Both liner growers and those who grow finished product have struggled to hold on through this stubborn economic meltdown. The absence of these nurseries will also contribute to the supply shortages.

Shortages have been somewhat lessened by the slow recovery we currently are experiencing. Things are better, and seem to be heading in the right direction, however the recovery is slow. Once construction truly

gets back on track, the shortages will be wide-spread and affect all purchasers of trees and finished plant material. For those who are bidding work in 2012 and 2013 this is presenting a huge challenge. Customers need to be educated about the shortages that are coming and be cautious about decreases in quality they may be seeing. Those who bid 2013 jobs at spring 2011 prices will likely not find quality trees--if trees at all--for the prices bid.



Kelly Lewis
General Manager
Ruppert Nurseries

Reprinted with permission of Kelly Lewis of Ruppert Nurseries.

Why Trees Matter

Jim Robbins

Helena, Montana

TREES are on the front lines of our changing climate. And when the oldest trees in the world suddenly start dying, it's time to pay attention.

North America's ancient alpine bristlecone forests are falling victim to a voracious beetle and an Asian fungus. In Texas, a [prolonged drought](#) killed more than five million urban shade trees last year and an additional half-billion trees in parks and forests. In the Amazon, two severe droughts have killed billions more.

The common factor has been hotter, drier weather.

We have underestimated the importance of trees. They are not merely pleasant sources of shade but a potentially major answer to some

of our most pressing environmental problems. We take them for granted, but they are a near miracle. In a bit of natural alchemy called photosynthesis, for example, trees turn one of the seemingly most insubstantial things of all — sunlight — into food for insects, wildlife and people, and use it to create shade, beauty and wood for fuel, furniture and homes.

For all of that, the unbroken forest that once covered much of the continent is now shot through with holes.

Humans have cut down the biggest and best trees and left the runts behind. What does that mean for the genetic fitness of our forests? No one knows for sure, for trees and forests are poorly understood on almost all levels. "It's embarrassing how little we know," one eminent redwood researcher told me.

What we do know, however, suggests that what trees do is essential though often not obvious. Decades ago, Katsuhiko Matsunaga, a marine chemist at Hokkaido University in Japan, discovered that when tree leaves decompose, they leach acids into the ocean that help fertilize plankton. When plankton thrive, so does the rest of the food chain. In a campaign called [Forests Are Lovers of the Sea](#), fishermen have replanted forests along coasts and rivers to bring back fish and oyster stocks. And they have returned.

Trees are nature's water filters, capable of cleaning up the most toxic wastes, including explosives, solvents and organic wastes, largely through a dense community of microbes around the tree's roots that clean water in exchange for nutrients, a process known as phytoremediation. Tree leaves also filter air pollution. A 2008 [study by researchers at Columbia University](#) found that more trees in urban neighborhoods correlate with a lower incidence of asthma. In Japan, researchers have long studied what they call "[forest bathing](#)." A walk in the woods, they say, reduces the level of stress chemicals in the

body and increases natural killer cells in the immune system, which fight tumors and viruses. Studies in inner cities show that anxiety, depression and even crime are lower in a landscaped environment.

Trees also release vast clouds of beneficial chemicals. On a large scale, some of these aerosols appear to help regulate the climate; others are anti-bacterial, anti-fungal and antiviral. We need to learn much more about the role these chemicals play in nature. One of these substances, taxane, from the Pacific yew tree, has become a powerful treatment for breast and other cancers. Aspirin's active ingredient comes from willows.

Trees are greatly underutilized as an eco-technology. "Working trees" could absorb some of the excess phosphorus and nitrogen that run off farm fields and help heal the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico. In Africa, millions of acres of parched land have been reclaimed through strategic tree growth.

Trees are also the planet's heat shield. They keep the concrete and asphalt of cities and suburbs 10 or more degrees cooler and protect our skin from the sun's harsh UV rays. The Texas Department of Forestry has estimated that the die-off of shade trees will cost Texans hundreds of millions of dollars more for air-conditioning. Trees, of course, sequester carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that makes the planet warmer. A study by the Carnegie Institution for Science also found that water vapor from forests lowers ambient temperatures.

A big question is, which trees should we be planting? Ten years ago, I met a shade tree farmer named David Milarch, a co-founder of the Champion Tree Project who has been cloning some of the world's oldest and largest trees to protect their genetics, from California redwoods to the oaks of Ireland. "These are the supertrees, and they have stood the test of time," he says.

Science doesn't know if these genes will be important on a warmer planet, but an old proverb seems apt. "When is the best time to plant a tree?" The answer: "Twenty years ago. The second-best time? Today."

*This article has been revised to reflect the following correction: dated April 21, 2012

An earlier version of this essay referred incorrectly to one of the greenhouse gases that are warming the planet. It is carbon dioxide, not carbon.

[Jim Robbins is the author of the book "The Man Who Planted Trees" and a free-lance journalist. He gave permission for VSLD to reprint the above Op Ed piece from the April 11, 2012 New York Times.]



Liliomgloriosa 'Rothchildiana' Photo Credit: Helen Janele

Treasurer's Report:

--Susan Kappel--

Balance as of April 1:	\$17,822.05
Balance as of June 30:	\$16,956.71

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Travel Opportunity:

THE GARDENS OF ITALY ~ April 8-16 2013



Imagine the countryside and gardens of Tuscany in April! Do more than dream if you join us on a visit to enjoy jeweled gardens, Tuscan villages and cultural treasures. We'll stay at an elegant villa in the Pisan countryside. From there we will explore enchanting gardens, helicopter to a family owned winery, visit nearby towns and villages, sample artisanal chocolates, and enjoy some shopping at local markets. And oh, the food!

Our trip is hosted by Adagio Travel, and combines gracious hospitality with a spirit of adventure. Claudia Harris, founder of Adagio Travel and our travel companion, lived in and has traveled extensively in Italy and Europe. Since 1999, she has been hosting small group tours (8-10) to corners of Italy that are often overlooked. Also hosting, Vicki O'Neal, is a seasoned traveler and joins this trip as a garden, horticulture, landscape and interior design expert. An Italian certified agronomist and other local guides will adventure with us for part of the journey. Don't miss this amazing adventure!

For more information contact Vicki O'Neal,
VSLD, ASID (804) 677-8269

voneal@FandFdesign.com
www.adagiotravel.com

Monarch Butterfly Facts

September Caterpillars become the Monarch Butterflies that make the entire migration to their over-wintering site and breed the following spring. They can live up to six months.

Asclepiascurrasavica- Bloodflower or Silky Milkweed- imparts the greatest chemical protection to Monarch caterpillars of any Milkweed. Seeds produced during the growing season can sprout readily in pots overwintered inside protected areas. Bloodflower is considered tropical above Zone 8.



Photo Credit: H. Janele

The orange and black beetles and the yellow aphids infesting Milkweeds early in the summer can be easily controlled with a horticultural soap spray. The Monarchs, appearing later in summer, then, would not be thus exposed. All use of chemicals should be avoided after Monarchs are sighted.



Photo Credit: H. Janele

Did you know you can mend a Monarch's wing so it can make the fall migration? See

<http://www.youtube.com/user/livemonarch?feature=watch>.

Also see this link for even more information on Monarchs

.....<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/monarch/spring2012/update052412.html>

2012-2013 Calendar of Events & Meetings

August 8–9, 2012

VNLA Field Day, Battlefield Farms, Orange, VA

August 20–24, 2012

HRNLA Certified Crew Leader Course, Hampton Roads Agricultural Research Station, Virginia Beach, VA

August 22–23, 2012

LEED Green Associate Exam Prep Course at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden is Canceled!

September 21, 2012

“Fifty Shades of Green” Course with arbormaster training, in Waynesboro, VA

September 27, 2012

Free Lecture on Butterflies at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens at 7PM, pre-register at
www.lewisginter.org

October 1–4, 2012

8th Annual Eastern Native Grass Symposium, Charlottesville, VA
<http://www.cpe.vt.edu/engs/index.html>

December 4–6, 2012

MAC–ISA Arborist Certification Courses, taught by Joe Murray, Charlottesville, VA
www.macisa.org

January 9–11, 2013

MANTS, Baltimore, MD

January 17–18, 2013

Green&Growin' Show, Greensboro, NC www.ncnla.com

February 3–8, 2013

Mid-Atlantic Horticultural Short Course (MAHSC), Marriott at City Center, Newport News, VA
www.mahsc.org 757–523–473

2012-2013 Calendar of Events & Meetings (cont.)

February 8–10, 2013

Maymont Flower and Garden Show, Richmond, VA—*Help us make the VSLD garden display memorable.*

February 13–15, 2013

Winter Symposium and CVNLA Short Course, “Treading Lightly on the Land”, regist. through Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens

February 23, 2013
VSLD Winter Meeting (Tentative Date)

March 02, 2013 (previously March 08)
Tree Care Symposium, Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, www.lewisginter.com

April 8–16, 2013
Tuscany Garden Tour, voneal@FandFdesign.com or www.adagiotravel.com
Reserve w/ deposit by September 30, 2012

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Maymont Japanese Garden: July 2012 Summer Tour *Photo Credit: Katie Sokol*



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