



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Virginia Society of Landscape Designers

Spring 2014

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President's Letter:

April 2014

"Nature does not complete things. She is chaotic. Man must finish, and he does so by making a garden and building a wall." - Robert Frost

These words give me inspiration as we start a new and hopefully busy season of landscape design and construction

projects. Our organization is filled with talented individuals and I think we can inspire each other not only through some of the events we have planned this year, but also by sharing your projects through the VSLD website, Facebook page and quarterly newsletter.

We currently have 92 certified designers, but only 25 are showcased in the photo gallery on the website. Please take a few moments to email Monit Rosendale your finished projects. Facebook provides even more opportunities to share projects before, during and after construction, so email Michele Fletcher and she will see that your pictures are posted. Our busy editor, Helen Janele, can use your input. Share a project, photo, article, letter, or announcement, and she will have it published.

On April 16th we had our spring board meeting (even though it felt like winter) with Chris Coen,



Vaccinium 'Sunshine Blue'

by Susan Kappel

Helen Janele, and Jeff Klingel attending via Skype. We were pleased to welcome Diane Roselius and Lindsey Smythe as new Directors and I want to thank them for taking over on such short notice. We had a very productive meeting and the following are some of the major topics of discussion.

Jane Abbott recommended that we advertise with the VMFA Fine Arts & Flowers Exhibition, Nov. 5-9, and after a long discussion we voted to do so. We feel it is a good marketing opportunity that is not just limited to the Richmond area.

The new seal/embosser design was selected with just a couple of minor design changes. Once those revisions are completed, the lengthy trademark process will begin.

This year the summer tour will be held in conjunction with VNLA in Blacksburg on Aug. 14-15. Day one will be the Field Day event on the beautiful Va. Tech campus and a dinner at the Hahn Pavilion. Garden tours in Blacksburg are

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planned for the following day. We will be assisting VNLA where needed.

Plans were discussed for the 2015 Winter Meeting. A major change is to move the date to Feb. 28, 2015 so that it will not conflict with the Capital Home and Garden Show. Terry Tosh and Kay Moore will head up the committee. We will look forward to the proposed new venue at Maymont.



Cabin in the Redbuds

by Chris Coen

Our membership can also look forward to the Delaware Valley Garden Tour in July or August of 2015. We reviewed a proposal prepared by Julie Jenney of Swarthmore College who will be our tour leader. The tour will be a mix of both public and private gardens. We still are looking for a member(s) on our end who can handle registration/advertising, travel arrangements, and final itinerary approvals with the tour guide. Please contact me if you are interested.

The meeting finished with a discussion of the 2014 Design Contest. Tom suggested that we try something different this year. The contest would be for a single pre-selected site. Base map information and photographs would be provided. We asked Tom to provide the Board with 3 site locations to be discussed at the July meeting.

In closing, I look forward to working with the board throughout this year. Everyone has been extremely helpful and supportive as I forge ahead as your new President. I ask the membership to please give me your ideas and suggestions so we can make 2014 a truly INSPIRATIONAL year!

Katie

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Norfolk Botanical Garden Plant Sale

Reminder:

Don't overlook your plant purchasing opportunity on Mother's Day weekend, Friday through Sunday May 9-11 when NBG will hold its annual plant sale! Brian O'Neil, Director of Horticulture at NBG, says the staff has outdone itself this year in the variety and quality of their offerings. *Brian is particularly jazzed about some imported plants from Japan-some of the same that Plant Delights sells for a whole lot more money!* NBG is constantly updating the plant listings on their website-
<http://.org/events/spring-plant-sale/> or
<http://norfolkbotanicalgarden.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/PLANT-SALE-2014-FEB25.pdf>.

Marketing Opportunity

submitted by Jane Abbott

Would you give to a church an hour's worth of landscaping advice at no charge? Would you be willing to give to a church community pro bono a short talk on landscaping ?

The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia has asked all of its churches to re-evaluate their facilities to see if they are using God's creation wisely. Are they sending polluted water from their parking lots directly into the Chesapeake Bay? Could they be using more native plants and less grass?



Cat in May Apple Forest

by Chris Coen

Could they benefit from rain barrels or rain gardens?



Iris ensata 'White Ladies'

by Helen Janele

Members of VSLD have something to say about all of these issues, and it would benefit all of us if we got out there and made our services known. There is also the possibility of being hired to do the specific planning and implementation of ideas. Someone in the congregation might hire you for their own personal property redesign.

Since our organization's name and website will be posted to churches all over the state of Virginia, you may get a request from one of the churches. You may certainly say that you are too busy to help out, but we hope that you will take advantage of this golden opportunity to advance your own business and that of VSLD.

Report from Lewis Ginter

by Kay Moore

*The Gillette Forum will be held Oct 23-24, 2014. One speaker will be Thomas Rainer.

*Lewis Ginter wants to begin offering some advanced classes geared toward professionals. An advanced Botany class will meet on June 9, 16, and 23. An advanced class in grasses, sedges, and rushes will be held Aug 11 and 18. More

information will be forthcoming. Doug DeBerry will be teaching.

Richmond Regional Report

by Kay Moore

A number of us met and enjoyed a tour of the Bryan Innovation Lab at The Steward School. Cary Jamieson gave us the history and explained the vision of the school. At this talk we were invited to hear Douglas Tallamy speak the next week at the school. Many of us signed up for this talk and enjoyed his presentation on the importance of native plants for pollinators.

We are planning a visit to Flowers after Five at Lewis Ginter this summer.

In August we have been invited to a VSLD member's home for a potluck dinner. Hope to see you at both of these outings!

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Beech Leaves

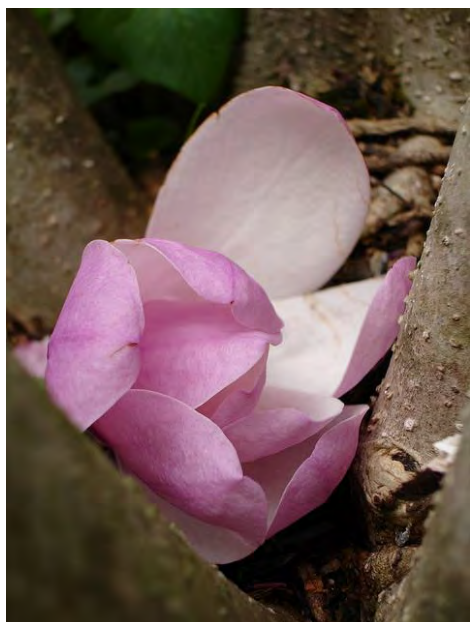
by Chris Coen

Ground Water and You

by Chris Coen

Scott Kudlas, Director of the Office of Surface and Ground Water Supply Planning at the state Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), gave a rather eye-opening presentation on the state of Virginia's ground water aquifers which I was lucky enough to attend. Did you know that water levels in the aquifer favored by most developers east of the fall line have, in some places, fallen below the top of the aquifer, causing subsidence of the fragile

sediment which can never be recovered...that portions of land east of I-95 -- the rough boundary of the Fall Zone, where the Piedmont becomes the Coastal Plain -- have become virtually undevelopable due to the unavailability of ground water...that, due to the excessive draw-down of water, salt water is invading the aquifers of the Coastal Plain?



Saucer Magnolia Bloom by Chris Coen

Ground water withdrawal has for decades exceeded the amount of water recharging the aquifers we use east of the Fall Zone. While significant withdrawals can be attributed to industry, the spikes in water usage seen every summer cannot be ignored; that's yet another cost of Americans' love affair with lawns for which all of us will pay. And, while we did have near-record rainfall last year, it takes years of reduced draw-downs for an aquifer to recover some of its volume through percolation and movement of water down the aquifer. Where the level of water remains lower than the upper surface of the aquifer, the lacy structure of the sediment forming the aquifer collapses—subsides—and that portion of the aquifer is lost forever.

A recently-passed state statute requires Virginia to establish a State Water Resources Plan. An initial statewide analysis was to be completed in 2013; DEQ anticipates the report will show less water is available in certain watersheds than previously assumed. More communities have already been added to the existing Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area: Caroline, King and Queen,

Gloucester, Mathews, Middlesex, Essex, King George, Westmoreland, Richmond (County), Lancaster, Northumberland, parts of Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and the City of Alexandria are all now included in order to address the continuing declines in groundwater levels in these areas.

And the coastal plain is not alone in the excessive drawdown of groundwater; while groundwater west of the Fall Zone comes through cracks in fractured rock, rather than from aquifers, measurements taken at wells throughout the western portion of the state—especially in the Valley and Ridge zones, show drops in water levels which are as alarming as those in the east. Those who rely on surface water shouldn't gloat, either; while we did receive a lot of water last year from the skies, the coming year is anticipated to bring El Niño-propelled drought back to Virginia.

The evidence is clear: Virginians use too much water, and that use is not sustainable.

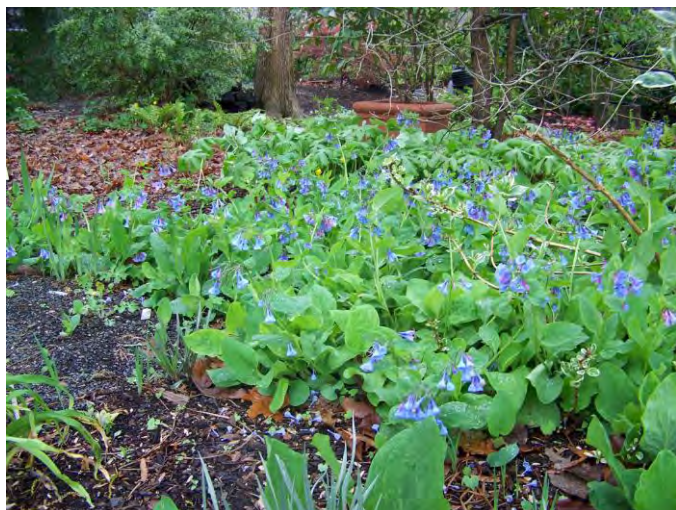
How this affects us as VSLD members and owners of design businesses is pretty clear, both in the short and long term. There will be less water in the wells we and our clients use, especially along the Fall Zone. Water available in wells closer to the coast will become increasingly brackish. That saline water can be treated for use, but at a greater cost, which the users will have to absorb. Reduced levels in the aquifer means greater areas of land will become undevelopable; no development means a reduced need for landscaping. The plants we will be able to use in our designs will need to change, and those designs should take into consideration the long-term water availability projections if we're to do justice to our clients and our environment.



Usnea florida lichen

by Chris Coen

(This is where the increasing push to grow natives overlaps the need to protect our groundwater supplies: natives are adapted to Virginia's water climate and survive, if not thrive, within the areas they're native without supplemental watering. If you aren't already specifying more native plants in your designs, you might want to reconsider.)



Mertensia virginica

by Helen Janele

For more information, check out DEQ's page on the state water plan, including the annual water resources report (which is released each October): <http://www.deq.state.va.us/Programs/Water/WaterSupply/WaterQuantity/WaterSupplyPlanning/StateWaterPlan.aspx>. It's a topic we all need to become more familiar with.

Change is coming. Now is the time to think about what you can do to insulate your business, and the environment in which we all live, against these changes.



Early Spring Sunset –

Katie Sokol

Virginia Firescapes

From Virginia Cooperative Extension

While people in Virginia still are enjoying the abundant moisture of spring, their thoughts should also be turning to preparing their properties for drier times. With another El Nino year ahead in the USA, property owners might want to take steps to make their landscapes more fire survivable ahead of the arrival of the dry months. This is especially important for those dwelling in forested areas where fire can quickly move through dry forest canopies and brushy areas or move quickly uphill on mountainous terrains. The Virginia Cooperative Extension has created a publication designed to help homeowners prepare for a drier environment. Suggestions are offered there that may end up saving structures and human lives. For more on this visit <http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CCYQFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fpubs.ext.vt.edu%2F430%2F430-300%2F430-300.pdf&ei=ZdNOU4KENua68AHqsIHQAq&usq=AFQjCNFUOxhtXpevAAkJRdYbDk2ZylkWDw&bvm=bv.64764171,d.aWw> or type "Virginia Firescapes" in the search bar of your browser.

Winter Nature Walk at the White House Farm

by Katie Sokol

On March 8, I brushed up on winter plant ID with my daughter Laura and an interesting group of ecological minded folks at the historic White House Farm in beautiful Luray.

The White House was built in 1760 as a residence and Mennonite meeting house.



The 1760 White House

Katie Sokol

In 2005, 270 acres of the property was purchased by a private individual and placed in a permanent conservation easement held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. The foundation has placed 52 acres of land and 0.8 mile of river frontage, in forever perpetuity to reestablish native warm season grasses and wild flowers and to control the exotic invasive species.

The property is also home to the new White House Natives plant nursery. For further reading visit www.whfarmfoundation.org.



White House Natives Nursery

Katie Sokol

Reader Alert:

Be sure to read the article “Young Roots: Encouraging Millennial Gardeners to Grow” by Dee A. Nash in the May 2014 issue of Virginia Gardener, which offers a window into the mindsets of potential customers in their 20s and 30s! Also of environmental interest in the same issue is Les Parks’s write-up on page 11 entitled “Save the Monarch--Plant Milkweed.”



Rhododendron macrosepalum 'Koromo Shikibu' & *Cornus kousa* 'Wolf Eyes'

by Helen Janele

Spring Photos



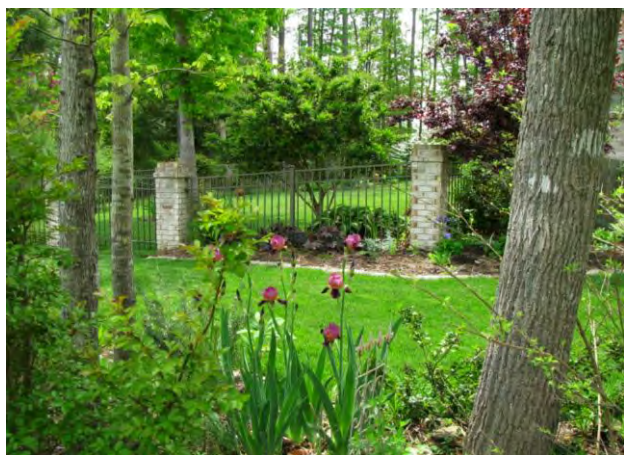
Aesculus pavia

by Helen Janele



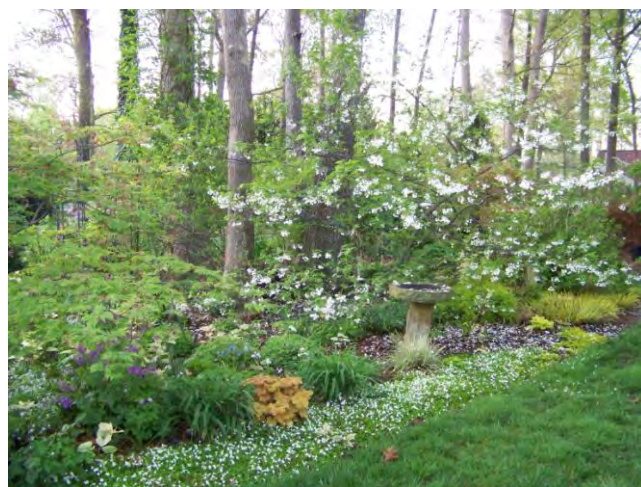
Trillium sessile rubrum

by Chris Coen



My Garden in Spring

by Diane Roselius

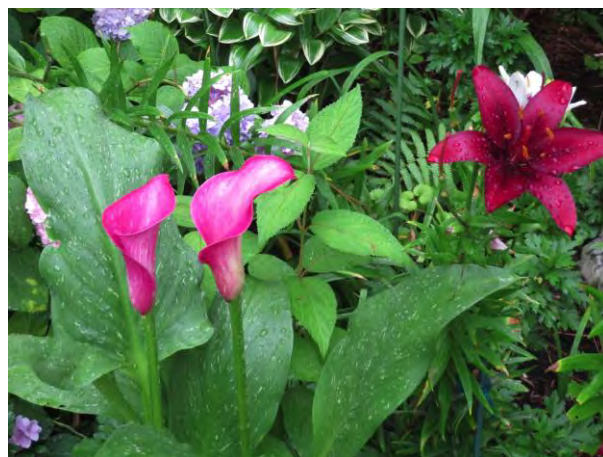


Halesia diptera with *Mazus reptans* 'Alba' by Helen Janele



Cornus kousa

by Helen Janele



Calla Lily & Asiatic Lily

by Diane Roselius

2014

Calendar of Events & Meetings

May 9, 2014

Native Perennials with Bling, U.S. Botanical Gardens, Washington, DC

Free Lecture by Stephanie Cohen; 12–1:15 PM

<http://www.usbg.gov/events/2014/02/21/native-perennials-bling-lecture>

May 10–11, 2014

Garden Fair, State Arboretum; Boyce, VA

<http://blandy.virginia.edu/our-foundation/2014-garden-fair>

May 10, 2014

The Establishment and Sustainability of Green Roofs, U.S. Botanical Gardens, Washington, DC

Free Lecture by Dr. Steven Cohan of U. MD; 10:30–11:30 PM ; pre-registration required

<http://www.usbg.gov/events/2014/02/21/establishment-and-sustainability-green-roofs-lecture#sthash.Bt3wz3uP.dpuf>

May 12, 2014

Evaluating and Conserving Natural Assets: Planning for green infrastructure in the developing and urban landscape

10 AM - 4PM, VA Dept. of Forestry, Green Infrastructure Center, Charlottesville, VA

Combination of lectures, hands-on & discussion, \$130 Registration, CEUs available

<http://gicinc.org/events.htm>

May 14, 2014

Pollinator Conservation Short Course, Virginia Beach, VA

9 AM– 4 PM, Hampton Roads Agricultural Research & Extension, \$45, CEUs avail.

Contact Ashley Minnerath: shortcourses@xerces.org

May 16–17, 2014

Just Gardens Tour, Essex County, VA

Proceeds benefit The Haven (shelter for battered women)

Phone: 804–333–1099 Ext. 12 or

by mail to Just Gardens; P.O. Box 429; Irvington, VA 22480

May 29, 2014

Pollinator Conservation Short Course, Blackstone, VA

9 AM– 4 PM, Southern Piedmont Agri. Research & Extension Center, \$45, CEUs avail.

Contact: shortcourses@xerces.org

Millersville Native Plant Symposium; Millersville, PA

<http://www.millersvillenativeplants.org/>

June 5–7, 2014

Native Plant Symposium; Millersville, PA

<http://www.millersvillenativeplants.org/>

June 7, 2014

A Grain of Wisdom: Botany, Evolution and the History of Cereal Crops,

Free Lecture by Todd Bretauer; 2PM– 3:30PM ; pre-registration required

<http://www.usbg.gov/events/2014/02/21/grain-wisdom-botany-evolution-and-history-cereal-crops#sthash.Bft6slyG.dpuf>

June 14, 2014

MAC–ISA Day of Safety, Rockville, MD

<http://www.mac-isa.org>

June 19–20, 2014

Soils and Urban Trees Conference, Biltmore House, Ashville, NC

A two-day conference featuring 6 international speakers presenting the latest research and advancements in soil-related tree health; 13.25 ISA CEUs

<http://www.ufis.ca/soil2014.php>

June 23–25

TRAQ [Tree Risk Assessment Qualification] Course, Washington, DC

<http://www.mac-isa.org>

July 16–19, 2014

Cullowhee 31st Annual Native Plant Conference; Western Carolina University, NC

<http://www.wcu.edu/academics/edoutreach/conted/conferences-and-community-classes/the-cullowhee-native-plant-conference/index.asp>

July 15–17, 2014

MAC–ISA Arborist Certification Course, Morgantown, WV

<http://www.mac-isa.org>

August 14–15, 2014

VNLA Field Day & VSLD/VNLA Summer Tour, Blacksburg, VA

<http://www.mac-isa.org>

August 19–21, 2014

TRAQ [Tree Risk Assessment Qualification] Course, Reston, VA

<http://www.mac-isa.org>

September 18, 2014

Evaluating and Conserving Natural Assets: Planning for green infrastructure in the developing and urban landscape

10Am– 4PM, VA Dept. of Forestry, Green Infrastructure Center, Charlottesville, VA
Combination of lectures, hands-on & discussion, \$130 Registration, CEUs available

<http://gicinc.org/events.htm>

Sept 26– October 5. 2014

State Fair, The Meadow Event Park, Doswell, VA (Caroline County)

<https://www.statefairva.org/>

October 6–7, 2014

MAC–ISA Annual Meeting, Blacksburg, VA

<http://www.mac-isa.org>

Tentative Date—October 23–24, 2014

[Rescheduled from October 2013]

Biennial Gillette Forum, LGBG, Richmond VA,

[Coincides with 2014 30th Anniversary of LGBG]

November 5–7, 2014

VA TRAQ [Tree Risk Assessment Qualification] Course, Virginia Beach, VA

<http://www.mac-isa.org>

November 20, 2014

Evaluating and Conserving Natural Assets: Planning for green infrastructure in the developing and urban landscape

10AM– 4PM, VA Dept. of Forestry, Green Infrastructure Center, Charlottesville, VA
Combination of lectures, hands-on & discussion, \$130, CEUs available

<http://gicinc.org/events.htm>

January 14–16, 2015

MANTS, Baltimore Convention Center; Baltimore, MD

Contact: 800–431–0066 or info@mants.com or www.mants.com

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