PERENNIALY INSPIRED:

Dynamic Designs, New Ideas

Dynamic design concepts, new developments in perennials and using tropical plants are among the topics at the annual winter seminar at The Conference Center at Sheppard Pratt. The Perennial Plant Association and the Horticultural Society of Maryland are sponsors of the day-long event on Saturday, February 28, 2015.

The keynote speaker, JASON REEVES, research horticulturist at the University of Tennessee Gardens in Jackson, Tenn., will discuss *Tropicals in the Perennial Garden and Beyond.* “Tropicals work beautifully with perennials, and make a big impact in any garden,” Reeves says.

In a second talk that day, *Trash to Treasure,* Reeves will show how he uses recycled and other household objects to create imaginative art for the garden.

DONALD PELL, of Donald Pell Gardens in Phoenixville, Pa., draws his inspiration from the beauty of the American landscape. He calls his talk *The New American Garden: Modeling the Regional Landscape.* “This is not the Emperor’s new clothes,” he says, “but a presentation that hopes to inspire you to tear out your front lawn and boring boxwood hedges and create a dynamic and experiential landscape.”

PAUL WESTERVELT is the annual and perennial production manager for Saunders Brothers Inc. in Virginia’s Blue Ridge Mountains, overseeing hundreds of species of plants. When he is not busy gardening, he visits gardens and landscapes in the United States and abroad. His topic will be *New Perennials That Get Me Excited.*

In his presentation, *Tried and True Plants,* CHUCK HINKLE, gardener at Scott Arboretum at Swarthmore College, will examine underused, unusual or “just plain forgotten” plants that work well in the garden. “With thousands of choices…picking which plants to use in your garden can be daunting. While it is fun to try the latest offerings, there is comfort with inviting ‘old friends’ that you know are going to do their job.”

The seminar sells out each year, so register early to avoid missing out. Sign up by February 16th for the early registration rate. See page 2 or www.mdhorticulture.org for more information.

Lecture Series

Tuesday, MARCH 10, 7:30 p.m.

WILLIAM WOYS WEAVER, PH.D.
The Kitchen Garden and The Heirloom Food Movement

Weaver, a food historian, author and owner of the Roughwood Seed Collection, will discuss the history of the kitchen garden since colonial times and the revival of interest in heirloom food plants.

Tuesday, APRIL 14, 7:30 p.m.

MIKE RAUPP, PH.D.
What a Warming World Means to Insects

Raupp, a professor and extension specialist at the University of Maryland at College Park and the Science Channel expert on bugs, will explore evidence of climate change affecting insects. He will show how warmer temperatures can alter pest ranges, seasonal phenology of insects and mites, and interactions among plants, herbivores and their natural enemies.

Tuesday, MAY 12, 7:30 p.m.

GORDON HAYWARD
The Inevitable Garden

Hayward, a garden designer and writer who lives in Vermont, returns to HSM to discuss what he has learned about garden design over the last 35 years. In his view, “the inevitable garden” derives from three sources: the house, the people who live in the house, and the land.

For more information, visit www.mdhorticulture.org

Lectures are held in the Vollmer Center auditorium at Cylburn Arboretum, 4915 Greenspring Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21209. Members are required to show a current membership card for admission to lectures. Guests of members also receive free admission. In case of severe weather, check the HSM website for any cancellation bulletin.
HSM Honor Roll

A note from the president:

I got my love for the outdoors and my green thumb from my mother, Dorrie Wilfong. Once I was an adult and had moved back to the Baltimore area after University, she would often invite me to attend meetings of the Horticultural Society of Maryland as her guest. At that time the meetings were held in the cafeteria or auditorium at Loch Raven High School. I got hooked and officially became a member in 2003. I started helping Carla Moose with the door at meetings in 2008 and in 2010 was asked by then-President Mary Jo Sherrod to become the vice president for membership, a position I held for four years. I was elected as president in 2014 and began my term in July.

By profession I am a mediator and licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor, two things that are very far away from plants, trees, soil and digging in the dirt. I thoroughly enjoy my time in my ever-changing and -expanding garden. — Nancy Raskin

We thank the following volunteers (members as well as non-members) who have supported the Society’s programs in recent months.

For the Dedication of the Vollmer Center garden: Nancy Raskin, introductions; Nell Strachan, organization; Paula Simon, program. Reception: Donna Watts, Anne Gossett, Nancy Flower, Donna Imhoff, Margaret Wright, Pat Cieslak, Mary Jo Sherrod, Ellen Yancich

For the Nominating Committee: Muffin Evander, Helene Clapperton, John Fitzpatrick

For the Sponsorship Program: Sally Barker, Paula Simon

For the Lecture Series Committee: Helene Clapperton, Muffin Evander, John Fitzpatrick, Karen Offutt, Carol Oppenheimer, Mary Jo Sherrod, Paula Simon, and Nell Strachan for coordination of the December speaker

For Meetings Hospitality: Donna Watts, Jennifer Forrence, Nancy Blois, Pat Sherman

For Annual Plant & Seed Swap: Mary Jo Sherrod, Peter Bieneman, Jennifer Forrence, Nancy Raskin

For the Plant Raffle: Nancy MicKey, Barbara Sutton, Foxborough Farms

For the Communications Team: Michael Bass, telephone messages; Helene Clapperton, webmaster; Carla Hackley, Facebook manager; and Nancy Raskin, event registrar. For preparing the September mailing: Nell Strachan, Susan Escobedo, Catherine Mahan, Luisa Olivi, Patricia Foster

For the September 2014 issue of The Hort Report: Carol Oppenheimer and John Fitzpatrick, contributors; Joel Cohen, John Fitzpatrick and Nell Strachan, proofreaders

Welcome New Members!

Elaine Conley
Mary Alicia Haberman
Forrest Hall

Judy Draper Perrine
Eva Roswell
Paul Silber

Mike Tompkins
Amy Urdang

Correction

An article in the September 2014 issue of The Hort Report suggested that Osmanthus × fortunei, Fortune Osmanthus, had been planted in the Entrance Garden at the Vollmer Center. It will be installed this year.
Tillandsias bloom and then produce offsets (pups), which can be propagated by detaching them when they are one-third the size of the mother plant. Plants reach maturity in three to five years and will live five years or more. The mother plant will not die until pups are strong enough to survive on their own. Additionally, the parent plant releases seeds attached to a small cottony tuft, termed a coma, which allows it to float through the air. In nature, Tillandsias bloom during the dry season, just before the rainy season, for better seed dispersal and then germination. Provide sufficient sunlight, water and fertilizer for best flowering.

**PLANT FACTS:**

**Tillandsia species**  
**Common Name:** Air Plant, Sky Plant, Tillandsia  
**Temperature:** 45 to 95 degrees Fahrenheit. In Maryland, not winter hardy.  
**Family:** Bromeliaceae, native to Central and South America and southeastern United States.  
**Size:** 1 inch to 2 feet high and wide.  
**Habit:** Dense clumps or trailing.  
**Culture:** Bright light from an east or west window. One to three hours direct sun in winter, but not in summer. Ideal temperature: up to 80 degrees Fahrenheit winter rest to promote flowering. Feed every two weeks in spring and summer. Spray with water soluble, high-phosphorous fertilizer, mixed at half-strength.  


Beth Succop is a horticulturist at The Howard Peters Rawlings Conservatory and Botanic Gardens in Druid Hill Park, Baltimore, Md., www.rawlingsconservatory.org

**PHOTOS OF TILLANDSIAS AT THE RAWLINGS CONSERVATORY:** Paula A. Simon
In 1953, Pauline and Leo Vollmer moved from a rowhouse in Ednor Gardens to a center-entrance colonial in the Murray Hill neighborhood of Baltimore County. The lot featured a small patio, a row of lilacs along the fence, large lawn areas—and crab grass and dandelions. The Vollmers installed two large beds of hybrid tea roses (sprayed weekly) and worked diligently to improve the lawn, striving for the even emerald green of English gardens. A great deal of time was spent pulling weeds, and, even though the front lawn was shady, they were determined to grow grass.

After several years of endeavoring to garden in this manner, they were ready for new ideas. A friend introduced the Vollmers to Wolfgang Oehme, who took a dim view of expanses of grass, non-native roses, and the maintenance of both through the application of chemicals. Pauline Vollmer, a member of the Audubon Society and concerned about the effects of pesticides of birds and insects, was intrigued. She had taken art classes and had, according to a good friend, a terrific eye for design. Oehme, at the time a planner with Baltimore County, visited the site and sketched his ideas for proposed bedlines for the rear patio area, featuring dramatic diagonals and new plants. Thus began the lifelong partnership between the Vollmers and Oehme.

The first step was to remove all the grass in the rear patio area—which Pauline and Leo dug out themselves. A thick layer of stone and river pebbles assured good drainage; soil and plants were then added—some of the original 1962 plants are still growing in this garden today.

The first Oehme-designed garden was quickly followed by new designs for the front lawn—removing the lawn and replacing it with low-growing plants that would do well in dry shade—and a pond in the back, a stone table and seating area, and many newly introduced plants. Many of these were brought by Kurt Bluemel from Switzerland, and the Vollmer garden became a showplace for bold new designs, exotic plants and a whole “new look” for American gardens. Avoiding the standard rhododendron and azalea installations, the designs all featured grasses and new introductions, grouped in ways that exhibited a strong design. The Vollmers’ support of Kurt Bluemel was instrumental in his establishing his first nursery.
An oasis and retreat for wildlife and human visitors alike—the original Oehme and Van Sweden pond combines geometric bluestone edging with naturalistic plantings to the side that makes it blend into the landscape.

The attractive iron gate entrance welcomes visitors with the varied colors and textures of the plantings.

soon followed: Horticulture Magazine featured the garden, and designers from England, Japan, North and South America streamed to the garden.

She also supported educating the public about the value of good landscape design, and generally about gardening and horticulture. She was a founder of the Woodbrook-Murray Hill Garden Club, and an active member in the Federated Garden Clubs district and state organizations, managing the landscape design program, flower shows and presenting programs—work for which she received a national award from the Federated Garden Clubs National Council. Her service to the Horticultural Society, where she was vice president, ranged from “baking a lot of cookies” for the meetings to participating in garden tours, hosting workshops and helping deliver horticultural knowledge to members and visitors. As one of the main supporters of the Baker Scholarship for landscape architecture students, she has had a hand in selecting scholarship recipients, including Peter Bieneman, the first recipient, who said “Her help provided additional funds to continue my education in the field of landscape architecture, and for that I am forever grateful.”

Pauline Vollmer’s warm and welcoming personality and her garden have touched the lives and gardens of many gardeners, locally and beyond. Richard Cole and Joel Cohen, also known as outstanding Baltimore gardeners, described her as “gracious, sensible, with great foresight. Her garden is a peaceful oasis, reflecting her extensive horticultural knowledge, her taste, and her personality. The garden is also innovative and historic. Always ready in her quiet way to contribute financially, as a lecturer, or as hostess of a party, she is indeed versatile in promoting horticulture.”
Her Legacy at Cylburn

In 2006, Pauline Vollmer made a decision that has transformed the Cylburn Arboretum and horticulture in Baltimore. She pledged $1 million to the building of a visitor center at Cylburn, conditioned only on two things: (1) the city was required to match the gift, which it promptly did, and (2) the building had to be located at Cylburn. The gift, made in the names of the Horticultural Society and Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, created a permanent meeting place for HSM and provided office space for both organizations. Additional fund-raising by HSM, Federated and the Cylburn Arboretum Association generated about $500,000 more support, and the building became a reality; it was dedicated on May 1, 2010. Said Joel Cohen and Richard Cole: “Pauline’s extremely generous contribution was the stimulus for the creation of the Vollmer Center. It inspired Baltimore City officials and the members of The Horticultural Society and other organizations to help in the building of this wonderful facility, and to realize Pauline’s vision of promoting horticulture for the community.”

Bill Vondrasek, now deputy director of Recreation and Parks, but at the time chief horticulturist based at Cylburn and the City leader in the building project, said “Pauline’s gift has been the single most transformative act at Cylburn, and I dare say the most transformative for horticulture in the Baltimore metro area. It prompted additional fundraising support from the Hort Society, Federated Garden Clubs and the Cylburn Arboretum Association, and caused the City to match her gift and invest millions more in Cylburn. Plain and simple, every year since the Vollmer Center opened, thousands more people have experienced nature and horticulture at Cylburn, and they do so at a higher level of style and comfort, and for that we owe a huge amount of thanks to Pauline’s vision, generosity and leadership.”

Pauline herself said she is “delighted and surprised” with the effect the building has had: “it’s so exciting” to have so many visitors, and she applauds the many “green” features. Pauline’s many enduring contributions to horticulture in Baltimore have enriched HSM and the larger horticulture community, and for this we are truly grateful.

Nell Strachan, a retired lawyer, was a Horticultural Society of Maryland board member from 2006 to 2014. She is chair of the landscape committee of Cylburn Arboretum.

PHOTO ABOVE: Paula A. Simon

French Gardens Tour: The Best of Brittany & Normandy

June 8 to 21, 2015 • 13 days and 22 gardens

Join HSM and Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland for another great tour of French gardens. This ‘gardenholics’ tour will visit some of the most splendid and enchanting gardens along the northwestern coast of France, including several days in Paris. For an itinerary and costs contact Karen Offutt at 410-771-4799 or email karenoffutt1@gmail.com.

PHOTO: www.duchampdebataille.com
Vollmer Garden Dedication

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake officially accepted the new Entrance Garden at the Vollmer Center for the City of Baltimore in an early evening ceremony on September 9.

The mayor, in brief remarks to a crowd of several dozen people, praised the Horticultural Society of Maryland for making the garden possible. She called the garden, planted during the spring and summer of 2014, “absolutely gorgeous” and predicted that it would “showcase the charm and character” of Cylburn Arboretum to visitors for years to come.

City Councilwoman Sharon G. Middleton, a Cylburn board member, thanked HSM members for putting “hard, sweat equity into the beautification” of the arboretum and presented a resolution adopted by the City Council. The document congratulated HSM “for your dedication, expertise and commitment to the Cylburn Arboretum and Vollmer Center.”

“I am obligated and honored to thank you” for the garden, said Melissa Grim, chief horticulturist for the City Department of Recreation and Parks. “This is the front door to the arboretum. … This garden will have a major impact.”

— Harry Merritt

FROM THE TOP:
1 - 2 HSM members and guests enjoy a lovely evening for the garden’s dedication.
3 The garden’s designer, John T. Fitzpatrick, Ph.D. stands for recognition.
4 Left to right: Melissa Grim (chief horticulturist, Recreation and Parks), Sharon G. Middleton (Baltimore City Councilwoman), Nancy Raskin (HSM President), Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Bill Vondrasek (Deputy Director, Recreation and Parks), and Nell Strachan (HSM member and organizer of event).
5 Longtime member Frank Dudek looks on as Marguerite Villa Santa greets the mayor.

PHOTOS: Mark Dennis/Office of Mayor and Paula A. Simon
Places To Go, Things To See

Public Gardens In Our Region, Part 2

Adkins Arboretum
12610 Eveland Rd., Ridgely, MD 21660
A 400-acre property that includes woodlands, meadows, streams, wetlands and gardens. Five miles of paths and abundant wildlife.
The living collection and programs focus on plants native to the mid-Atlantic coastal plain. Adjacent to Tuckahoe State Park.
• Open year-round, dawn to dusk daily. An admission fee is charged. The Visitors Center is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.

Green Spring Gardens Park
4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria, VA 22312
Historic home and 16-acre grounds that include an arboretum with a wooded stream valley, native plant garden, a greenhouse of tropical plants and a notable collection of Witch Hazels (Hamamelis). Includes Historic Green Spring, a 1784 house.
• Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 4:30 p.m. Historic Green Spring house open Wednesday through Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.
• Operated by Fairfax County Park Authority: 703-642-5173, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring

Hampton National Historic Site
535 Hampton Lane, Towson, MD 21286
The 1783 mansion of the Ridgely family. The 63-acre property includes fields, outbuildings, champion trees and gardens, notably the “falling garden,” parterres on several levels on the south side of the mansion.
• Open year-round at no charge. Grounds open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mansion open Thursday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Ladew Topiary Gardens
3535 Jarrettsville Pike, Monkton, MD 21111
Twenty-two acres of gardens set in a larger pastoral landscape. Topiary, sometimes formal, other times playful, is a dominant feature of the gardens. A long vista from the manor house to a distant folly is flanked by a series of “garden rooms,” including a rose garden, water lily garden, Victorian garden and others. The historic house and gardens are on the National Register of Historic Places.
• Open April 1 through October 31. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. An admission fee is charged. Café and gift shop.
• Owned and operated by Ladew Topiary Gardens, a non-profit organization: 410-557-9466, www.ladewgardens.org

United States Botanic Garden
100 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20001
A conservatory of 10 rooms totaling 29,000 square feet featuring a variety of habitats and especially known for its orchids; Bartholdi Park, an outdoor plant display in the Beaux Arts style; and the National Garden, opened in 2005, a 3-acre walled garden with a collection of garden spaces that emphasize native U.S. plants and wise environmental design.
• Open year-round at no charge. The conservatory is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Bartholdi Park is open dawn to dusk daily. The National Garden is open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.
• Administered through the office of the Architect of the Capitol and supported by the National Fund for the U.S. Botanic Garden, a non-profit organization: 202-225-8333, www.usbg.gov