

WINTER SYMPOSIUM  
CVNLA 54<sup>th</sup> SHORT COURSE  
PESTICIDE RECERTIFICATION  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023**

## **Stewarding the Land, Healing Ourselves**

9 am           **Welcome, virtual attendees admitted**  
*Brian Trader, Ph.D., President and CEO, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden*

9:10 am       **RAIN: A History for Stormy Times**  
*Cynthia Barnett, author, Environmental Journalist in Residence at the University of Florida's College of Journalism and Communications in Gainesville*  
An engaging natural and cultural tour of RAIN, from how it helped shape civilization, religion, and art; to the peculiar history of the world's first raincoat, the Mackintosh; to the rain obsessions of our "Founding Forecaster," Thomas Jefferson - all building to the uncharted rains of climate change. Rain is the source of Earth's water, from the cataclysmic torrents that filled the oceans four billion years ago to miraculous natural cycle that replenishes aquifers, soils, and rivers day after day. Scientists say changing rainfall patterns are some of the earliest and most-certain tremors of our warming globe. Armed with the computer models looking forward, there is also much to learn from looking back. Too much and not enough, rain is an experience we share. Its history has much to tell us about coming together to adapt in stormy times.

10:20 am      **Conquer the Soil: Black America and the Untold Stories of Our Country's Gardeners, Farmers, and Growers**  
*Abra Lee, horticulturist, author, lecturer*  
Abra Lee highlights some of the African American trailblazers, leaders, and visionaries in the world of horticulture. From the legendary ladies of Richmond to the famed Hampton University horticulturist who encouraged people to keep things "n'atchl" (natural) we celebrate these iconic plant people and their historic achievements.

11:25 am      **LUNCH**

12:25 pm      **Indigenous Solutions to Conservation and Sustainable Agriculture**

*Seth C. Penn, Governmental Affairs Liaison, Cherokee Tribe of Northeast Alabama*

Long before the arrival of the colonist, Indigenous people protected their local ecosystems and preserved biodiversity through land management and agriculture practices. In this presentation we will discuss some of these traditional methods and how they can be used in a modern setting.

1:35 pm

### **A World Unto its Own:**

#### **The Residential Garden in a Post-Pandemic World**

*Thomas Rainer, Phyto\_Studio, Washington, DC*

The pandemic changed many aspects of American life, particularly how we use our residential spaces. Join landscape architect Thomas Rainer on a reflection of the role of gardens in a post-pandemic world. Thomas will reflect on new approaches to gardens that embrace both the human need for refuge in a changing world as well as the need for gardens to perform more ecologically. Thomas will weave reflections on his own garden with Phyto Studio's innovative approach to planting design to describe garden spaces more suited to the way we actually live today.

2:35 pm

### **BREAK**

2:50 pm

### **Healthy Soils: Stewards of Sustainability**

*Duncan Himmelman, Ph.D.*

One teaspoon of soil has more living entities in it than many countries have people. Basically under foot and out of sight, soil is often not fully considered when designing, installing, or even maintaining gardens. Sustaining a healthy soil ecosystem encourages diverse and resilient plant communities.

3:50 pm

### **ADJOURN**

## **SPEAKERS**

### **February 8**

**Cynthia Barnett** is an award-winning environmental author and journalist who has reported on water and climate change around the world. Her latest book, *The Sound of the Sea: Seashells and the Fate of the Oceans*, was named one of the best science books of the year by NPR's *Science Friday*, and one of the best nonfiction books of the year by *Kirkus Reviews*, the *Tampa Bay Times* and others. She is also author of the water books *Mirage*; *Blue Revolution*; and *Rain: A Natural and Cultural History*, longlisted for the National Book Award and a finalist for the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science

Writing Award.

She is the Environmental Journalist in Residence at the University of Florida's College of Journalism and Communications in Gainesville, where she lives with her husband and teenagers.

Horticulturist **Abra Lee** has worked as a county extension agent, as a landscape manager and horticulturist at two international airports, and as an arborist for the City of Atlanta. She was the 2019-2020 Longwood Gardens fellow. She's also the author of an upcoming book on the history of African-American gardeners, *Conquer the Soil: Black America and the Untold Stories of Our Country's Gardeners, Farmers, and Growers* (2022).

**Seth C. Penn** was born and raised in Northeast Alabama. He is an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Tribe of Northeast Alabama, one of Alabama's Nine State Recognized Tribes. Seth has been an avid outdoorsman his entire life. Growing up, he spent his time hunting, fishing, and foraging in the woodlands of Northeast Alabama. Seth currently works for the Cherokee Tribe of Northeast Alabama as their Governmental Affairs Liaison. In addition, Seth works for the Indian Nation's Conservation Alliance as their Southeastern Coordinator. Using his cultural knowledge, governmental experience, and agricultural expertise, he fights tirelessly to promote Indigenous Solutions to Conservation and Sustainable Agriculture.

**Thomas Rainer** is a registered landscape architect, teacher, and author living in Arlington, Virginia. Thomas, a leading voice in ecological landscape design, has designed landscapes for the U.S. Capitol grounds, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and The New York Botanical Garden, as well as over 100 gardens from Maine to Florida. He is a celebrated public speaker who has garnered acclaim for his passionate presentations to audiences across the U.S. and in Europe. Thomas serves as a Principal for the landscape architectural and consulting firm Phyto Studio in Washington, D.C. Thomas has taught planting design for the George Washington University Landscape Design program, as well as design workshops all over the globe. He is the co-authored of bestselling [Planting in a Post-Wild World](#) with Claudia West. The book was selected by the American Horticultural Society as one of the 2016 books of the year.

**Duncan Himmelman, PhD**, is the former Education Manager at Mt. Cuba Center. He earned his doctorate in Ornamental Horticulture at Cornell University, taught college for 24 years, and has contributed to a number of horticultural publications. Duncan is committed to promoting the ecological benefits of using native plants in our gardens.

## Continuing Education Credits

International Society of Arboriculture

Certified Arborist: 2.75    Municipal Specialist: 2.75    BCMA-Science: 0.75  
BCMA-Management: 2    TW Climber Specialist: 2.75  
TW Aerial Lift Specialist: 2.75

Virginia Certified Horticulturist  
February 8: 4 VCH CEUs

Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional  
1 CEU

Master Gardeners, landscape designers, all others self-report. 5 contact hours

Landscape Architect Continuing Education System: 5 Sustainable Development and Design (available for in person participants only)