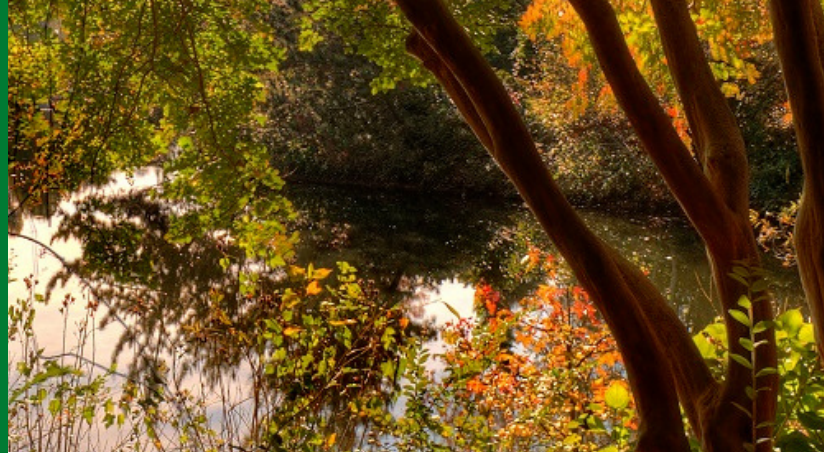


2024 WINTER SYMPOSIUM
55TH CVNLA SHORT COURSE
PESTICIDE RECERTIFICATION

GARDENING FOR THE FUTURE

FEBRUARY 14, 15, 16, 2024



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024

8:30 AM

REGISTRATION OPENS FOR IN-PERSON ATTENDEES

8:45 AM

ZOOM WEBINAR OPENS FOR VIRTUAL ATTENDEES

9:00 AM

WELCOME

9:10 AM

RECREATING & RECONNECTING HABITAT WITH NATIVE PLANTS

Matt Bright, Earth Sangha

By reestablishing habitat corridors, we can make landscapes more resilient, facilitate migrations and protect rare and threatened species—and we can do this work at parks, schools, botanical gardens and home gardens. Matt Bright, executive director at Earth Sangha in the Washington D.C. area, will discuss how planting with locally native plants improves habitat quality and “stretches” the wild landscape. Matt will focus on common and generalist native plants that research has demonstrated are critically important for both generalist and specialist wildlife, and explore how restoring habitat with these foundational species allows for planting more niche-specific specialist and rare plant species down the line. Matt will highlight the value of phasing restoration work over time and strategies for extending stewardship long-term.

10:10 AM

BREAK

10:20 AM

SEEDING THE FUTURE OF THE HORTICULTURE INDUSTRY

Jazmin Albarran, MBA, Seed Your Future

Seed Your Future was created in 2014 to address the labor shortage in the horticulture industry and associated supply chains. A robust future for our industry, which will increasingly be called upon to help solve complex environmental challenges, requires a strong plan for developing future talent. Jazmin Albarran, executive director of Seed Your Future, will discuss Seed Your Future’s approach to cultivating and diversifying the labor pipeline for horticulturists and how you can also play a role in seeding the future for our industry.

11:20 AM

LUNCH & NETWORKING BREAK



12:20 PM

INSPIRING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE WITH THE CLIMATE-ADAPTIVE DESIGN STUDIO

Josh Cerra, Cornell University Department of Landscape Architecture

Planning for a resilient future requires innovative and community-focused design processes. Josh Cerra, associate professor at Cornell University Department of Landscape Architecture, will share insights from the Climate-adaptive Design studio, which links Cornell students with Hudson River communities to envision more climate-resilient and connected waterfront areas. Josh will discuss the structure of the Climate-adaptive Design studio program, its partnerships and approach for working with communities. Josh will share key principles that guide the design process, representative strategies for waterfront climate adaptation and follow-up efforts by partner communities.

1:20 PM

BREAK

1:30 PM

BIOPHILIC DESIGN SOLUTIONS

Chris Raimondi, Green Plants for Green Buildings

Biophilia is the instinctive bond between human beings, other living organisms and living systems. It is increasingly well-documented that biophilic elements like live plants in buildings have measurable benefits to productivity, emotional wellbeing, stress reduction, improved learning and healing. Chris Raimondi of Green Plants for Green Buildings will delve into the principles of Biophilic Design, encompassing a broad range of practical, scientific and natural processes. Chris will highlight the economic benefits and review case studies of living walls, moss walls, green roofs and living buildings. Enhance your understanding of how Biophilic Design supports the sustainability of our planet and the role we each have in building a sustainable future.

2:30 PM

BREAK WITH SNACKS

2:45 PM

CULTIVATING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE THROUGH INDOOR AGRICULTURE

Ekene Tharpe, Babylon Micro-Farms

Controlled environment agriculture (CEA) is a field in which everyone can participate in. Indoor farming is gaining popularity due to its ability to occupy small amounts of space and operate year-round, becoming increasingly valuable as arable land availability depletes. Unlike the average grocery store head of lettuce that travels 1,500 miles, minimal transportation is needed for produce harvested from these farms. Although this reliable, high-quality, nutritious and sustainable form of crop production has taken root, the efforts of everyone are required for it to flourish in the future. Ekene Tharpe, head grower at Babylon Micro-Farms, will discuss the key principles of indoor agriculture within CEA and how meaningful impacts result when these principles are applied to scale. Ekene will share how you can be part of ensuring the long-term success of indoor agriculture initiatives no matter your role in the green industry or your community.

3:45 PM

ADJOURN

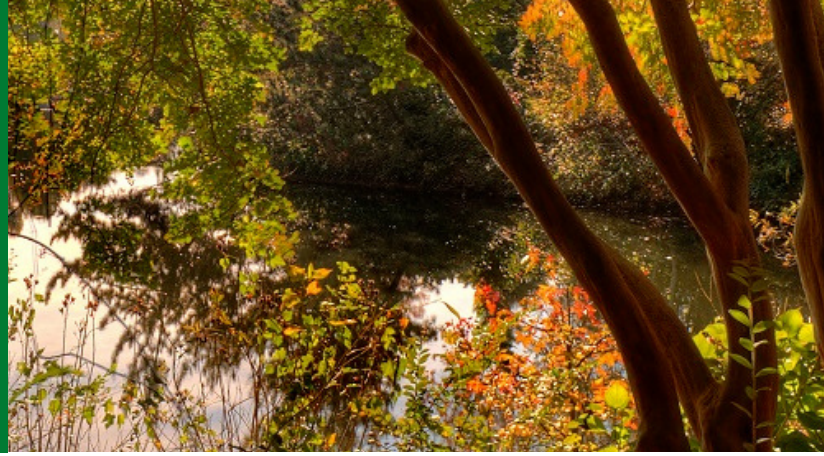
Continuing Education hours can be self-reported for MasterGardeners, Master Naturalists, Landscape Designers and VNLA Virginia Certified Horticulturists. Continuing Education hours are pending for: CVNLA, Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professionals, Landscape Architects and Certified Arborists.



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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

MATT BRIGHT



Matt Bright is the executive director at Earth Sangha where he has worked full-time on native plant conservation since 2011, having grown up as son of co-founders Lisa and Chris Bright. Matt has worked closely with ecologists, botanists, and park managers across the Northern Virginia region on plant conservation and ecological restoration projects over the years, including a brief stint interning at Huntley Meadows Park. He regularly teaches for the Arlington Regional Master Naturalist chapter and serves on the steering committee for the National Capital Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management. Before starting at the Sangha, Matt graduated from Kenyon College with a Bachelor of Arts in History and spent four years as a firefighter and emergency medical technician with the College Township Fire Department in Gambier, Ohio. Matt is pictured with his daughter and future conservationist, Maeve.

JAZMIN ALBARRAN



Jazmin Albarran, MBA, is the Seed Your Future executive director with over a decade of change and systems management experience. With a solid knowledge of associations and philanthropy, she will bring her skills and expertise in planning, leading and managing development projects and programs to the movement. She has experience in a broad range of nonprofit organizations, including those focused on crisis support, youth development and workforce development. Jazmin will lead Seed Your Future's next phase of growth, promoting horticulture sectors and the nationwide expansion of career development opportunities with plants.

JOSH CERRA



Josh Cerra is associate professor at Cornell University Department of Landscape Architecture and principal investigator of the Climate-adaptive Design studio program in partnership with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. His teaching and research investigate relationships between urban ecosystems, communities and site development processes, and their implications for climate-adaptive design and urban ecological design. His studio-based efforts have received award recognition from the national American Society of Landscape Architects, the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture, and Cornell.

CHRIS RAIMONDI



Horticulture, biophilia and studies surrounding nature are Chris Raimondi's passion. Chris currently serves on the board of directors for Green Plants for Green Buildings (GPGB), a 501c3 nonprofit organization whose purpose is to communicate accurate and cutting-edge information about the aesthetic, wellbeing and economic benefits of nature in the built environment. Chris is a certified national trainer for GPGB and regularly provides continuing education to the design community. He is president/CEO of Raimondi Horticultural Group (RHG), a full-service horticultural business in the Tri-State region in and around NYC. Under Chris's leadership, RHG has won numerous excellence and safety awards from the National Association of Landscape Professionals, Professional Landscape Network, Associated Landscape Contractors of America, AmericanHort and Plants for Clean Air Council. Chris is a frequent contributor to gardening blogs and publications as well as a long-time key instructor at the New York Botanical Garden.

EKENE THARPE



Originating from Jackson, TN, Ekene Tharpe encountered her love for agriculture through her county 4-H program, in which she was an active member from 4th grade through high school. Upon acceptance into the University of Tennessee, she pursued a major in horticulture and further developed her skills as a research assistant for Weed Science and an extension intern for Sustainable Nursery Crop Management. After receiving her undergraduate degree, she relocated to Gilroy, CA, to fulfill the role of plant breeding intern for Syngenta Flowers before transitioning into a full-time position as senior technician for Syngenta Seeds Sunflower Operations. Each of these roles sharpened Ekene's horticultural and research skills and led her to pursue a master's degree in agriculture and life science with Virginia Tech. Under Dr. Michael Evans, director of the School of Plant and Environmental Science, Ekene completed her thesis, "Dwarf Tomatoes in an Indoor Vertical Farming System." After defending, she accepted her current role as head grower with Babylon Micro-Farms, where she leads scientific trials and makes recommendations for enhanced crop performance across Babylon's network of farms.